



# ACP Press Clubs Congress

Kigali, 20 – 21 October 2016



## Conference Report

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## List of Acronyms

ACP – African, Caribbean and Pacific Group

ACP PCF – African, Caribbean and Pacific Press Clubs Federation

ARJ – Association of Rwanda Journalists

KPC – Kigali Press Club

KPF – Kigali Press Foundation

IAPC – International Association of Press Clubs

IFJ – International Federation of Journalists

RGB – Rwanda Governance Board

SG – Secretary General

## Background

The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Press Clubs Congress was organized through the collaborative efforts of the ACP Secretariat, the Brussels Press Club and the Kigali Press Foundation<sup>1</sup>.

The congress, held in Rwanda's capital Kigali on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016, brought together 68 participants, 38 of whom were drawn from across the ACP member countries.

The overarching objective of the conference was to bring together national press clubs of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in the first ever congress of its kind, with a view to establish a dynamic and sustainable umbrella Federation of ACP Press Clubs.

The federation is expected to serve as a platform to raise awareness about ACP issues, as well as enhance the visibility of the ACP Group.

The conference took place over two days (*see final programme in annexes*). The first day included an opening ceremony with high profile guest speakers, as well as presentations from various institutions. It provided participants with the global context in which the ACP Press Clubs operate while directly drawing from the press clubs regional perspectives of what is happening on the ground in ACP regions, including challenges, opportunities, and best practices faced by these bodies.

The second day of activities dealt with more detailed structural matters and the basic institutional framework of creating the ACP PCF. This culminated in the endorsement of a founding charter of the first-ever ACP Press Clubs Federation, and the appointment of an Interim Executive Board, including its Chairman.

This report provides a summary of the key messages arising from the event and abstracts from each of the presentations.

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<sup>1</sup> The Kigali Press Foundation established the Kigali Press Club.

## DAY 1 – 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

### High Level Opening

#### Welcome Remarks

*Mr. Gaspard Safari, President of Kigali Press Foundation*

#### *Key messages*

Mr Safari welcomed all the participants to the City of Kigali and the conference on behalf of the Kigali Press Foundation (KPF). He recognised the collaborative effort since 2015 between KPF, Brussels Press Club and the African, Caribbean & Pacific (ACP) Secretariat that had culminated in the first ACP Press Congress. He also acknowledged the support that KPC continued to receive from the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB).

He indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to establish a dynamic umbrella federation of ACP press clubs to raise awareness of the ACP group. The federation is expected to serve as platform to raise awareness of key issues, renew contacts and enhance the visibility of the ACP Group of States.

Noting that the agenda covers a wide range of topics around media relations in changing global practices, he expressed confidence that the meeting would share ideas on best practices, and hoped participants would develop a charter bringing together all ACP Press Clubs.

*Amb. Mamour Alien Jagne, Representative of the Secretary General of the ACP Group of States  
Chef de Cabinet*

#### *Key messages*

On behalf of ACP Group of States he welcomed all participants to the first congress of ACP Press Clubs, and paid tribute to all those who had contributed to the event, with special mention of the Kigali Press Foundation, Rwanda Governance Board, Brussels EU Press Club, the International Federation of Journalists, the Embassy of Rwanda in Brussels and the APC Secretariat's officers Catherine Onebamoï and Josephine Latu-Sanft.

He stated that in line with the Georgetown Agreement and the Cotonou Agreement, the ACP Group has been taking steps to reinforce its working relationship with Non-State Actors (NSA). This includes establishing a civil society forum from ACP countries as well as platforms to interface with private sector.

He stressed the need for an ACP Federation of Press Clubs, and hoped that the congress would agree on a charter forming the basis of an ACP Press Clubs Federation (ACP PCF), and a road map setting the way forward for the federation.

## Opening Statements



**Mr. Jaroslaw Wlodarczyk**, Secretary General of the International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC)

### *Key messages*

He thanked the ACP Secretariat and the Kigali Press Foundation (KPF) for organising the ACP Press Clubs Congress in Kigali.

