COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION COMMISSION
1-3 NOVEMBER, 2011
ORAL REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR
Mr Chairperson
Excellencies
Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honour for me to present this Oral Report of the CI Commission.

1. Our Chairperson, Mr Ludovít Molnár from Slovakia, opened the session of the CI Commission. After welcoming the delegates, Mr Molnár provided evocative insight on the importance of UNESCO’s efforts to build inclusive knowledge societies that harness the potential of media and new technologies to foster development and democracy.

2. He reminded the assembly that freedom of expression is at the core of this mission and that UNESCO’s activities in this area included providing advisory services on media legislation to policy makers, capacity building and promoting the safety of journalists. Mr Molnár emphasized the importance of free, independent and pluralistic media for fostering dialogue and mutual understanding. He also made mention of the role of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the Information for all Programme (IFAP) in advancing the development of communication and information across the world.

3. Our Chairperson went on to highlight the work carried out by UNESCO in ensuring universal access to information and knowledge, including for the most disadvantaged groups of society. He stated that the events in the Arab region earlier this year were just another reminder of the need to ensure unrestricted access to the Internet and to the sea of information it contains. He ended by drawing the delegates’ attention to UNESCO’s efforts in promoting local content and multilingualism, and preserving documentary heritage, including in digital form.

Delegates,
Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

4. This year, our Commission faced a particularly heavy agenda, with twelve major items to discuss. These were:

- **Item 4.2 (Debate 1)** Consideration and adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013; Part II.A: Major Programme V – Communication and Information (36 C/5 and Add.; 36 C/6 and Add.; 36 C/8; 36 C/8 CI)
- **Item 5.7 (Debate 1)** Conclusions of the Youth Forum (36 C/47)
- **Item 5.9 (Debate 2)** Establishment of category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (36 C/29 Parts XI and XIV)
Item 5.11 (Debate 3) Report by the Director-General on UNESCO’s activities for the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes and future measures for reaching its 2015 goals (36 C/52)

Item 5.12 (Debate 4) Reflection and analysis by UNESCO on the Internet (36 C/54)

Item 8.4 (Debate 5) Consolidated report on the measures taken by Member States for the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (36 C/26 and 36 C/LEG/4)

Item 5.14 (Debate 6) UNESCO and documentary heritage (36 C/COM.CI/DR.2)

Item 5.15 (Debate 7) Digital Library Manifesto of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) (36 C/20)

Item 5.24 (Debate 8) Code of ethics for the information society, proposed by the Intergovernmental Council of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) (36 C/49)

Item 5.17 (Debate 9) Universal Declaration on Archives (36 C/COM.CI/DR.1)

Item 5.27 (Debate 10) Proclamation of World Radio Day (36 C/63)

Item 5.26 (Debate 11) Revised draft strategy on UNESCO’s contribution to the promotion of open access to scientific information and research (36 C/62)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION BY ADG/CI

5. After the adoption of the timetable by the Commission, the Assistant Director-General for UNESCO’s Communication and Information Sector, Mr Jānis Kārkliņš, outlined the Sector’s guiding principles and major achievements. He highlighted, for instance, the focus on UNESCO’s global priorities Africa and Gender (with consideration of others, such as Small Island Developing States), as well as fostering collaboration intra- and inter-sectorally, with other UN agencies, and the public and private sectors.

6. Concentrating on the period since taking office in July 2010, Mr Kārkliņš referred to the CI Sector’s structural reform, and emphasized advances in the engagement with other sectors, communication between Headquarters and field offices as well as with Member States, the introduction of Results Based Programming and Budgeting, increased cost-effectiveness and CI’s active recruitment policy. As critical upcoming actions, he stressed reflecting on UNESCO’s next Medium-Term Strategy, positioning CI to meet challenges up to 2015 and beyond, restructuring field presence, and mobilizing extra-budgetary funds.
7. After drawing attention to CI actions centred on Africa and gender equality, he presented examples of inter-sectoral collaboration, and reviewed achievements in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society. He identified major sector milestones during 2010/2011 and a number of forthcoming activities for 2012/2013.

REPORTS FROM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCILS

8. Following this general introduction by ADG/CI, the assembly turned to the two intergovernmental programmes managed by the CI Sector in parallel to its Regular Programme, namely the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the Information for All Programme (IFAP).

