

# High-Level International Conference on Information Integrity and Independent Media

October 29-30, 2025

Palais de Chaillot, Paris, France

## Summary of Outcomes

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Session Recordings: [October 29](#) and [October 30](#)

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## Executive Summary

On October 29 and 30, 2025, the High-Level Conference on Information Integrity and Independent Media at the Paris Peace Forum gathered government representatives, five heads of state and government, and leaders of civil society to address the urgent crisis facing media and information integrity.

Convened by the International Fund for Public Interest Media and the Forum on Information and Democracy, with support from the governments of France and Ghana, the Conference gathered representatives from over 30 countries to make firm commitments to multilateral action, defending the values of access to reliable information.

Responding to the increasing pressure on independent media and manipulation of other sources of information, the Conference notably led to a firm political commitment to work together: Representatives of 33 countries adopted the [Paris Declaration on Multilateral Action for Information Integrity and Independent Media](#), pledging to support access to reliable information as a global public good.

Countries signing the declaration also encouraged the development of the International Fund for Public Interest Media as the financial arm of the renewed and enlarged coalition, and a first-of-its-kind multilateral organisation dedicated to defending access to reliable information at scale. The International Fund provides funding through grant support to independent media in low- and middle-income countries.

In an effort to strengthen international coordination and governance over our information ecosystems, the Forum on Information and Democracy announced both the creation of its consultative committee composed of Armenia, Brazil, Chile, France, Luxembourg, Portugal and Ukraine, and the creation of an international coordination group gathering international organizations working on these topics.

The International Fund for Public Interest Media reiterated its urgent call to raise 130 million euros as part of its 2026-28 scale-up phase to provide flexible core funding to media organizations around the world. At the Conference, President Emmanuel Macron announced France's renewed commitment of 10 million euros and President John Mahama announced Ghana's contribution, making it the first African country to financially contribute to the Fund. Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of Armenia, Prime Minister Edi Rama of Albania, and President Maia Sandu of Moldova also expressed their support for the Fund and commitment to public interest media.

On October 30, the conference convened two panels featuring government officials, media executives, and civil society leaders to discuss the role of public interest media in two areas: the future of artificial intelligence and the fight against climate change.

## Political Segment

*On October 29, 2025, the High-Level Political Segment of the Conference took place at the Musée de la Marine, Palais de Chaillot, in Paris. The roundtable session was moderated by Nishant Lalwani, Chief Executive Officer of the International Fund for Public Interest Media.*

Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, opened the conference by welcoming the participants and emphasizing the importance of information integrity and independent media as essential pillars of democracy. He reflected on the creation of the International Fund for Public Interest Media and thanked its co-chairs for their commitment.

Maria Ressa, Co-Chair of the International Fund for Public Interest Media and CEO of Rappler, spoke about the growing crisis of disinformation and manipulation in the global information ecosystem. She warned that the rise of AI and unregulated digital platforms has intensified the erosion of truth and public trust. Her remarks centered on the moral and democratic imperative to defend independent journalism, calling for coordinated global action and shared responsibility to restore integrity to public discourse.

Thibault Bruttin, Chair of the Forum on Information and Democracy and Secretary General of Reporters Without Borders, focused on the urgent need to move from diagnosing problems to implementing concrete solutions in the information space. He emphasized that freedom of the press is not merely a right but a vital component of democracy that requires active protection and fair support.

Achille Mbembe, historian and philosopher, offered a broad reflection on the state of information and democracy, particularly in Africa. He described the continent's vulnerability to disinformation and its status as both the oldest and youngest in the world, rich with potential but hindered by structural challenges. Mbembe called for investment in transparency, research, and civic trust to strengthen resilience against manipulation, framing journalism as essential to democratic vitality and social cohesion.

Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, returned to explain why democracy must be defended from both internal and external threats, describing disinformation as a "virus" attacking democratic societies. He compared the response to treating a public health crisis, stressing the need for detection, treatment, and prevention. His remarks underscored the importance of regulation, education, and multilateral cooperation, framing France's role as both a defender of free expression and a leader in safeguarding information integrity.

