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## THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE OIC BROADCASTING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FORUM

**IBRAF 2017**

**29 September 2017, Istanbul, TURKEY**

### **REPORT**

The Steering Committee Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IBRAF) was held in Istanbul, Turkey with the participation of representatives from Indonesia, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, Mauritania, Somalia, Azerbaijan, Albania, Gambia, Chad, The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, The Republic of Central Africa, Benin, the Islamic Broadcasting Union (IBU) which has observer status, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Black Sea Regulatory Authorities Forum (BRAAF), on 29 September 2017.

After the distribution of the draft agenda, **Assoc. Prof Dr Hamit ERSOY**, Member of the Radio and Television Supreme Council of the Republic of Turkey and Secretary General of IBRAF, welcomed all participants and thanked them for their participation.

The delegations expressed their sincere gratitude for their participation at the Meeting.

The chairman of the session, **Assoc. Prof Dr Hamit ERSOY** asked the participants whether or not they have any objection to the draft agenda of the meeting. As the participants had stated no objection or no additional proposal, the draft agenda was adopted. It, as adopted, is attached as Annex I.

After the adoption of the agenda, **Assoc. Prof Dr Hamit ERSOY**, Secretary General of IBRAF, delivered his opening speech and stated the difficulties of receiving the contact information of IBRAF Members and emphasized the importance of contact information especially in the process of the preparations for the meetings to be held in the future.

At the Meeting;

- After General Secretary Hamit ERSOY reminded that IBRAF had been appointed a duty to operate as an Audio-visual Observatory of OIC in the meeting held in Jeddah in 2016, he said that IBRAF would start out a new action in this framework. In this context, Mr. ERSOY, by stressing the importance of enhancing the communication and cooperation among broadcasting regulatory authorities of OIC countries expressed the obligation of collecting at least the basic data as regards to audio-visual media service providers of the member states. Mr. ERSOY stated so that, in case of a need, ensuring a possibility for the provision of a healthy data flow reciprocally among the media service providers of the member states would be useful to respond easily and quickly to the demands of cooperation and this opinion has been appreciated by all delegations.

- The proposal for the takeover of the term presidency of IBRA by the President of Benin High Authority of Audiovisual and Communication (HAAC) who is implementing the term presidency of ACRAN at the same time, **Mr. Boni Tessi ADAM**, adopted by the delegations of the Africa Group as the candidate for term presidency of IBRAF, was welcome by the participants with gratification.
- The Participants congratulated **Mr. Boni Tessi ADAM**, the President of the High Authority of Audio-visual and Communication (HAAC), for his declaration of will to become the next Term President of IBRAF.
- **Mr. Abdulhadi MAHFOUZ**, President of Lebanon Regulatory Authority expressed the importance of legislative alignment among the Member States of the IBRAF by considering product placement in the Turkish produced TV serials, which are commonly exported across the World.
- Mr. Abdelhamid SALHI, representative of OIC, and IBU representatives voiced the need of interpreter in the meetings. **Secretary General Hamit ERSOY** stated that the simultaneous interpreters are provided in three official languages of OIC in every annual meetings.
- Upon the questions of IBU representatives on whether or not IBRAF is a political platform, **Mr. ERSOY** responded that IBRAF is a forum which is in search for cooperation possibilities in the audio-visual area, sharing information and experience related to common problematic issues but definitely not a political platform.
- Secretary General ERSOY gave informations to the participants about the procedure of the annual meetings and declared that the program of the annual meetings are completed within two days;

1th.Day Program: An international conference in the morning and Annual Meeting in afternoon

2th Day Program: Annual Meeting in the morning and Social Activities at afternoon

- **Mr. Abdülhamit Salhi's** proposal "Rapidly Changing Technology and Consistency of Legislation" and **Mr. Talal SALAHADINE's** proposal "Education in the Media" as main theme of the next meeting was noted by the Permanent Secretariat in order to communicate to Benin, the next Term President of IBRAF
- The delegations expressed their positive views regarding the invitation for the annual meetings to the other international cooperation networks such as; the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA),the Mediterranean Regulatory Authorities Network(MRNA), the African Communication Regulation Authorities (ACRAN) etc. which are equivalent to IBRAF.
- Upon a question regarding the possibility of an ombudsman mission of IBRAF in the conflicts among the OIC Member States, asked by **Mr. Abdulhadi Mahfouz**, Secretary General Hamit ERSOY stated that IBRAF has important function especially in two issues for Islamic World; the first one is to set up a platform to cooperate among the IBRAF member states by exchanging knowledge and experience in audio-visual area and the second one is to provide a cooperation and cultural exchange by means of audio-visual productions such

as films, serial, documentaries etc. In this context, with the belief that the religion of Islam is the guarantor in the equality amongst all human beings, **Mr. ERSOY** expressed that the main purpose of IBRAF is to reinforce the solidarity and brotherhood in Islamic World, therefore without allowing any attempt and type of discrimination resulted from ethnical or sectarian diversity. In this regard, **Mr. ERSOY** stated that one of the main aim of IBRAF is to prepare an Audio-visual Convention of OIC to prevent any group or country from destructive broadcasts causing by any reason; on the contrary, assuring a broadcasting understanding putting forward the common values such as; tolerance, solidarity and fraternity. The participants expressed that they agree with **Mr. ERSOY** in this subject.

At the last of the Meeting, The participants introduced themselves and wished a successful organisation to Mr. Boni Tessi ADAM, The Head of The High Authority of Audio-visual and Communication (HAAC) who will host the next meeting.

The delegations expressed their sincere gratitude to the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK) and Permanent Secretariat of IBRAF for the hospitality extended and the excellent arrangements of the Meeting.

**Istanbul on 29 September 2017**