9. In the absence of the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council of the IPDC - Mr Raghu Menon, Mr Ivan Ávila Belloso, Vice-Chairperson, took the floor to present the report of the IPDC, the only programme within the UN system with a mandate to mobilize international support for media development in developing countries. He informed the delegates that in the 2010-2011 period, contributions to the Programme had reached their highest level in the last decade, namely more than $US4.5 million, received from 13 donor countries. They were used to implement 176 media development projects across the globe.

10. Mr Ávila Belloso reported on the UN Inter-Agency Meeting on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity organized by UNESCO in September 2011. This meeting was the first time that UN agencies, funds and programmes came together to design a common UN-wide strategy to put an end to crimes against journalists.

11. The IPDC Vice-Chairman also notified the assembly of the progress made in the application of the UNESCO/IPDC Media Development Indicators, with eight MDI-based assessments of national media landscapes already completed, and another ten ongoing.

12. Finally, Mr Ávila Belloso pointed out the efforts of the IPDC in supporting journalism education in Africa, with over US$ 1 million spent by UNESCO and its partners in this field, during the last biennium.

13. The report of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) was presented in two parts. The Chairman of IFAP, Mr Evgeny Kuzmin, spoke first of IFAP’s achievements in the last two years. He reminded the assembly that IFAP is designed to address the challenges of the global information society. The IFAP Strategic Plan adopted in 2008 centres the Programme’s work around five priority areas: information accessibility, information for development, information literacy, information ethics and information preservation. There is also one cross-cutting topic – linguistic diversity in cyberspace. Mr Kuzmin emphasized how the IFAP Programme had undergone a true revival, and expressed his appreciation for the results achieved under the chairmanship of Poland. He went on to present some of the recent publications produced by
IFAP as well four international conferences organized this past biennium: on information literacy in the Asia-Pacific region; on building knowledge societies in the Caribbean; on linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace; and finally, on storing digital information.

14. The Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, Mr Kārkliņš, then took the floor to inform the assembly of the Director-General’s active support to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for IFAP (2008-2013), adopted by the Executive Board at its 180th session with a view to reinvigorating the Programme. He shared some of the results achieved in this respect, such as increased synergy between IFAP and the Secretariat as well as a growing number of activities in each of IFAP’s five strategic priorities. He added, however, that the Director-General had underlined in her report the need for additional human and financial resources for IFAP to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate. The Director General therefore invited Members States to increase their voluntary contributions to the Programme.

Delegates
Chairperson
Ladies and gentlemen
That brings me to the end of my report on the general introduction by the ADG/CI and the presentations of the Intergovernmental Councils.

I would now like to move on to some observations from Debate number 1.

DEBATE 1

Item 4.2 Consideration and Adoption of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 – Part II. A Major Programme V – Communication and Information (36 C/5)

15. The Commission’s first debate related to the adoption of the draft programme and budget for 2012-2013. By way of introduction, the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), Mr Jean-Yves Le Saux, provided some explanations regarding the financial and budgetary aspects of the C5.

16. He informed delegates that UNESCO’s programme and budget for 2012-2013 would be based on a Zero Nominal Growth ceiling of U$653 million, which implied certain real cuts (to cover for inflation, among other costs). However, he emphasized that the major programmes were spared from the cuts as much as possible, so that in real terms the budget for Major Programme V has actually increased by $0.3M as compared to the 35 C/5.

17. The Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, Mr Kārkliņš, then proposed an overview of Major Programme V within the overarching objective of the Medium-Term Strategy of ‘Building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication’.
18. He explained that 55% of the budget for Programme activities will be decentralized to the field (of which 36% was earmarked for Africa), while 45% will remain at Headquarters. He went on to highlight the three Main Lines of Action (MLAs) proposed for Programme V in the draft 36 C/5 for the next biennium, namely:
- MLA 1: Promoting an enabling environment for freedom of expression in order to foster development, democracy and dialogue for a culture of peace and non-violence;
- MLA 2: Strengthening free, independent and pluralistic media, civic participation and gender-responsive communication for sustainable development;
- MLA 3: Supporting Member States in empowering citizens through universal access to knowledge and the preservation of information, including documentary heritage.
Mr Kārkliņš then outlined the planned activities and expected results for each MLA.