He gave an overview of the IAPC which operates in 30 countries with over 40 Press Clubs, facilitating the exchange of practical experiences among members.

Today's media faces a changing ecosystem, with confidence in media eroding due to the proliferation of multimedia platforms. Media has to provide specialized information, be more immediate and find ways to use multiple platforms.

He emphasised that professionalism is a crucial part of media whose essence is often in raising the difficult topics and playing a responsible role, as was captured in a quote by George Orwell, "If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

**Mr. Andrew Mold**, Officer in Charge, Eastern Africa Sub regional Office of UNECA

### *Key messages*

He observed that since the ACP Group was formed 40 year ago, it has become a more diverse group of countries, thanks to globalization. There is strength in the diversity of countries and

social media and information technology make information exchange more collaborative, making discussions and debate have a global impact.

He appreciated that Rwanda had been chosen to host the first ACP Press Clubs Congress, noting that the country has positioned itself as an important conference location bolstered by its Government's focus on an information driven economy.

**H.E. Michael Ryan**, Ambassador of the European Union to Rwanda

#### *Key messages*

The Ambassador remarked that the ACP and EU have been “brother and sister” over many years with ACP being the biggest bloc that EU is associated with. He mentioned that important discussions were going on in Brussels, aimed at deepening the ACP-EU partnership.

The EU is in favour of encouraging media freedom and responsibilities, but rights come with responsibilities. He highlighted the deterioration of protection of journalists and their rights worldwide. It is therefore hoped that press clubs will see ways to protect journalists.

He wished all participants fruitful deliberations and looked forward to being associated, in whatever way, on press freedom and the association of press clubs, going forward.

#### *Keynote Address*

**Prof. Anastase Shyaka**, CEO, Rwanda Governance Board

#### *Key messages*

On behalf of the Government of Rwanda, the RGB CEO appreciated the selection of Rwanda to host the first-ever congress of ACP Press clubs at the initiative of the Kigali Press Foundation, bringing together senior journalists from more than 30 countries.

He noted that while the media remains a vital driver of sustainable development, it has often been used for selfish interests and gains to the detriment of society, an example being the role that the media played in propagating hatred ideology that led to the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

In 2011, the Government of Rwanda sanctioned a review of the media policy with robust media reforms in 2013, which saw the media Law amended towards self-regulation, enacting the Access to Information Law, making Rwanda the 11th country in Africa to put in place such a law.



He commended the initiative to form the ACP-Press Clubs Federation to strengthen the viability and professionalism of the media bodies in these regions, creating a strong media industry within member states, dedicated and ready to position the ACP Bloc globally.

He pledged the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to the ACP PCF initiative, and to continue to work closely with and support the Kigali Press Foundation in fulfilling its mandate.

## Setting the Scene: Media and Communication in Changing Global Landscape

The session was moderated by Mr. Colin Haba, Chairman of the Association of Rwanda Journalists (ARJ).

### Mr. Ernest Sagaga, Head, Human Rights & Safety International Federation of Journalists

#### The state of Journalism in ACP Developing Countries



#### Key messages

Mr Sagaga argued that journalism in the ACP regions reflects the transformation in the media landscape from pre- and post-independence eras and the new multimedia and social media era.

More youth and women are joining the profession, injecting their energy into the sector and making their presence felt.

The media does face some formidable challenges:

In the social media front, the issue of *standards* of journalism plagues the ACP regions with more untrained and unqualified people becoming citizen journalists. But generally the standards are improving.

*Ethics* remain a challenge as we see failure to adhere to the tenets of journalism. The IFJ has embarked on a campaign on ethical journalism i.e. how to report on matters of gender, law, human rights, etc. However, some ACP member countries have made positive steps in enhancing ethical journalism through measures such as self-regulation mechanisms, code of conduct and ethics, media training campaigns, etc.

