THE NEW WORLD INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ORDER DEBATE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

While the New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO) debate underlines the centrality of information and communication development to societal transformation in the twenty-first century, it has unarguably led to explosion in human communication in ways previously thought impossible. Yet the media industry in Nigeria as in many parts of the developing world is still gasping for survival. This study serves as a baseline for examining the effectiveness of the NWICO debate, by this, the study identifies areas of weakness in the role that NWICO plays in the Nigerian media for possible improvement. The study was underpinned on the National System of Innovation (NSI) and the News Framing theory, and adopted the mixed research method using historical and content analysis. It also relied on secondary sources of data. The study concluded that NWICO in Nigeria is a work in progress as the gap between the developed countries and the developing is far from being bridged. UNESCO's presence needs to be felt on the astronomical cost of production inputs and the massive technology disruptions, privacy violation by government or by powerful media houses, proscription of press freedom and the protection of the human rights of journalist. The study recommends the need to unveil policy palliatives to cushion the astronomical cost of production inputs and the massive technology disruptions for the media, to enable practitioners continue to provide affordable and invaluable verified information for the public good. This will hopefully expand the readership base of the mainstream media in terms of affordability and subscriptions.

Keywords: *Communication, Information, New World Order and Technology*

Introduction

The New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO) is a fallout of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) debate around deep-seated issues of imbalances in global communication between the developed world (the North) and developing countries (the global south), around the late 1970s and early 1980s. In this debate the developed world favoured a free market press but as it were, the so called free market benefited America, UK and France through News reporting on the developing world that reflected the priorities and interest of news agencies in London, Paris and New York (Carlsson, 2003).The USSR took advantage of the situation to promote state control over information flows and reduce the capacity of communication satellites to interfere with the Soviet-bloc media control (Galtung & Vincent, 1992).Thus NWICO movement

emerged as part of a broader effort through the New International Economic Order to formally tackle the global economic inequality that was viewed as a legacy of imperialism upon the global south.

Among the issues raised by developing countries were: complains over news reporting that reflected the priorities of the west who usually reported natural disasters and military coups rather than fundamental realities; issues of fundamental human right that everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers; issues of the unbalance flow of information of western culture through American movies from the western media to the developing countries; issues of the indirect but significant effects on mass media in developing countries by inappropriate contents from advertising agencies in the West; issues of unfair division of the radio spectrum in favor of the West; concerns about the allocation of the geostationary orbit (parking spots in space) for satellites; threat to national sovereignty by western Satellite broadcasting television signals into third World countries without prior permission; issues of use of satellites to collect information on crops and natural resources in the Third World at a time when most developing countries lacked the capacity to analyze this data; concerns about the location of databases (such as airline reservations) in mainframe computers in the United States; the difficulty of developing countries catching up with the US lead in computers; and the protection of journalists from violence were raised as issues for discussion (Preston, 1989; Padovani, 2005).

Nevertheless, opponents of NWICO argued that the demand for NWICO was a pretext for Third World dictators to stifle the media freedom to impose censorship and keep away foreign journalists. Such slogans as cultural self determination', media imperialism and national sovereignty over a country's communications, were designed to control channels of communication. Similarly, Ronald Reagan, former President of the U.S.A links the demand of the Third World as a decoy for governmental control of the press. As he noted in the New York Times of September 22, 1987, 'We cannot permit attempts to control the media and promote censorship under the ruse of a so-called New World Information Order.

Also, on the alleged bad/negative reportage of events by the West against the South, Sharpe (1987) and Atwood (1982), accuses the media of the less developed countries of giving the United States a bad press. Sharpe clarified for instance, that a study of international news in four Nigerian newspapers indicates that negative coverage

of the United States exists and in fact, predominates in the Nigerian press (Okoro and Obeni, 2007). The western news organizations strongly fought any change in the old information order. They maintained that they were only reporting the reality of life in the Third World political instability, economic backwardness, human and natural disasters and that this objective journalism was disapproved of by undemocratic governments in the South (Thussu, 2000).

Since the emergence of this contention in the New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO) between the West and the developing countries; about 80 percent of the world news still emanates from the four major international news agencies of the West namely: Reuters, Associated Press (AP), United Press International (UPI) and Agence France Presse (Harry, 2015). The power struggle is still that which reinforces an unbalance exchange between protagonists allowing the predominance of the more powerful, the richer and the better equipped in communication infrastructure to continue to monopolize the flow of global information (MC Bride et al, 1982). Nevertheless, this paper examines the continuities and developmental changes in the south, particularly within the Nigeria news media, decades after the NWICO debate, with a view to establishing the significance of the debate toward the advancement of the guiding philosophies of NWICO in Nigeria.