Recommendations from the 2011 Youth Forum

19. Nineteen year-old Nasma Dasser presented the delegates with recommendations related to communication and information resulting from the 7th UNESCO Youth Forum. What had emerged from the discussions, she explained, was that ICTs represent great opportunities for young people, but there remain important inequalities in terms of access in many countries. Participants at the Youth Forum noted the need for a gender- and disability-sensitive approach to ICTs, highlighting that democratizing access to ICTs is indispensable for the achievement of the MDGs. They also examined the role of social media as carriers of change, and called on governments to guarantee the inalienable right of freedom of expression both on and off-line, while also protecting privacy and security, with special attention to the challenges Internet poses in regard to these matters.

20. Turning now to the comments from the 38 Member States and one observer that intervened during the discussion on the 36 C/5, the document was welcomed as a comprehensive and goal-oriented roadmap to enable UNESCO’s successful fulfilment of its mandate in the area of communication and information.

For the sake of clarity, I have grouped the observations made on the 36 C/5 into two broad categories.

I will start by referring to the feedback obtained from delegates regarding the first sectoral biennial priority of Major Programme V, that is, Promoting Freedom of Expression and Information.
Freedom of Expression and the Safety of Journalists

21. Many delegates welcomed the strong emphasis on freedom of expression and freedom of the press in the 36 C/5, while inviting UNESCO to play a bigger role in establishing policy dialogue on these issues between Member States and other relevant stakeholders. A proposal was made that freedom of expression good practices be shared between Member States. Several representatives encouraged UNESCO to further strengthen its cooperation with the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression. One Member State suggested the development of an independent mechanism for monitoring the situation of press freedom at the global level, with a particular focus on the safety of journalists, building upon UNESCO’s Media Development Indicators initiative.

22. Ensuring the safety of journalists was mentioned by many as a precondition for free media. A number of Member States expressed their appreciation for the recent UN Inter-Agency meeting organized by UNESCO on this topic; adding that they hoped that it would lead to a coherent system-wide Plan of Action, with active participation by UNESCO in its implementation. The decriminalization of press offences was highlighted as another significant challenge for ensuring the effective exercise of the right to freedom of expression. The need to promote freedom of expression both offline and online was also underscored.

23. Several Member States stressed the need to ensure the respect of different religions and nations, national security and public order.

24. Algeria, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkey and Venezuela expressed their reservations about the text of 36 C/DR.43, stating that it contained many ambiguities and causes for confusion, notably in paragraph (iii) when referring to “other relevant organizations active in this field”. The Chair agreed to include a reference to these reservations in the oral report of the CI Commission. The Assistant-Director General for Communication and Information made it clear that UNESCO works with organizations with which it maintains official relations, including professional associations and civil society organizations specialized in this subject field.

Media Pluralism

25. Many delegates underlined that freedom of expression should go hand in hand with media pluralism. Several Member States warned against the dangers that concentration of media ownership posed to the ideal pursued by UNESCO of ensuring a plurality of information sources and a diverse mix of public service, private and community media. Two Member States proposed that UNESCO engage in research on media concentration and its possible implications on freedom of expression – a proposal the Assistant-Director General said UNESCO would take on board.
Capacity Building of Journalists

26. There was consistent support among delegates for UNESCO’s contribution to capacity building and the training of media professionals. Some key areas mentioned were training in investigative journalism, reporting on elections and professional ethics.

Media and Information Literacy

27. Member States also voiced the need for UNESCO to continue bolstering its efforts to promote media and information literacy (MIL), especially targeting youth and women. MIL and the education of children from an early age on the use of the Internet were mentioned as ways of preventing some of the dangers users are exposed to when exploring the information highway.

Youth and Social Media

28. Delegates responded very positively to the intervention of the representative of the Youth Forum. They encouraged further inclusion of youth in delegations to the General Conference and throughout UNESCO’s activities. This was recognized as especially relevant in light of the role of youth, new media, and social networks in the recent events in the Arab region. It was stressed that National Commissions should play an important role in UNESCO’s youth-related work.

And now allow me to turn to some of the main points raised regarding the second biennial sectoral priority of the CI Programme, namely, fostering information and communication capacity for universal access to knowledge to bridge the digital divide.

Bridging the Digital Divide

29. Member States noted that it is imperative for UNESCO to continue its efforts to reduce the digital divide, highlighting the potential of ICTs and Internet to empower disadvantaged groups and those living in remote areas. At the same time, the continuing relevance of traditional media (particularly local media) to facilitate access to information and knowledge was also underscored, taking into account that almost three fourths of the world population still lack access to the Internet.