*Working conditions* of journalists also present a challenge. There can be no free and ethical media when journalists live in fear and poverty. Poorly paid journalists can be baited to compromise on ethics. In some countries, the working conditions and welfare of journalists has significantly improved.

*Security* of journalists has deteriorated in recent times with increased cases of killings, and harassment of journalists, as well as their sources. For example 3,000 journalists and media staff have been killed in last few years. He noted that more journalists were killed during peaceful times than during war, mostly to suppress independent reporting on corruption.

He called on governments to take this issue seriously. ACP Press Clubs can collectively champion the rights and values of journalists to serve the public and nations. Press clubs create a platform to create solutions to common and shared issues.

## Regional Perspectives: Best Practices, Challenges and Opportunities

### Introduction

*Jaroslav Włodarczyk, Secretary General of the International Association of Press Clubs (IAPC)*

#### *Key points*

The IAPC Secretary General remarked that there were no generic answers to suit all press clubs because they faced different challenges and operation environments. Every Press Club must have an executive board to make key decisions on how it operates and what it does. The distinction is that Press Associations and Unions represent journalists while Press Clubs represent the values of journalism.

The IAPC promotes professionalism in journalism within every club by giving journalist awards. This is a good vehicle for fundraising for the club while promoting ethical and professional journalism.

Every club has its own rules regarding membership. It must be open to journalists and give them power and ownership through exclusive right to vote.

There can be different types of membership. E.g. Journalist membership, professional membership – for experts, leaders and corporate membership such as for commercial institutions, companies, as well as a category for retired journalists and students.

Most of press clubs sign a common code of ethics to enhance high standards.

The challenge is that funding in media is shrinking, as is professional capacity. With the current information overload of about 3000 GB per day, the future is bright not only for journalists but also for senior editors as they will play the role of guiding and filtering information for relevance.

### Eastern Africa – Tanzania

*Mr. Abubakar Karsan Msabila, Executive Director of the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs*

#### *Key points*

Mr. Msabila gave an overview of Tanzanian press club operations, with their roles summed up as: 1. promoting professionalism 2. Social interaction among journalists 3. Support economic activities 4. Making people aware about their right to information 5. Arbitrating complaints between Stakeholders and the Media. 6. Participating in regional development.

The Tanzanian Press Clubs Union is made up of 27 Press Clubs with a total 4,500 members. It is uniquely active in fundraising and operates on an annual budget of 5 million US Dollars. It raises its funds from donors. Besides being quick in submitting proposals to donors, the union turns challenges in the country into opportunities to apply for funds.

The role of the Tanzania Press Club Union is to support member Clubs in training, equipment, awareness, advocacy and funding. The organization follows sound governance structures and transparency in the spending of funds. Money sourced from donors must be spent strictly according to the contract with the funding entity.

He concluded by posing a question seeking how the ACP PCF would address the issues of journalist protection, promote democracy and human rights in member countries.

## Caribbean – Bahamas

### *Mr. Anthony Newbold, President of the Bahamas Press Club*



#### *Key points*

Media in the Bahamas has been dominated by Government, but the situation has been changing with more private TV and radio stations coming up over the last two decades.

After several failed attempts the Bahamas Press Club (BPC) was finally formed in 2014 with 22 official members. The number has since grown to 35. The 22 initial members are loyal corps of professional committed journalists.

The Bahamas Press Club seeks to advocate for all media-related matters while seeking to increase knowledge and uphold the standards of the journalism profession.

In 2015 BPC held its first press awards banquet with a second one set to be held in November 2016 on live TV.

“Oversized” egos are a major challenge facing the media practitioners in Bahamas, hindering productivity. In addition, young journalists are lured by money as they have access to those with the power to pay for press favours.

In 2016, BPC developed its own code of ethics for the conduct of its members.

Social media is a challenge and will remain a challenge if we do not find a way to integrate it into mainstream media operations. It allows everyone to have a voice and therefore challenges the constructs of traditional journalism.

