

GUAYAQUIL DECLARATION

We, the participants of the " Meeting on Freedom of Expression ", organized by the Ecuadorian Association of Radio and Television - AER and the Association of Television Channels of Ecuador - ACTVE, with the auspice of the International Association of Broadcasting - IAB, meeting on November 10, 2001,

DECLARE THAT:

- We affirm our invariable commitment with the principles established by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights whose article 19 expresses: *" Everyone has the right to Freedom of opinion and Expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to see, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers"*
- Freedom of Expression is an essential groundwork for the understanding of the nations and the pacific coexistence.
- We strongly condemn all kinds of terrorism and violence against free societies and, consequently, against journalists and mass media that carry out their important mission to inform the public opinion.
- We reject all attempts, measures or actions, whatever its sign, aiming at restricting the exercise of free expression. Any restriction or threat on free and independent media is also a restriction on the freedom of individuals.
- Private radio and television, competitively operated, are a public interest activity, essential for free expression and informative pluralism.
- The only recognition to the stations is the one that comes from validly assigned licenses, according to the specific national legislation.
- We defend pluralism and the free access to the information as well as we support all those who , respectful of the due legal procedures and the international regulations, wish to become broadcasters, to strengthen the free expression in benefit of Democracy and the State ruled by Law.
- We reiterate the importance of advertising, as free commercial expression, that allows the economic self-sufficiency of mass media because independent media cannot exist without a financial independence.
- The new technologies applied to the communications, constitute a progress for all the human kind and therefore, they should be used to strengthen Freedom of Expression as well as plurality of opinion and mass media, respecting also the social, cultural and economic realities and priorities of each country.
- We regret that in the beginning of a new millenium, there are still countries dominated by totalitarian regimes, where the exercise of free expression or the operation of independent media is not allowed and where the censorship of governments violates the right of the citizens to Freedom of information and opinion.

Guayaquil, November of 2001.

Asociación Internacional de Radiodifusión - AIR ◇ **International Association of Broadcasting - IAB**
Fundada en 1946. Organización no gubernamental de radio y televisión con estatus oficial de asociada a la UNESCO y
Miembro de Sector de la UIT
Founded in 1946. Non-governmental organization of radio & television official partner of UNESCO with associate status
and ITU Sector Member

Oficina Central - Central Office: Carlos Quijano 1264. C.P: 11100 Montevideo - Uruguay
Tel: 598.29011319 – 598.29031879 Fax: 598.29080458. e-mail: mail@airiab.org * <http://www.airiab.org>