World Summit on the Information Society

30. Member States recognized the advances made by UNESCO in the implementation of the WSIS Action Plan, and its contribution to anticipating trends and challenges linked to the information society (such support was extensively reiterated in Debate 3). A call was made for additional efforts to ensure inclusiveness and a better linking of forecast and implementation methods.
Open Access, Open Educational Resources, ICTs for Education

31. UNESCO’s work on open access to scientific information and research was praised as being especially advantageous for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The use of ICTs for education was encouraged, and one delegate referred to the specific needs of people with disabilities. The Open Educational Resources initiative also received positive comments.

32. The Commission took note of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s wish to underline the importance of free access to information and scientific research, with reference to the discussion on Draft Resolution 19 on the Draft 36 C/5.

Memory of the World Programme, Libraries and Archives

33. Supporting libraries and archives was highlighted as essential. There was consistent praise for UNESCO’s work on documentary heritage, particularly the Memory of the World Programme, which several delegates wished to see reinforced. One delegate underscored the need to strengthen its regional committees. The preservation of digital heritage was identified as an urgent and particularly complex priority, due to the rapid obsolescence of digital resources and the lack of expertise in this fast evolving field.

Internet Governance and the Ethical Dimension of the Information Society

34. UNESCO was commended for its role in multi-stakeholder discussions on Internet Governance, and there were calls to strengthen cooperation with other actors in order to avoid duplication of efforts. The Organization’s engagement with the ethical dimension of the information society was highly appreciated, particularly considering the illegal or harmful uses of the Internet. In his response, Mr Kārkliņš underlined the need to address these issues while ensuring that individual rights and freedoms are not infringed upon. He stressed the complexities of the issues at stake, given the trans-border character of the Internet and constantly emerging challenges in cyberspace.

UNESCO’s intergovernmental programmes

35. Let me now briefly summarize the main observations that were made regarding the two intergovernmental programmes of UNESCO’s Communication and Information Sector: the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the Information for All Programme (IFAP).

IPDC

36. A number of Members States recognized the major role played by the IPDC in UNESCO’s action to support media development, and reaffirmed their financial commitments with regard to the Programme’s activities. Several delegates underlined the importance of IPDC’s standard-setting initiatives,
mentioning its Media Development Indicators and its role in upholding the safety of journalists, as examples.

**IFAP**

37. As far as IFAP is concerned, it was described by several delegates as an important programme for promoting universal access to information. One representative noted IFAP’s unique position within the UN system for assessing the ethical implications of the information society on a global scale. At the same time, attention was drawn to the need to ensure more substantial extra-budgetary resources for the Programme.

38. Draft resolution 26, which proposed support to the cross-cutting projects developed by the Working Groups for the IFAP Priority Areas in the 36 C/5, was not adopted. However, the Secretariat undertook to incorporate the objectives and concepts identified in the 4 proposals elaborated by the IFAP Working Group on Information Preservation to the fullest extent possible when implementing the 36 C/5. The Secretariat committed to keep Member States abreast, in this regard.

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Delegates
Chairperson
Ladies and gentlemen
That brings me to the end of my report on Debate 1.

39. Allow me to make a brief point of clarification regarding the examination of the draft resolutions. I will not cover in this report the discussion concerning the adoption of the 9 draft resolutions submitted with suggested amendments to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5) as the outcomes of this debate are already detailed in the written report of the Commission.

Instead, I will turn directly to our Commission’s second debate.

**DEBATE 2**

**Item 5.9 Establishment of Category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO**

40. The second debate pertained to the proposed establishment of two Category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO – a Regional Centre for Library Information Systems and Current Research Information Systems (IZUM) based in Maribor, Slovenia and a Regional Centre of Studies for the Development of the Information Society in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, Mr Kārkliņš, explained to the delegates that a feasibility study had been conducted for each of the centres, and that the Executive Board had, at its 187th session,
supported both proposals and decided to recommend to the General Conference that approval be given.

41. The IZUM centre in Slovenia will build upon the activities of the Institute of Information Science, a well-established centre with 115 staff that coordinates the COBISS.Net – a multi-country cooperation network in South Eastern Europe. The Regional Centre of Studies for the Development of the Information Society in Brazil will, for its part, assist countries of Latin America and Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa with studies on the progress and impact of building knowledge societies. The CI Commission welcomed the establishment of the two centres and adopted the two Draft Resolutions on this issue without amendments.