Best practices that form the basis of ethical standards are rooted in fairness, accuracy and balance.

To attract and keep members in the Press Club, the leader has to demonstrate a high level of consistency and professionalism and have planned educational programs.

## West Africa – Senegal

*Mr. Abdou Gningue – President of the Press Club of Senegal*

### *Key points*

In Senegal, there is both a Press House (Maison de la Presse) and a Press Club (Club de la Presse). The Government of President Macky Sall passed on the management of Senegal's Press House to journalists after lobbying by the Journalists' Union.

The Press House handles everything to do with journalism in Senegal. All press associations are members of the Press House which also is a receiving house that accommodates all press clubs.

A press club should be fair and work to connect journalists. The Senegal Press Club has commissions on ethics and conduct. It also organizes regular workshops with the University of Dakar to train journalists from local radio stations who are often not trained.

The Press Club Federation (when formed) can organise trips to different countries to help in sharing knowledge on best practices from other ACP group media bodies.

## Floor Discussion and debate



### *Should press clubs receive funding from Government?*

According to the Association of Press Clubs (IAPC), media should be neutral and non-partisan. Government funding creates unhealthy relations. However, participants argued that press clubs should not shy away from government funding as long as they can maintain their autonomy through strong internal governance structures. Press Houses and media are partners of government in ensuring good governance and therefore may receive government funding for activities.

The Tanzania Press Clubs Union clarified that it doesn't receive funding from government but from donors and that all its leaders are qualified, active and professional journalists.

### *Is there a standard template of how press clubs should be structured?*

In general, Press Clubs stand for the values of journalism. But specifically, each Press club determines its activities and structures through its executive board and based on the prevailing media environment (challenges and opportunities) it exists in.

### *What can be done about increased intimidation and silencing of media in Liberia?*

Journalists are guardians of the citizens' right to freedom of expression. If media engages in hate speech then it loses the right to public and government support. Liberia's media need to learn and discuss guidelines on hate speech and do all it can to keep hate speech out of the media in Liberia.

### *What if a press club lacks funding for activities?*

Even without money, a press club can find low cost ways to facilitate the social meeting and interaction of journalists. E.g. London press club would rent a room at the public library for free.

## Central Africa – Democratic Republic of Congo

*Mr. Edouard Adzotsa, Secretary General of the Fédération Syndicale des Travailleurs de la Communication*

### *Key points*

The Central African region is struggling to set up press clubs. Only Chad has been able to successfully set up a Press House.

Press clubs is a new English term, francophone countries feel the need to have Press Houses ("Maisons de la Presse") that can accommodate the Press Clubs. The Central African region has received donor money to set up press houses but in Equatorial Guinea, the establishment of journalist associations is prohibited by law. It is hoped that that this can somehow be tackled though the proposed ACP Press Club Federation.

## West Africa – Burkina Faso

*Ms. Valérie Ouédraogo, Representative of the Norbert Zongo Press Centre of Burkina Faso*

### *Key messages*

The Press Centre was inaugurated in 1998, and in the same year, its member Norbert Zongo was assassinated. In 1999 the Press Centre was renamed the Norbert Zongo National Press Centre (CNP-NZ) in his honour.

The Federation of ACP Press Clubs should facilitate in meeting the ambitions of the Norbert Zongo press centre. This ACP-PCF should be set up to help press clubs to enhance transparency, facilitate the partnership and development of press clubs in various countries and the exchange of ideas and information between different countries. The Federation should also be a platform for training to enhance capacity building.

The Objective of the Press Centre is to work for the development of a free media, build the capacity of media professions, and uphold the general culture of practitioners. Its activities include training workshops for members and journalist award events to honour best female and investigative journalists.

## Southern Africa – South Africa

*Mr. Josias Chale, President of the National Press Club of South Africa*

### *Key messages*

The National Press Club of South Africa is not a journalists' union. It is a platform for newsmakers to communicate through with their various constituencies.