Conceptual Review

i. Concept of the New World Order

The term has attracted varied interpretations since the period toward the end of the First World War in furtherance of Woodrow Wilson's vision for international peace. The term is primarily associated with the ideological notion of world governance only in the sense of new collective efforts to identify, understand, or address global problems that go beyond the capacity of individual nation-states to solve. Gerhard & Wooley (2002) argues that New World Order connotes a new period of history evidencing dramatic change in world political thought and the balance of power in international relations. For these authors, the term was used to call for the League of Nations to prevent aggression and conflict.

Roosevelt (1941) in some instances when Roosevelt used the phrase ‘new world order’ or ‘new order in the world’ it was to refer to Axis powers plans for world domination. For Truman as cited in Gerhard & Wooley (2002) the phrase was synonymous with phrases such as ‘better world order’, ‘peaceful world order’, ‘moral world order’ and ‘world order based on law’, but not so much ‘new world order’. Although Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman may

have been hesitant to use the phrase, commentators have applied the term retroactively to the order put in place by the World War II victors including the United Nations and the Bretton Woods system as a 'new world order'.

On their part, Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and George H. W. Bush as used at the end of the Cold War, was to define the nature of the post-Cold War era and the spirit of great power cooperation that they hoped might materialize. Gorbachev's initial formulation was wide-ranging and idealistic, but his ability to press for it was severely limited by the internal crisis of the Soviet system. In comparison to Bush's vision that there is no substitute for American leadership the term was not less circumscribed. A hundred generations have searched for this elusive path to peace, while a thousand wars raged across the span of human endevour. Prickford (2019) states that after the Gulf War of 1991 was regarded as the first test of the new world order; we can see a new world coming into view. A world in which there is the very real prospect of a new world order. Nevertheless, the term in today's world is struggling to be born, a world quite different from the one we've known.

More so, Gregory (1997) asserts that the New World Order (NWO) is a conspiracy theory that hypothesizes a secretly emerging totalitarian world government. A look at the reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States (1776); the Latin phrase 'novus ordo seclorum', appearing onthe reverse side of the Great Seal since 1782 and on the back of the U.S. one-dollar bill since 1935, translates to 'NewOrder of the Ages'and alludes to the beginning of an era where the United States of America is an independent nation-state; conspiracy theorists claim this is an allusion to the 'New World Order'.Similarly, Goldberg (2001) argues that the common theme in conspiracy theories about a New World Order is that a secretive power elite with a globalist agenda is conspiring to eventually rule the world through an authoritarian one world government which will replace sovereign nation-states and an all encompassing propaganda whose ideology hails the establishment of the New World Order as the culmination of history's progress. Many influential historical and contemporary figures have therefore been alleged to be part of a cabal that operates through many front organizations to orchestrate significant political and financial events, ranging from causing systemic crises to pushing through controversial policies, at both national and international levels, as steps in an ongoing plot to achieve world domination.

ii. **Communication**: The concept is defined as the transmission of information. The term can also refer to the message itself or the field of inquiry or studying these transmissions, also known as

communication studies (Berlo, 1960). There are some disagreements about the precise definition of communication, for example, whether unintentional or failed transmissions are also included and whether communication does not just transmit meaning but also create it (Chandler & Munday, 2011). Models of communication aim to provide a simplified overview of its main components and their interaction. Many models include the idea that a source uses a coding system to express information in the form of a message. The source uses a channel to send the message to a receiver who has to decode it in order to understand its meaning. Channels are usually discussed in terms of the senses used to perceive the message, like hearing, sight, smell, touch, and taste (Rickheit & Strohner, 2008).

iii. **New Media:** According to McQuail (2007) new media are disparate forms of communication technologies that share certain features apart from being new, made possible by digitalization and being widely available for personal use as communication devices (Lievrouw & Livingstone, 2006). Similarly, Olise (2011) sees new media as information and communication technologies (ICTs) and their associated social contexts, incorporating the artifacts or devices that enable and extend our abilities or practices engaged in to develop and use the devices; and the social arrangements or organizations that form around the devices and practices. The new media suggests all the gadgets, means, avenues or opportunities of enhanced communication. New media are built around computer capabilities (microprocessors or mainframe) that allow or facilitate interactivity among users or between users.

iv. Development: Development is the perpetual concern in any human setting. Not unexpectedly, therefore, development has different dimensions. Amucheazi (1980) argues that development is a multidimensional process involving the totality of man in his political, economic, psychological, social relations, among others. Rodney (1972) describes development, at the individual level, to imply increased skill and capacity, greater freedom and creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being. In all, development may be seen as a well thought out and self-sustaining effort aimed at achieving a higher level of economic, cultural and psychological improvement and other desirable indices of progress (Nwanne, 2006).