DEBATE 3

Item 5.11 Report by the Director-General on UNESCO’s activities for the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes and future measures for reaching its 2015 goals

42. I would now like to make some brief observations regarding the third debate of this Commission, during which the report by the Director-General on UNESCO’s activities for the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society goals was discussed. The Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information presented the report, which spells out UNESCO’s key achievements in this area and provides an update on the ongoing WSIS review process (WSIS+10). As one of the three lead facilitating agencies, UNESCO has implemented more than 600 WSIS-related activities across all sectors in 2010 and 2011 alone.

43. Overall, Member States expressed their satisfaction with the report and the progress made by UNESCO in implementing the WSIS Plan of Action. Many delegates recognized the important role played by the Organization in building inclusive, human-centred knowledge societies, in particular as concerns promoting accessibility, open access, freedom of expression, freedom of information, multilingualism and the ethical dimension of the information society. A call was made for closer collaboration with civil society, other UN agencies, regional organizations and national stakeholders, including the private sector. UNESCO was also encouraged by several delegates to focus its efforts on areas in which it has a comparative advantage, for example, the promotion of freedom of expression online.

44. Many participants stressed that the digital divide, both between and within countries, remains a critical issue that UNESCO cannot afford to ignore. One Member State suggested the elaboration of indicators to measure the extent to which the digital divide is being bridged. Another noted the absence in the report of any reference to the Digital Solidarity Fund – the innovative financing mechanism to bridge the digital divide noted by WSIS.
45. Finally, Member States welcomed the proposal that UNESCO organize in 2013 a high-level WSIS Review event in the lead-up to the WSIS 2015 review at the UN General Assembly, and adopted the proposed Draft resolution on this item with no modifications.

DEBATE 4

Item 5.12  Reflection and analysis by UNESCO on the Internet

46. The 4th debate of our Commission related to UNESCO’s reflection and analysis on the Internet. In his introductory address, Mr Kārkliņš underscored Internet’s instrumental contribution to UNESCO’s mandate, particularly the promotion of the free flow of ideas by word and image, and the creation and dissemination of knowledge. He stressed that UNESCO should play a key role in fully realizing Internet’s potential for advancing development, the building of knowledge societies, and a culture of peace.

47. Member States taking the floor praised the document, and encouraged UNESCO to continue its important work in this area, including through its involvement in the Internet Governance Forum, and actions to promote freedom of expression online. UNESCO’s cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the UN Human Rights Council was identified as critical. The need to ensure privacy and personal protection was also discussed.

48. Especially highlighted were the dangers youth are exposed to, and the relevance of fostering media and information literacy from an early age. A delegate pointed out that youth and their central role in bringing about change were not given sufficient attention in the examined document. It was proposed that UNESCO analyze the use of social media and for youth to be consulted and included in upcoming events on Internet Governance and other related matters.

49. The importance of further developing quality local content, and enhancing Internet access in rural and remote areas, among women and disadvantaged groups, was stressed. One delegate also underscored the opportunities Internet implies for Small Island Developing States, while another emphasized its relevance with regard to disaster risk reduction.

50. It was noted that the report could have been strengthened by including financial estimates regarding proposed activities, and other statistical data. There were calls for further inter-sectoriality in the analysis and UNESCO’s work related to the Internet, as well as for increased efforts to involve national commissions.

51. The DR on this item was adopted with few amendments.
DEBATE 5

Item 8.4  Consolidated report on the measures taken by Member States for the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace

52. During the 5th debate, our Commission considered the consolidated report on the measures taken by Member States for the implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace. As noted by Mr Kārkliņš, this recommendation, adopted by the General Conference at its 32nd Session, outlines principles and actions in support of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace, with the goal of contributing to equitable and multicultural knowledge societies.

53. The representative of Mexico enquired about the Secretariat’s follow-up on the reports received from Member States.

54. In his reply, Mr Kārkliņš outlined the timeline for the preparation of the report. He went on to note that responses by Member States provide a snapshot allowing the Secretariat to plan activities to foster multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace. Among these, he highlighted UNESCO’s work with ICANN on IDN variants for the Cyrillic script, and on the Internationalized country code Top Level Domain names. He also informed about the work carried out to develop a methodology to measure linguistic diversity on cyberspace.

55. The debate ended with the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document 36 C/LEG/4, as amended orally by Member States.