The day to day activities are run by a secretariat which is a private company, paid to do that job. The Press club gets its funding from sponsors. Activities include annual journalist-of-the-year award ceremonies and monthly forums with communicators from various sectors.

The PC has survived for the last 41 years through sound administration based on transparency. Finances are run openly and are audited.

Main challenge is that the Press Club is not always able to protect its members wherever they are carrying out their duties.

## Pacific – Samoa

*Mr. Lance Polu, President of the Journalists Association of Samoa*

### *Key messages*

In the Pacific countries, press clubs are referred to as media associations.

The media environment faces challenges that include military coups, censorship of the media, violent protests, marginalization of minorities and also the impact of lifestyle diseases and communicable diseases claiming the lives of productive members of community.

Most Island States were colonized and Samoa became independent in 1960, but the leaders continued to abuse media for own political interest and power.

The Journalists' Association of Western Samoa (JAWS) was formed in 1980, whose main role was capacity building. In 2003, the Samoan government exerted pressure for a self-regulation body for and by the media. The Media Council Act was passed in 2015, establishing JAWS as the National Media Association.

The law also provides for the formation of a Media Council to handle complaints from public and establish a code of ethics in the country. The council is chaired by a retired judge, and 5 representatives from the public and 5 representatives from the media.

## Pacific - Fiji

*Mr. Stanley Simpson, Secretary General of the Fiji Media Association*

### *Key messages*

The formation of the ACP PCF is a great opportunity for creating new networks for Fiji which has just started to gain momentum with the formation of the Fiji Media Association which has often been delayed by military coups and Government rule by emergency decrees.

The media association was finally started in 2014 amidst challenges like the absence of requisite founding documents like a constitution outlining the proper procedures of meetings and so forth, but that is now changing.



The Association still lacks capacity to draft proposals for funding. The Association aims to appoint a full time coordinator, undertake a survey and understand training requirements and develop a 3-5 strategic development plan and seek funds to support it.

## Floor Discussion and Debate

Chad's Mr. Mahamat Souleymane gave a brief description of the experience of the Press House in Chad - the only one operating in the Central African region.

The process started in 2009. A fact finding preparatory committee was sent to Rwanda and Burundi to see how the media was operating post-conflict. The press house was created to give journalists a space to discuss their issues and also a platform to train journalists.

The association has a management committee, Chairman, Secretary General and a Deputy Secretary General. It get funding support from the EU, German Cooperation and US embassy, Chinese Embassy and French Organization.

*Where can press clubs get training on proposal writing for funding?*

Mr. Abubakar Msabila of Tanzania gave an online resource ([www.fundsforngos.org](http://www.fundsforngos.org)) that Press Houses could use to get comprehensive training on how to write proposals and seek funding.

*How is South Africa's Press Club constituted? There was rumour that it is made up of PR members and not journalists.*

The National Press Club of SA is made up of practising journalists and communication professionals. Only practising journalists are allowed to be executive members. PR, Communication and marketing professionals are associate members who pay a special fee.

## DAY 2 – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

### Building blocks of an ACP Press Club Federation

The session was moderated by Mr. Ernest Sagaga, the Head of Safety and Security at the International Federation of Journalists

#### Panel opening messages

*Mr. Gaspard Safari President of Kigali Press Foundation - The Role of Press Clubs in ACP countries*

##### *Key points*

We have to understand there is a difference between a Press Club and a Press Association. Press Clubs should support networking groups among media houses, civil society groups, the private sector, the diplomatic corps, media, etc., so as to allow the clubs to reach the greater public.

Press Clubs are expected to facilitate easier access to information given the nature of the composition of their memberships and their interactions with international clubs from all over the world. They should serve as information hubs without hampering competition and professionalism.

ACP Press Clubs should serve national interests by identifying the challenges to development and seeking solutions as a tool of governance and sustainable development.

