

CARACAS DECLARATION

Private Broadcasting Organizations of the American Continent and Europe, represented by the International Association of Broadcasting -IAB - gathered in Caracas, Venezuela, on the occasion of the XXXI General Assembly,

HEREBY DECLARE

That the significance of the electronic media in the modern world, their clear influence on every process of development, as well as the huge technological changes, in the face of a new century, place broadcasting in a position of utmost importance for the future of the peoples;

That we, at the beginning of the third millennium, ratify our permanent commitment with the fundamental rights, human dignity and peaceful coexistence;

That Freedom of Expression and the existence of free private broadcasting are indispensable conditions for democracy;

That aware of the duties we have towards our countries and our societies, Private Broadcasting Organizations, members of IAB, have always devoted ourselves to the self-regulation of the use of our media, guided by the principle of ethics and freedom;

That pluralism and independence strengthen a broadcasting model that will continue to deserve respect and credibility on the part of our peoples;

That we emphatically reject all forms of violence and every action tending to go against Freedom of Expression, the media, their leaders and journalists;

That we deeply regret there still are peoples subject to totalitarian regimes, as is the case of Cuba, where no Freedom of Expression or independent media exist, and the severe governmental censorship silences the right of citizens to Freedom of Information and Opinion,

That we reiterate our most deep concern for the proliferation of illegal stations in most of our countries, which severely endanger the proper development of communications by failing to recognize the right of others and disturbing peaceful coexistence and democracy;

That free private broadcasting makes an exemplary contribution to international understanding by paving the way for freedom and, consequently, for respect, tolerance and peace.

Caracas, Venezuela, June 2001