Theory

This study adopts the National System of Innovation (NSI) framework developed by Landes, 1969 to explain the new media advancement associated with NWICO; while the paper used the News Framing theory by Goffman Erving, 1974 to explain how the

developing countries can robustly begin to frame news in a way that will correct both the under-information and misinformation peddled by western media.

First, the National System of Innovation (NSI) theory argues that "science and technology (S&T) when harnessed by an enlightened capitalistic democratic system could improve the standard of living of a country by higher growth rates without requiring wars or colonies (Landau and Rosenberg: 1992). Freeman (1987, 1992) maintained that NSI is a system that allows a network of institutions in the public and private sector whose activities and interactions initiate, import, modify and diffuse new technologies. The processes involved have a central objective of generating and employing technological innovation for economic development. Thus the NSI may be viewed as an integrated system of economic and institutional agents directly promoting the generation and use of innovation in a national economy.

Secondly, the News Framing theory by Goffman Erving (1974), explains the consequences of schematic thinking. Framing refers to the frame of reference within which an issue is explained, described and presented (Pan and Kosicki, 1993). The central thesis of this theory is that the media focuses attention on certain events and then places them within a field of meaning. In essence, framing theory suggest that how something is presented to the audience (called 'the frame') influences the choice people make about how to process that information. This theory therefore is considered fit for explaining the nature of the new information and communication order which places the less developed countries likes Nigeria in a position where the dominant advanced countries being in a superior position of technology present the minor countries (Nigeria) on a negative plate which has to be accepted by the audience.

Changes in the Old Information Order in Developing Countries

The debate on the NWICO that started in the 1970s reflected criticism about non-equitable access to information and media imperialism. The NWICO saw the United Kingdom and the United States back out of UNESCO until 1997 for the UK and 2003 for the US. In 1990–2000, a switch occurred globally, carried by the Internet that contributed to bring more equity to the available content. This was supported by the extension of media powers to developing countries such as Mexico, Korea, Kenya and Nigeria; by the adoption of protectionist measures in regards to the free market by western countries like Canada and France; and with the rise of satellite broadcasting as a transnational means for non-

western countries (Berger, 2017).Still, evidence suggests global media has a strong bias towards the global north. Studies estimate around eighty percent of international news travels through Reuters, Agence France-Press, United Press International, and the Associated Press. Only around twenty percent of this news focuses on developing countries. In the decades following the NWICO debates little changed in this regard as a study on stories relating to Africa in the New York Times and The Washington Post showed in 2000. In this study of 89 articles, all lacked sufficient context linking the West to Africa, and seventy-five of them were negative in content (Ojo, 2012). This obviously throws overboard the equity posture of the 90s earlier talked about as information technology continues to expand on an unequal basis.

It must be noted that, NWICO debates underlined the centrality of information and communication developments to societal transformation as the twenty-first century approached. Yet the global shift toward a purely market logic, the interplay between eastern and western superpowers, the lack of political will to address unequal information structures concretely, and the incapacity to engage a wider public in discussions, did not allow this global debate to live up to the many expectations it had raised. By the end of the 1980s NWICO had been left to scholars and communication specialists and to some civil society organizations (Traber & Nordenstreng, 1992). Nevertheless, while these were certainly involved in the NWICO discussions, the issue was much broader in scope, involving governments, international institutions, and media industry stakeholders.

The NWICO debate ultimately led to changes in global media policies and practices. This is why it must be noted that international communication issues were discussed in world fora fostered by the UN-promoted World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS, Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005). Nonetheless a major historical silence was evident: no mention was made of previous international efforts (from the MacBride report to the 1985 Maitland report on telecommunication policies and development priorities, promoted by the International Telecommunication Union). According to some observers this lack of historical depth in facing contemporary global communication challenges reflects a problematic tendency to understand them as complete novelties, thereby fostering superficial policy approaches. Much was learned through the NWICO experience that is of great relevance to contemporary world communication realities (Padovani & Nordenstreng, 2005). This argument is true to the extent that, while NWICO did not lead to a formal international

agreement, its discussions raised awareness about the power dynamics in global communication. Many of the challenges and concerns it addressed remain pertinent in the contemporary world, especially in the context of the digital age, and continue to shape discussions and policies in the field of communication and media.