In the current information age, we still find that the content we share and consume regarding our countries is still largely foreign. As Press Clubs we have to take necessary steps to liberate ourselves and tell our own story based on our perspectives.

The financing of the Federation is the cornerstone of the sustainability of Press Clubs at national, regional or international levels. Members must think about the survival of the PCs whether from membership fees, government or donor funding.

*Mr. Laurent Brihay, Executive Director of Press Clubs Brussels EU - Building Blocks for a Sustainable Partnership & the EU Model*

##### *Key points*

Mr. Brihay gave a detailed presentation on the formation, governance structure, funding, membership and activities of the Press Club Brussels EU (PCBE) since it started in 2010.

#### **Summary:**

The Press Club Brussels EU is a non-profit organization with one President, two Vice Presidents and 20 Board Members and 5 employees.

It holds 250 events per year, receives 25,000-30,000 visitors per year, has 1200 members, and makes a profit of 400,000 Euro per year.

It receives financial support from the government through the Tourism Office of Brussels, which has a desk within the press club itself. It also operates on membership fees and event organisation fees.

What's important is the networks and not the size of a press club. PCBE has networks and partnerships with other Press Clubs such as the National Press Club in Washington DC.

*Mrs. Josephine Latu-Sanft, Press Officer, ACP Secretariat - Local, regional, global – Why an ACP Network of Press Clubs?*

### *Key points*

ACP network of Press Clubs is expected to form an important platform for information sharing among member states and to learn from each other.

While Press Clubs in developing countries may not have big networks as compared to the Brussels Press Club, it is hoped that the ACP Press Clubs network will foster collaboration within and among the various regions in the ACP states. It is an important platform for South-South Cooperation in terms of solidarity amongst members, learning lessons and best practices from each other, building networks, and have a louder voice as a group.

The most important thing is to come up with a charter that can be a basis for ACP Press Clubs Federation. The draft charter outlines the objectives, governance structure and the main coordinators of the ACP Press Club Federation.

### Floor Discussion and Debate

A major advantage of forming an ACP Press Clubs Federation (ACP PCF) is the implied solidarity in membership. This strength in numbers can set the stage for possible lobbying and reforms in states where media associations are prohibited.

### *Should Press Clubs accept government funding?*

Governments should be viewed as partners, and government funding does not necessarily imply government control and influence. Borrowing from the example of Brussels, it is possible to receive government funding while remaining completely independent from it. The idea is that it is not the government's resources, it is the citizens' resources and media exists to serve the citizens of a country.



*ACP members know little about each other. How to address this?*

Jewel Forde from Barbados noted that the ACP group knows very little about each other. The ACP PCF should develop structures of content and information sharing about each other and build better relationships than currently exist.

## Break-Out & Brainstorming Session – Regional Focus Groups

The participants formed six regional focus groups representing the ACP. These were Pacific, Caribbean, West Africa, Eastern Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa.

The groups were tasked to discuss and come up with their recommendations to the following questions:

1. What objectives and activities do you envisage for the ACP Press Clubs Federation?
2. What kind of governance structure should the federation have?
3. Could you nominate focal persons for your region?

After the discussion, group rapporteurs gave a summary of their respective groups.

### **PACIFIC – Focus group members from Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Fiji**

- The Pacific group supports the setup of the federation in principle.
- We do need the support so as to strengthen the national press clubs or media associations as we call them in the Pacific countries.
- We face a challenge of isolation due to physical distance between the island states but technology is helping bridge the distance.
- There is need for resources in the region due to the small size of human population in our countries.
- We envisage the federation as being potentially advantageous in terms of solidarity and collaborative advocacy e.g. where problems between media and government occur.
- Under the ACP PCF, press clubs can offer advocacy support where we have problems between government and media.
- We offer our support in principle but we need to go back to our countries and update them on what has been happening here in Kigali.