Samuel Ablakwa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ghana, addressed the pervasive "misinformation pandemic" confronting both authoritarian and democratic societies alike. He urged honesty in recognizing that falsehoods often thrive even within open political systems and warned of their economic and social consequences. His remarks called for protecting journalists, improving media literacy, and reforming political communication to rebuild credibility and safeguard democracy.

Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, spoke about the threat of hybrid disinformation campaigns targeting Armenia and other democracies. He described these efforts as deliberate attempts to undermine sovereignty and trust in institutions. Emphasizing the balance between freedom of expression and protection against manipulation, he affirmed Armenia's commitment to cooperation with democratic partners and to the promotion of media freedom as a foundation for stability.

Baiba Braže, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, highlighted the security dimension of information integrity, portraying independent media as part of national and global critical infrastructure. She drew attention to Russia's hybrid tactics and the need for collective resilience across Europe. Her remarks balanced technical insight with principled conviction, advocating for stronger international coordination, protection for journalists, and responsible use of emerging technologies.

Peter De Roover, President of the House of Representatives of Belgium, reflected on the dangers of state overreach in combating disinformation, cautioning against creating a "ministry of truth." He argued that civil society and journalism, not governments, should bear the main responsibility for safeguarding truth.

Chernor Bah, Minister of Information and Civic Education of Sierra Leone, described his country's journey toward media reform and democratic strengthening. He celebrated the repeal of criminal libel laws and the establishment of a national fund for public interest media. He underscored the need for international partnerships to reinforce fragile democracies and ensure that independent journalism can thrive even under pressure.

Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Minister for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme, Republic of Malta, spoke about Malta's commitment to building a secure and democratic digital environment rooted in human rights and the rule of law. He emphasized the importance of international cooperation to strengthen media freedom and counter disinformation. His remarks reflected Malta's focus on ethical innovation and the balance between technological advancement, accountability, and inclusivity in digital governance.

Minna-Liina Lind, Undersecretary for Global Affairs, Republic of Estonia, underlined Estonia's strong commitment to protecting press freedom and supporting journalists at risk. She stressed that defending truth and transparency requires collaboration among democracies and partnerships across borders. Her remarks linked Estonia's experience as a digital leader with its conviction that protecting journalists is inseparable from defending democracy itself.

Frano Matušić, State Secretary for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Croatia, reaffirmed Croatia's commitment to media freedom as a fundamental element of democratic life. He warned against the corrosive effects of disinformation and manipulation in the digital age.

Thomas Gürber, Deputy State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Confederation, expressed Switzerland's steadfast support for independent, pluralistic media as a cornerstone of democracy. He highlighted the need for international collaboration to ensure that

journalism remains resilient and sustainable in the face of global pressures. His remarks were measured and principled, emphasizing Switzerland's belief that a free press underpins accountability and strengthens democratic governance.

Luc Dockendorf, Ambassador for Cybersecurity and Digitalisation, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, spoke forcefully about the growing power of digital platforms and the risks posed by generative AI to democratic societies. He warned that disinformation and the influence of unregulated technology are emboldening authoritarian tendencies within democracies. He called for unity among democratic states to protect independent journalism and resist the erosion of truth.

Frank Tressler, Ambassador and Director of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile, highlighted Chile's enduring commitment to multilateral cooperation in defending the integrity of information. He pointed to Chile's active role in international initiatives promoting media freedom and combating disinformation. He affirmed Chile's intention to work collectively with other states to uphold truth and democratic values in the digital era.

Luca Niculescu, Secretary of State and National Coordinator for the OECD Accession Process, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania, reflected on Romania's direct experience with disinformation campaigns during national elections. He described how these attacks sought to distort democratic debate and undermine public confidence. His remarks emphasized resilience, the value of lessons learned, and the importance of pluralistic media as a defense against manipulation.

Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director General for International Partnerships, European Commission, reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to strengthening media freedom and supporting independent journalism around the world. She spoke about the EU's focus on transparency, accountability, and safeguarding digital spaces from harmful manipulation. She expressed confidence in the EU's ability to foster trust and protect the principles of open and democratic communication.

André Dunham Maciel Siaines de Castro, Deputy Chief of Mission, Brazilian Embassy in Paris, described Brazil's leadership in advancing information integrity and ethical digital governance on the global stage. He highlighted the country's role in promoting responsible AI use, media literacy, and transparency in multilateral forums. He underscored Brazil's belief in shared responsibility to ensure that digital transformation strengthens democracy.