Changes and Continuities in Attainment of a New Information and Communication Order in Nigeria

In the context of Nigeria, like many other developing countries, there have been changes and continuities in the pursuit of a New Information Communication Order. Berger (2017) listed the Internet; the extension of media powers to developing countries such as Mexico, Korea, Kenya and Nigeria; the adoption of protectionist measures in regards to the free market by western countries like Canada and France; and the rise of satellite broadcasting as a transnational means for non-western countries- as some of the notable changes around Nigeria as fallout of the NWICO movement. Similarly, Nwanne (2014) argues that by way of NWICO there is an explosion in human communication in ways previously thought impossible in developing countries and Nigeria in particular. At a single click messages are sent across thousands of kilometers around the globe. Indeed, the reality of the global village, which media Iconoclast and thinker like Marshal McLuhan predicted decades earlier, is here with us. This has been made possible by the invention of the new media such as the internet and the invention of electricity which has become a phenomenon supporting further discoveries. Its efficiency is matched by its phenomenal growth.

For Amaobi (2011) ownership and usage of the new media among young people in Nigeria has increased substantially although there is still a wide gulf between internet usage between the youths in the developed world and their counterparts in Nigeria. But this is understandable given the situation in the developing countries, including Nigeria, where infrastructural inadequacy remains a major challenge for no justifiable reasons, especially for an oil-rich country, Nigeria's infrastructure are either in a terrible state or simply non-existent. The challenge of corruption has not made inventions and development in Nigeria in line with the goals of NWICO any easier. After the internet one of the strongest links in developing the new media in the era of the new information order is electricity. Billions of Dollars have been spent to improve the power sector, yet Nigeria still gropes in the dark. The problem persists and there seems to be no end in sight to the problem as the country generates less than 4,000 Mega Watts currently. More so,

research findings suggest that internet penetration is quite high in Nigeria, the highest in Africa.

In the same vein, Fergusson (2021), in a report by the Global Director for Technology and Emerging Markets in Africa- states that internet usage is now driven by mobile phones, among online users' digitalization is the primary media channel at 61%. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that poor or non-existent electricity power in many parts of the country has far-reaching implications for access and use of the new media. This is worsened, of course, by the teeming population of urban and rural poor who see the acquisition of the instruments of the new media as waste of resources. Again, the situation is further worsened by the large pool of illiterate persons in Nigeria.

Similarly, Azolay (2021) argues that information is power. At no other time in human history was this fact been truer than at this Information and Computer Technology (ICT), age made possible by NWICO and powered by the Internet. Nevertheless, because of the free access it offers to virtually everyone, the virus of fake news is been spreading in Nigerian news space, this is very dangerous and misleading to information seekers; verifiable information is a priceless resource which the UNESCO takes seriously and hopes to resolve through NWICO.

In order to locate some other changes and continuities, the Institute of Development Studies and the African Digital Rights Network (2021) included Nigeria in its study that was based on the International Principles on the Application of Human Rights to Communications Surveillance, the UN Draft Instrument on Government-led Surveillance and Privacy and the African Commission's Declaration of Principles of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information. In this research Ali et al. (2021) argues on the existing evidence or continuities of the old information order in the New, stating that there was this fear that was allayed by former president Reagan of the U.S that the demand of the Third World were a mere decoy for governmental control of the press and in order to promote censorship under the ruse of a so-called New World Information Order. This study revealed for instance that on paper, privacy rights for citizens of countries throughout Africa are well protected but not the case in practice. Privacy rights are written into constitutions, international human rights conventions and domestic laws. But, in the first comparative review of privacy protections across Africa, the evidence is clear: governments are purposefully using laws that lack clarity or they ignore laws

completely in order to carry out illegal digital surveillance of their citizens. This matters because people's lives are increasingly being lived online, through conversations on social media, online banking and the likes. On the published research on privacy protections in six African countries – Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Sudan.