### **CARIBBEAN – Focus group members from Guyana, Barbados, Bahamas and St. Lucia**

- We envisage the federation as having a hybrid structure; one that advocates and supports the member groups while at the same time sourcing financing for education.
- We need to find common ground on what the common issues are in order to address them collectively

- We will mainly need support in terms of resources, training and legal advice for journalists.
- We need to keep on pressing our governments for freedom of information laws to enable journalists to work better.
- We view ACP PCF as an addition that will strengthen our cause in the Caribbean.
- We need support from partners in writing about issues that affect our region correctly on the global platform. It is a platform for global visibility.
- We want the federation to offer tangible support to members. E.g. support for Haitian journalists.
- We would like the federation to establish a presence in all the regions of member states, holding major events in different regions each year under the ACP PCF umbrella, e.g. each region to host the Federation on rotational basis each year.
- Networking- we will need support in research and information from our partners. To give local perspective for specific regions when reporting.
- We envisage the formation of a solidarity fund or support system for retired journalists.

#### **SOUTHERN AFRICA – Focus group members Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique,**

- We fully support the formation of the ACP PCF
- We want a full time secretariat with a Secretary General (SG) handling all day-to-day matters. The Secretariat will take care of member affairs. The secretariat should be located at a fixed location.
- We'd like to have a Regional Coordinator working on 12 month rotational basis, to act as a focal entity linking member states and the ACP PCF Secretariat.
- Activities: The biggest issue to handle is fundraising. In order to have intensive fundraising support, we would need someone working to ensure the organisation has money and coordinate how the money is spent and accounted for.
- Regional coordinator will work as coordinator for all member states.
- Networking is necessary to enhance solidarity and get to know each other and members can take care of each other.
- The coordinator should conduct training needs assessments and coordinate with the secretariat for funding towards that training.

#### **WEST AFRICA – Focus group members Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Benin, Togo, Senegal, Niger, Nigeria and Madagascar<sup>2</sup>**

- We expect a federation that brings us together that also takes account of specificities of each member state.
- The federation should focus on how to fundraise and have activities on a regional basis.

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<sup>2</sup> Madagascar participant joint the West African focus group for ease of language

- We suggest the creation of a website for ACP PCF to enhance collaboration and information exchange among ACP Press Clubs.
- The major objective is to promote media in all ACP countries so we work together and move forward.

#### **EASTERN AFRICA – Focus group members Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Burundi**

- In principle the EA group does adopt the spirit of the ACP PCF charter.
- Press clubs come together at national level then elect somebody to be a focal person to represent the country at regional level, with a focal point to the larger ACP PCF.
- The federation should exist with remunerated Executives mandated to work for this federation. There is a lot of work that the PCF will do.
- The PCF has the potential to be very powerful as a lobbying machine and fund mobilization vehicles to take care of the journalists in the different regions.
- Media is facing significant disruption from digital media. The pressure to cope and adapt to multimedia journalism is immense. Training is therefore crucial in the multimedia scene. Newsrooms need to start thinking differently and the federation can pool resources to facilitate training and capacity building to help adapt.
- ACP members should intentionally seek to know each other more. Technology has made it much easier to interact. There can be a minimum requirement for how much information is shared e.g. have periodic newsletter, or podcasts contributed to by every member state.
- ACP PCF can commission writers to develop and write content on the different ACP regional groupings.

#### **CENTRAL AFRICA – Focus Group members Chad, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)**

- Out of all eight countries in the Central African region, only Chad has a functioning Press House. The region therefore expects the ACP PCF to support the Chad Press House to be the role model for the Central African Region.
- There is also need to engage with other countries e.g. Cameroon, Brazzaville, to help them to set up press clubs there.
- We hope to see regional and sub-regional hubs creating a pool of resources and the Press Clubs submit reports to the Federation.
- We would like to integrate the Portuguese speaking countries to join the francophone region.
- The Central African region is a bit reluctant about the Federation. We first need to create Press Clubs in our countries before we move to the Federation. Chad cannot commit to the Federation on behalf of other countries. The first thing is to have press clubs in those countries.