Victorio Redondo Baldrich, Ambassador of Spain to France, reaffirmed Spain's deep commitment to transparency, open governance, and the defense of independent media. He spoke about the importance of trustworthy information for maintaining citizens' confidence in democratic institutions. He emphasized Spain's support for international partnerships that promote integrity, accountability, and pluralism in public communication.

From written remarks:

Hanne Fugl Eskjær, Ambassador of Denmark to France, reaffirmed Denmark's long-standing commitment to information integrity and independent media. She recalled Denmark's founding role and continued support for the International Fund for Public Interest Media, underscoring its dedication to credible journalism. She announced plans for legislation granting individuals copyright over their likeness to counter AI-generated deepfakes and misinformation, and noted that, during Denmark's EU Presidency, Copenhagen will host the Conference on Information Integrity to promote global cooperation and democratic resilience.

Ruth Stone, Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy in Paris, thanked the organisers for convening the conference and reaffirmed the country's commitment to defending information integrity amid rising misinformation. She recognised that digital technologies bring benefits but also risks when algorithms amplify false or harmful narratives. She outlined national and regional initiatives supporting Pacific and Indo-Pacific broadcasters and collaboration through mechanisms such as IFPIM. Australia endorsed the Paris Declaration and called for stronger international cooperation to ensure universal access to trusted information.

Caroline Bilkey, Ambassador of New Zealand to France, thanked the organisers for convening the conference and reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to protecting information integrity and media freedom. She voiced concern over disinformation spread by authoritarian actors and its corrosive impact on trust and democracy. Bilkey stressed the importance of international cooperation through the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism and commended IFPIM's achievements, particularly in the Pacific. She highlighted New Zealand's support for investigative journalism and public broadcasting and pledged continued collaboration to safeguard independent media and uphold credible public information.

María Jónsdóttir, Ambassador of Iceland to France, thanked the organisers and participants for their commitment to defending democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. She reaffirmed that freedom of expression and media freedom are essential for accountability and civic participation. Jónsdóttir announced Iceland's decision to join the Paris Declaration, consistent with its strong national and international commitment to democracy and journalist protection. She cited Iceland's role on the Human Rights Council and active support for media freedom through UNESCO, the Media Freedom Coalition, and the Freedom Online Coalition. At home, she noted, a new bill aims to strengthen independent media and a robust public broadcaster. She concluded with a call for collective action to uphold information integrity and defend independent journalism.

Lina Viltrakienė, Ambassador-at-Large for Digital and Tech Diplomacy of the Republic of Lithuania, reaffirmed Lithuania's strong commitment to multilateral action for information integrity and independent media. She noted Lithuania's first-place ranking in the 2025 International Media Freedom Support Index, reflecting its consistent advocacy for press freedom through the UN, UNESCO, and the Media Freedom Coalition. She described disinformation as both a security and economic threat, stressing the need to strengthen independent, pluralistic, and professional media.

Mary Beth Goodman, Deputy Director-General, Organisation for Economic Co-Ordination and Development (OECD), noted that while the ways people consume and share information have transformed, the need for a thriving, independent media sector remains constant. She stressed the importance of stronger media literacy, transparency of information sources, and institutional capacities that uphold integrity without restricting access. She reaffirmed the OECD's commitment to work with partners such as the Paris Peace Forum, IFPIM, and the Forum on Information and Democracy to strengthen information integrity and promote independent, plural, and economically sustainable media.

### **Heads of State and Government Segment:**

Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, spoke about the profound challenges facing democracy in an era of disinformation and technological disruption. Drawing on his background as a journalist, he reflected on the essential role of free and independent media in holding governments accountable and nurturing informed societies. He warned that manipulation of information has become a national security threat, eroding trust and polarizing communities. Pashinyan emphasized the importance of education, media literacy, and international cooperation to strengthen resilience and uphold democratic principles in an increasingly distorted information landscape.

Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, delivered a reflection on the state of free expression in the digital age. He noted the confusion between freedom of speech and what he called "freedom of reach," arguing that online chaos and anonymity have eroded accountability and decency in public discourse. He urged democratic societies to confront the moral decay and manipulation that flourish in unregulated digital spaces. Rama called for renewed responsibility among media actors and governments alike to restore integrity and accountability to the global information environment.

Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova, delivered an impassioned address on the challenges her country faces from hybrid warfare and disinformation. She described how propaganda and manipulation have been weaponized to destabilize Moldova's democracy and sow division among its citizens. Sandu spoke about the vital role of independent journalists and resilient media institutions in protecting sovereignty and truth. She highlighted the defense of factual information as inseparable from the defense of peace, freedom, and democratic identity.

John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, spoke about the global struggle to defend truth and rebuild trust in the face of widespread disinformation and manipulation. He announced that Ghana would make a financial contribution to the International Fund, becoming the first African country to do so. He reflected on how the integrity of information underpins peace, democracy, and development, and called for sustained collaboration between nations to protect free and independent journalism. He urged the international community to treat the defense of truthful information as a shared responsibility essential to democratic survival.

Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, closed the conference with a wide-ranging reflection on the relationship between information, democracy, and technological change. He traced the origins of the initiative for information integrity to earlier Paris Peace Forum

commitments and praised the work of international coalitions defending media freedom. Macron warned that digital platforms and social media have displaced traditional journalism and eroded the foundations of public debate. With urgency, he called for stronger regulation of technology companies, greater transparency in algorithms, and renewed investment in media independence as a precondition for democratic resilience. He concluded by framing the defense of truthful information as central to the preservation of democracy itself.

## Paris Declaration on Multilateral Action for Information Integrity and Independent Media

At the Conference, numerous governments announced their support for the Paris Declaration on Multilateral Action for Information Integrity and Independent Media. This [declaration](#) expresses the commitment of states to fortifying multilateral action in support of information integrity and independent media. This includes defending the principle that reliable, pluralistic and independent information is an essential public good for humankind and encouraging the development of the International Fund for Public Interest Media in the coming years.

The **Paris Declaration on Multilateral Action for Information Integrity and Independent Media** received the approval of the 33 countries listed below:

Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Brazil\*, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland\*, Portugal, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

*\*with reservations*

## Public Segment

The public segment, held on the morning of October 30, 2025, showcased the achievements of the prior day and opened a conversation about the role of public interest media in two areas: the future of artificial intelligence and the fight against climate change.

Mark Thompson, co-chair of the International Fund for Public Interest Media and CEO of Cable News Network (CNN) introduced the public segment. He emphasized the progress made during the prior day's conference in favor of protecting information integrity and independent media. Thompson discussed how, in his career as a media executive, he has seen the decline of access to information. He noted how digital platforms have done little to help users distinguish between false and factual information. He shared the achievements of the International Fund for Public Interest Media and its ability to support the sustainability of media on nearly every continent.

Camille Grenier, Executive Director of the Forum on Information and Democracy, noted the strong support expressed by government leaders during the previous day. He announced the creation of a coordination group for the Forum on Information and Democracy.



The first panel, “Information Integrity and the Fight Against Climate Change,” moderated by Camille Grenier, Executive Director of the Forum on Information and Democracy, featured:

- Kim Younes, Chief Executive Officer, TV5Monde
- Laurence Tubiana, Chief Executive Officer, European Climate Foundation
- Rebecca MacKinnon, Special Advisor, Global Advocacy, Wikimedia Foundation

The panel on information integrity and climate change explored how disinformation is undermining public understanding and delaying climate action. Participants warned that climate falsehoods are spreading rapidly through mainstream and social media, often serving political or commercial interests. They emphasized that the best defense lies in quality, editorially verified journalism and greater investment in public-interest media. Speakers called for education to help audiences recognize reliable sources and for sustained funding to support fact-checking and media literacy. They also urged governments to integrate information integrity into climate governance, support trustworthy media, and ensure regulation targets major platforms without curbing free expression. The discussion ended with a call to rebalance power between big tech and the public to rebuild trust in climate communication.

