

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in cooperation with The United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC) invite you to an event in commemoration of



## **“Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation”**

***UNHQ CR 1, New York – Friday, 3 May 2019, 10 AM to 12:30 PM***

[Click here to RSVP](#)

This celebration embraces both Article 19 and Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by championing the right to freedom of opinion and expression and echoing the importance of the will of the people to be expressed in periodic and genuine elections by universal and equal suffrage. These two rights – to elections and to expression – come into play during polls, and call attention to their linkage.

Today, the contribution of free, pluralistic, independent and safe journalism to democracy is under unprecedented stress. Also, election outcomes and their aftermath are critically affected by political discourse and communications, including the role of the media in relation to the polling process. This is often accompanied by polarizing political discourse that threatens peaceful elections as well as press freedom.

The 2019 **theme** is closely interlinked with the objectives of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as well as the **African Union’s Agenda 2063**, which seeks to promote “an Africa of good governance, democracy, and respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law”. In this respect, Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 aims to ensure that freedom of expression prevails. Similarly, SDG 16 recognizes the importance of public access to information and fundamental freedoms, which includes freedom of expression.

### **OPENING SESSION**

**Mr. António Guterres**, United Nations Secretary-General (video message)

**H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**, President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly

**H.E. Ms. Amal Mudallali**, Permanent Representative of Lebanon, Vice-Chair of the UNGA Committee on Information

**H.E. Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohammed**, African Union Permanent Observer to the United Nations

**Ms. Valeria Robecco**, ANSA News Agency, President of the UN Correspondents Association (UNCA)

**Moderator: Ms. Alison Smale**, Under-Secretary General, UN Department of Global Communications

### **PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Ms. Meredith Broussard**, Associate Director, Arthur Carter Journalism Institute, New York University

**Mr. Stephen J. Adler**, Editor-in-chief, Reuters

**Ms. J. Alex Tarquinio**, President, Society of Professional Journalists

**Mr. Warren Hoge**, Senior Adviser, External Relations at International Peace Institute, formerly with New York Times

**Moderator: Mr. Maher Nasser**, Director, Outreach Division of UN Department of Global Communications