Humanity faces a stark and urgent choice: breakdown or breakthrough. There is a 5-alarm global fire that requires the full mobilization of all countries: on COVID-19, climate and peace and security.

And yet, the message expected from this year’s High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the release of the Sustainable Development Progress Report 2022 is that member states will fall far short of accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the target date of 2030.

If the choices we make — or fail to make — today could result in further breakdown and a future of perpetual crises, should we give up the ghost mid-stream? What is the role and responsibility of media to hold governments accountable, to transparently and accurately reflect the progress – or the lack thereof – to ensure a better, more sustainable, peaceful future for our people and planet. What is their role in sensitizing people to the vision of the SDGs and the need to adopt transformative policies and renew international cooperation as part of the COVID-19 recovery in the context of decreasing growth, uncertainties on the evolution of the pandemic and the impacts of the Ukraine war?

The Association for International Broadcasting (AIB), a member of the UN SDG Media Compact, propose to co-organize a virtual forum during the ECOSOC HLPF to engage media sectors in a global dialogue on the urgency of member states to ensure the global goals are met.

The dialogue will explore the power, role and responsibility of global media in accurately and transparently reporting the progress of members states on the 2030 goals, advocating for transformative policies to be adopted as part of the recovery from COVID-19 as well as an upsurge of international solidarity.

AIB and the ECOSOC President propose to invite all SDG Media Compact members, as well as all global, regional and in-country media-industry associations and their members such as the World Ass’n of Newspapers and New Publishers, International Federation of Journalists, World Broadcasting Unions, Asia-Pacific Institute for
Broadcasting Development (AIBD), MIPTV’s organizers of MIPChina, and other regional bodies, who have also expressed interest in exploring activities relating to HLPF and SDG Progress Report.

The event is proposed to be held in an online or ‘virtual’ event on a mutually agreed electronic or web platform and will be 1-2 hours in duration.

The key output and action points from the proposed event will include, but not be limited to, a strong call to action to journalists in every country from the UN and Member States to engage in story telling around the vital importance of the SDGs to citizens in all countries.

The event will also provide the endorsement of the UN, the HLPF and Member States for journalists in all countries to hold power to account on progress made (or delays encountered) on the implementation of the SDGs and Member States’ short- and medium-term plans to meet the crucial 2030 deadline as part of recovery efforts.

These calls to action are vital in explaining the crucial importance of mobilizing the entire world to secure humanity’s survival.
DRAFT PROGRAMME

Global Media Forum

Media’s Role and Responsibility in holding governments accountable on the SDGs

..... July 2022, 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. (NY Time)

8:00-8:15 Welcoming

- H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council
- Mr. Simon Spanswick, Chief Executive, Association for International Broadcasting – AIB
- Ms. Valeria Robecco, President, United Nations Correspondents Association

8:15-9:10 Roundtable on “.......................”

Description:..........................................................................................

Questions: Develop five questions that the moderator can use in the interactive discussions with the panelists

Moderator: ......................

Speakers:

- ..........................................
- ..........................................
- ..........................................
- ..........................................

Respondents:

- One head of UN Information Centre covering Africa (Add Names)
- One head of UN Information Centre covering Arab States (Add Names)
- One head of UN Information Centre covering the Americas (Add Names)
- One head of UN Information Centre covering the Asia and the Pacific (Add Names)
- One head of UN Information Centre covering the Europe and CIS (Add Names)

Interactive discussion with Members of the SDG Media Compacts

9:10-9:15 Closing

- H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, President of the Economic and Social Council