The second panel, “AI and the Future of Reliable Information,” moderated by Nishant Lalwani, Chief Executive Officer of the International Fund for Public Interest Media, featured:

- Luc Dockendorf, Ambassador for Cybersecurity and Digitalisation, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- Shikoh Gitau, Chief Executive Officer, Qhala
- Melanie Hui, Chief Executive Officer, Luminare
- Paula Miraglia, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Momentum

The panel on artificial intelligence and reliable information examined how emerging technologies are transforming journalism and the integrity of public discourse. Speakers highlighted that AI-driven platforms are diverting audiences and revenue away from independent media, deepening dependence on large technology companies. The discussion warned that unequal data representation risks erasing whole regions and cultures, particularly in Africa, from global narratives. Participants stressed that AI is amplifying disinformation and undermining trust, calling for stronger regulation, public investment, and multilateral cooperation. The session concluded with agreement that innovation must be balanced with accountability to protect media freedom and information integrity.

## List of Attendees

The conference brought together a select list of representatives and attendees including:

### **Heads of State and Government**

Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic of France  
John Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana  
Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia  
Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania  
Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova

### **Ministers and Representatives of Governments**

Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Republic of France  
Samuel Ablakwa, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Ghana  
Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Armenia  
Baiba Braže, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Latvia  
Marta Kos, Commissioner for Enlargement, European Commission  
Peter De Roover, President of the House of Representatives, Kingdom of Belgium  
Chernor Bah, Minister of Information and Civic Education, Republic of Sierra Leone  
Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Minister for European Funds and the Implementation of the Electoral Programme, Republic of Malta  
Minna-Liina Lind, Undersecretary for Global Affairs, Republic of Estonia  
Frano Matušić, State Secretary for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Croatia  
Thomas Gürber, Deputy State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Confederation  
Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director General for International Partnerships, European Commission  
Luca Niculescu, Secretary of State and National Coordinator for the OECD Accession Process, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania  
Luc Dockendorf, Ambassador for Cybersecurity and Digitalisation, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg  
Frank Tressler, Ambassador, Director of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile  
Victorio Redondo Baldrich, Ambassador of Spain to France  
Krzysztof Olendzki, Ambassador, Department for Strategic Communication and the Prevention of International Disinformation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland  
Francisco Ribeiro de Menezes, Ambassador of Portugal to France  
Lina Viltrakiene, Ambassador at Large for Digital and Tech Diplomacy, Republic of Lithuania  
Ernst Noorman, Ambassador at Large for Cyber Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands  
Caroline Bilkey, Ambassador of New Zealand to France  
Hanne Fugl Eskjær, Ambassador of Denmark to France  
María Jónsdóttir, Ambassador of Iceland to France  
Rabih El Chaer, Ambassador of Lebanon to France  
Mary Beth Goodman, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD  
André Dunham Maciel Siaines de Castro, Deputy Chief of Mission, Brazilian Embassy in Paris  
Andrew Dalglish, Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy in Paris

Ruth Stone, Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy in Paris  
Maximilian Gorke, First Secretary, Embassy of Austria in Paris  
Emil Kazakov, Charge d'affaires, Embassy of Bulgaria in Paris  
Petra Mašínová, Press and Media office, Czech Embassy in Paris  
Marcus Bleinroth, Director for Policy and Strategy Division, Federal Foreign Office, Germany  
Oria Kija Vande Weghe, Spokesperson and Director of Communications, Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF)  
Tarja Turtia, Head of the Section for Freedom of Expression and the Safety of Journalists, UNESCO

### **Selected Attendees**

Alice Albright, Board Member, National Democratic Institute  
Sigrid van Aken, Chief Executive Officer, Postcode Lottery  
Melissa Bell, Senior International Correspondent, CNN  
Miguel Castro, Head of Global Media Partnerships, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Alan Dreanic, Deputy General-Director, Canal France International (CFI)  
Vilas Dhar, President, Patrick J. McGovern Foundation  
Nicolas Forissier, Minister Delegate, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France  
José Ángel Gurría, President, Paris Peace Forum  
Benjamin Haddad, Minister Delegate, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France  
Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris  
Melanie Hui, Chief Executive Officer, Luminate  
Jan Lublinski, Head of Policy and Learning, DW Akademie  
Roula Mikhael, Executive Director, Maharat Foundation  
Hayley Panetta, Executive Director of Impact, Minderoo Foundation  
Martin Tisné, President, Current AI  
Justin Vaïsse, Director General, Paris Peace Forum  
Caroline Vuillemin, General-Director, Fondation Hirondelle