DEBATE 6

Item 5.14  UNESCO and documentary heritage

56. Let me now turn to the 6th debate of our Commission, which concerned a Draft Resolution submitted by Poland and co-sponsored by 55 countries, stressing the importance of documentary heritage, its preservation and access, as well as the key role of UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme in addressing these issues. The representative of the Director-General, Mr Kārkliņš, spelled out the key purpose of the proposed Draft Resolution, i.e. to call for an overall evaluation and reflection on strengthening the impact of the Memory of the World Programme, building on the 20th anniversary of the Programme in 2012. The Ambassador of Poland then introduced the item, highlighting the growing interest of Member States in the programme and noting that the inclusion of documentary heritage in the Memory of the World Register represents a symbolic recognition of a nation’s contribution to Humanity.
57. Delegates taking the floor unanimously supported the item and congratulated Poland on its initiative, and on the successful organization of the Fourth International Conference of the Memory of the World Programme in May 2011. A number of Member States encouraged greater efforts to place documentary heritage on an equal footing with other types of heritage, and there was a call for increased budgetary allocation to the Programme. One delegate exhorted UNESCO to ensure that young people are brought on board in the celebration of the Programme’s anniversary. Special emphasis was placed on access and preservation of digital information, and the proposed draft resolution was approved with an amendment inviting Member States to support the Conference on Digital Preservation planned for September 2012.

DEBATE 7

Item 5.15 Digital Library Manifesto of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

58. I will now refer to the 7th debate of our Commission, which concerned the proposed endorsement of the Digital Library Manifesto of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, IFLA. The Manifesto was elaborated by IFLA, in cooperation with the IFAP Working Group on Information Preservation. As noted by Mr Kārlīns when opening the debate, the document comprises principles that support libraries in the implementation of sustainable digitization activities and promotes the execution of national e-strategies that make cultural and scientific information more widely available to all.

59. The representative of IFLA, Ms Wiebke Dalhoff, reminded the assembly that IFLA represents 750,000 library and information professionals in more than 150 countries and maintains formal consultative relations with UNESCO. She made reference to previous IFLA Manifestos endorsed by UNESCO that have greatly contributed to developing frameworks for high-quality library services.

60. Several delegates emphasized the role and importance of IFLA as a long-standing UNESCO partner and the CI Commission decided to recommend that the General Conference endorse the IFLA Digital Library Manifesto.

DEBATE 8

Item 5.24 Code of ethics for the information society, proposed by the Intergovernmental Council of the Information for All Programme (IFAP)

61. The 8th debate dealt with the Code of Ethics for the Information Society, submitted by the IFAP Intergovernmental Council to the General Conference for endorsement. After a brief introduction by the Assistant-
Director General for Communication and Information, the Chairman of IFAP, Mr Evgeny Kuzmin, took the floor to present the proposed Code, elaborated within the framework of one of IFAP’s five priority areas – Information Ethics – and in line with UNESCO’s lead role in coordinating Action line 10 ‘Ethical dimensions of the information society’ of the WSIS Plan of Action. Addressing fears related to the Code, Mr Kuzmin noted that it balances the concerns of different Member States, is not of binding nature, and was developed through a vast consultation process involving Member States, intergovernmental organizations, experts, academics and NGOs.

62. During the debate, some Member States raised concerns relating to the Code’s dispersed target group. They underscored the relevance of ensuring sufficiently inclusive discussions, noting that an inter-governmental forum might not be the most appropriate context for endorsement of the Code. Some found that certain aspects were sensitive and could conflict with national legal interpretations and policies. They therefore believed it would be difficult to reach a consensus. There were recommendations to refer to “guidelines” or “set of principles” rather than to a code. While taking note of IFAP’s efforts to address the pressing ethical issues related to the information society, a number of delegates felt they could not adopt the draft resolution contained in 36 C/49, lending support to the amendment introduced by Denmark through DR 3 on this item.

63. Other Member States, however, expressed their unreserved support for the General Conference’s endorsement of the Code, strongly commending it for its contribution towards addressing critical challenges, and the flexibility that its non-binding nature allows for, and the significant consultative work behind the Code.

64. After extensive discussions, including a special informal meeting, an amended draft resolution was adopted, taking note of the Code and inviting the Director-General to suggest, at the 189th Session of the Executive Board, possible ways in which UNESCO could address ethical issues linked to the information society.