## Consideration of a Joint Charter of ACP Press Clubs

The Congress took time to go over the Articles of the Proposed Charter of the formation of the ACP Press Clubs Federation.

Several amendments were made to the articles to represent the views and preferences which included:

- Dividing the ACP group into 6 regions i.e. Caribbean, Pacific, West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa (rather than 3 main regions of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific).
- Governance structure and term of the Executive Board

## Conclusions

The Congress adopted the Charter as amended, and agreed on the following:

1. That an Interim Executive Board comprising to (2) members from each region be appointed to run the affairs of the ACP PCF for the next two years starting January 2017, to set the stage for the first General Assembly. Coordination will be done out of Brussels during this initial period. The General Assembly should take place by the end of 2018.
2. The Interim Executive Board will work in collaboration with the Brussel Press Club EU, the ACP Secretariat and the International Federation of Journalists.
3. The members appointed the Interim Executive Board as follows:
  - a) **Pacific** – Lance Polu (Samoa), Leni Dalavera (Solomon Islands)
  - b) **Caribbean** – Anthony Newbold (Bahamas) and Jewel Forde (Barbados)
  - c) **West Africa** – Abdou Gningue (Senegal), David Agbenu (Ghana)
  - d) **Eastern Africa** – Thomas Mshindi (Kenya), Gaspard Safari (Rwanda)
  - e) **Central Africa** – Edouard Adzotsa (Congo), Mahamat Souleymane (Chad)
  - f) **Southern Africa** – Anny Andrianaivonirina (Madagascar), Josias S Charle (South Africa)
4. The Executive Board met aside and appointed Mr. Gaspard Safari from Rwanda as the Chairman of the newly formed interim Executive Board.

## Conference closing remarks

*Mr. Gaspard Safari, Appointed Leader of the ACP PCF Interim Executive Board*

Mr. Safari thanked the Executive Board for entrusting with the responsibility to be their leader. He assured the Congress of his commitment and dedication and promised prompt email communication and engagement with the Executive Board would commence promptly.

*Professor Anastase Shyaka, CEO, Rwanda Governance Board*

### *Key messages*

Participants have become a big family and can call each other brother and sister.

On his behalf and that of the Rwandan Government, he thanked all participants for conducting a successful meeting and forming the first ever ACP Press Clubs Federation. He thanked the ACP Group and Secretariat for the support and organization of the Congress.

He congratulated the Kigali Press Foundation's Mr. Gaspard Safari on being appointed Chair of the Interim Executive Board of the ACP PCF.

Going forward, he raised the issue of how to create synergies based on members' capacities. The Rwanda Governance Board commits to support Kigali Press Foundation and the APC PCF, to help advance its objectives which are very pertinent to member nations.

## Annexes and web link

### Annex 1:

Web link to access Concept note and Programme, Statements, Presentations, photo gallery, List of Participants and ACP PCF Draft Charter

<http://www.acp.int/content/acp-press-clubs-come-together-launch-milestone-federation>

### Annex 2:

Signed attendance list – Rwandan participants

Name	Title	Organisation	Email + Phone Number	Signature
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Faustin Niyigena	Photographer	The New Times	0788553828	[Signature]
Nasra Bishumba	Reporter	"	0788838887	[Signature]
Charles Kwizera	ARS Treasurer	ARS	0783605147	[Signature]
Arnold Kwizera	Reporter	ARMS	0787888846	[Signature]
Kakaza Nkurigiza Charles	CEO	TV/Radio 1	0783084464	[Signature]
Placide Mubogeye	Photojournalist	Kigali Today	0788302862	[Signature]
Melville Murenzi	CEO	IGiHE	0788742908	[Signature]
MAHORO Augustin	IGiHE Photographer	IGiHE	0788532187	[Signature]
Jean Charles Kanamugire	KT HD	KT	0788435604	[Signature]
KAMBANDA Pascal	Journalist	ARI	0782726670	[Signature]
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