

DECLARATION 1

Demand for a UN Plan of Action for the safety of artists and the safe promotion of the arts

- Evidently, attacks on artists continue to rise globally. Yet plans and programs to safeguard their right to create, publish and distribute without facing censorship, intimidation or personal safety are limited and weak.

- “Journalists are articulate, well organized and their work for the protection of journalists has led to a number of international declarations and support programmes. This is not the case with artists,” explained Freemuse co-founder Ole Reitov in his keynote speech on 2 May 2017 at the World Press Freedom Day event in Jakarta. “Artists express themselves differently and in many countries they are poorly organized. There should be no distinction between the condemnation of attacks on journalists and artists.”

- Considering that the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression defines as the first guiding principle that cultural diversity can be protected and promoted only if human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, information and communication as well as the ability of individuals to choose cultural expressions, are guaranteed,

- the ITI Action Committee for Artists Rights (ACAR) calls the 35rd ITI World Congress to support the initiative of Ole Reitov at the 2017 World Press Freedom Day event in Jakarta
 - to strengthen the UN mechanisms and commitment to protecting artists ensuring the safe promotion of art, as guaranteed by the 2005 UNESCO Convention
 - to revamp UN mechanism for filing human rights complaints to make it more accessible and better to use

- ACAR appeals to the 35rd ITI World Congress to call the UNESCO, UN and parties to create an UN Plan of Action for the safety of artists and the safe promotion of art, according to the reaction scheme for journalists.