DEBATE 9

Item 5.17 Universal Declaration on Archives

65. The 9th debate of our Commission focused on a Draft Resolution submitted by Senegal and co-sponsored by 4 countries, which proposed the General Conference’s endorsement of the Universal Declaration on Archives, developed by the International Council on Archives. When introducing the item, Mr Kărkliņš highlighted the importance of access to archives in strengthening knowledge societies as well as social cohesion within multicultural and multilingual communities. He reminded Member States of the value of archives in the protection of documentary heritage, democracy, governance, transparency and accountability, while protecting privacy and legitimate public interests.
66. The document was favourably received by all delegates. Clarification was requested as to whether the endorsement of such a Declaration engaged the procedures applicable for normative instruments. The UNESCO Legal Adviser replied by making a distinction between normative instruments developed by UNESCO itself – which require a multistage validation procedure – and those adopted by an outside body, which can be endorsed by UNESCO without going through such a procedure. He suggested therefore making explicit mention of the International Council on Archives’ authorship of the Declaration in the DR and in its annex. The CI Commission followed this suggestion and went on to recommend to the General Conference the endorsement of the Universal Declaration on Archives.

**DEBATE 10**

**Item 5.27 Proclamation of World Radio Day**

67. I will now move to the 10th debate of our Commission, which concerned the proposal, submitted by Spain, to proclaim a World Radio Day on 13 February, in order to raise the profile of radio among the public and favour the exchange of ideas, programmes and practices among broadcasters.

68. Spain was warmly congratulated for the initiative. Widespread support was expressed by delegates, who highlighted in their interventions some of the key attributes of radio: its accessibility and low cost, its ability to reach communities in remote and rural areas, as well as illiterate populations, and its instrumental role in coping with post-disaster situations. To emphasize the treasure that radio has been to humankind, the observer representing URTI, the International Radio and Television Union, and EBU, the European Broadcasting Union, exhorted the Commission to imagine a world without radio. The observer from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) also expressed his organization’s full support for the initiative.

69. After some discussion, it was decided by delegates to make no specific mention in the Draft Resolution of the names of the scientists who contributed to the invention of radio since the spirit of the resolution was not to celebrate scientists or technology but radio broadcasting and its usefulness for populations. The Commission recommended that the General Conference adopt the proposed resolution as amended.

**DEBATE 11**

**Item 5.26 Revised draft strategy on UNESCO’s contribution to the promotion of open access to scientific information and research**

70. Mr Karkliņš introduced the Commission’s last debate underscoring the relevance of open access to scientific information for research, innovation and progress. Drawing attention to the fact that currently only around 20% of scientific information is freely available online, he presented, for the delegates’ consideration, the proposed revised strategy on UNESCO’s contribution to the
promotion of open access to scientific information and research. Actions planned include, among others, capacity building and strengthening the policy framework to foster open access to peer-reviewed, scholarly and research information. The Assistant-Director General also announced that the results of UNESCO’s mapping of the status of Open Access in Member States are available on the Global Open Access Portal, and that UNESCO has produced a set of Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Open Access, to be released in early 2012.

71. During the debate, Member States who took the floor overwhelmingly supported the revised draft strategy, describing it as pragmatic, comprehensive and balanced, and one that has taken into account their concerns. The importance of strong collaboration in its implementation with other UNESCO Sectors, in particular the Science Sector, as well as with UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders was underlined. Several delegates insisted on the need for UNESCO to make all of its own publications available in open access. The Assistant-Director General informed delegates that UNESCO is currently working with Creative Commons on the development of a suitable license for intergovernmental organizations, in order to make this possible.

72. The recent launch of the Global Open Access Portal (GOAP) was welcomed by delegates, who expressed the hope that it would function as a clearing-house mechanism and a platform for the sharing of experiences. Two delegates also suggested the possibility of developing an international standard-setting instrument on Open Access. This last DR was adopted, with one amendment.

73. At the close of the Commission’s debates, one Member State pointed out the poor quality of the Arabic version of the documentation provided to the delegates, and asked that it be noted in the oral report.

Delegates
Chairperson
Ladies and gentlemen

74. Before I end the presentation of this report, which I hope has managed to capture the spirit of our discussions and reflected in a balanced manner the different perspectives that were shared, I would like to express appreciation for the work of the CI Commission - the Secretary, Ms Sylvie Coudray and her team.

75. It would also be fitting to acknowledge the contribution of our Chair and four Vice-Chairs to the success of this Commission’s proceedings, and in particular Mr Ludovít Molnár, who faced the difficult task of guiding us through the examination of no less than twelve items in two and a half days.

I thank you for your attention.