The Institute of Development Studies and the African Digital Rights Network (2021) further observes in their report that the evidence is clear: governments are using laws that lack clarity or ignoring laws completely, to carry out illegal surveillance of their citizens. Those targeted include political opponents, business rivals and peaceful activists. In many cases they were conducting mass surveillance of citizens. Yet the existing surveillance laws are being eroded by six factors: the introduction of new laws that expand state surveillance powers, lack of legal precision and privacy safeguards in existing surveillance legislation, increased supply of new surveillance technologies that enable illegitimate surveillance, state agencies regularly conducting surveillance outside of what is permitted in law, impunity for those committing illegitimate acts of surveillance, insufficient capacity in civil society to hold the state fully accountable in law. Governments argue that it is occasionally necessary to violate the privacy rights of a citizen in order to prevent a much greater crime. For instance, a person may be a suspected terrorist. But the covert nature of surveillance, and the large power imbalance between the state and the people being watched, presents a clear opportunity to abuse power. Robust surveillance laws are keys to preventing this. They must define exactly when it is legal to conduct narrowly targeted surveillance of the most serious criminals, while protecting the privacy rights of the rest of the population.

Ali et al. (2021) found that all six countries Nigeria inclusive had conducted surveillance that violated citizens' constitutional rights. There were many examples of surveillance violating rights or laws. There were no examples of those responsible being charged, subject to legal sanctions, resigning or being fired. To understand whether privacy rights are being violated, it's necessary to monitor the legality of surveillance. But this is hard to do due to weak legal provisions, and a lack of transparency and oversight. Monitoring surveillance practice against privacy right protections requires well defined transparency and independent oversight mechanisms. These are entirely missing or deficient in all of the countries studied. With the exception of South Africa, countries studied lacked a single law clearly defining legal surveillance and privacy safeguards. In addition, piecemeal provision, spread across multiple

pieces of legislation which can conflict with each other makes it impossible for citizens to know what law is applicable.

The study found a number of barriers to making surveillance more accountable including the fact that; Legal provisions enabling surveillance were found in different laws which make it difficult to tell which laws apply, independent oversight bodies to monitor the activities of law enforcement authorities are absent, Investigating authorities do not publicly report on their activities, Individuals subjected to surveillance are not notified about it nor are they afforded the opportunity to appeal, There are several surveillance provisions that are not subject to the supervision of a judge. For instance, access to a database of subscribers by security agencies only requires the approval of a government agency (such as the Nigeria Communication Commission) which is granted under the Registration of Telephone Subscribers Regulations. Beyond the use (or abuse) of law, the study also found evidence of states investing in new surveillance technologies. These included artificial intelligence-based internet and mobile surveillance, mobile spyware, biometric digital ID systems, CCTV with facial recognition and vehicle license plate recognition. In Nigeria, for example, the government increased spending in the last decade on acquiring various surveillance technologies. More recently it approved a supplementary budget to purchase tools capable of monitoring encrypted WhatsApp communications. This combination of new technologies and surveillance law breaches points to an urgent need to strengthen existing laws by applying human rights principles (Ali, Mohamed, Oloyede & Mutung'u, 2021).

Nwanne (2014) states that the innovations brought by NWICO and the new media has brought some level of relieve to practicing journalist or those in training, it is realistic to appreciate the physical, mental, psychological financial and emotional exertions often associated with the job, especially in developing or emerging economies like Nigeria, largely because many media houses do not have adequate facilities. Nonetheless, the most modern printing technologies are probably out of reach as a result of financial constraints. Physical impediments remain a clear and present danger to the New Communication and information order, as journalists are still assaulted in the course of carrying out their legitimate business by government bodies or powerful politicians and rich private citizens.

More so, Press freedom is far from being achieved; in fact, many journalists have been killed in the course of doing their jobs, as government occasionally raid news houses attempting to proscribe

the freedom enjoyed by the press (Nwanne, 2014). In 2011, Nigeria lost a Channels Television reporter in Kano. He was a victim of the Boko Haram sect, an insurgent militant group in Northern Nigeria which abhors anything "Western". Despite the challenges, it is obvious that many journalists are gradually embracing the new media technologies in the performance of their duties, to the mutual benefit of their media organizations and their readers/viewers.

On their part, Okoro & Obeni (2000) argues that more than 16 years after the NWICO debate, Nigeria has tested relative freedom since the return of democracy to Nigeria in 1999, the media in Nigeria, especially the electronic sector (radio and television) has yet come under the iron grip of the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission, NBC's, ubiquitous threats of license suspension and fines for giving those that government does not fancy their rights to be heard. The punishment of 99.3 Nigeria Info FM, for airing an interview with Dr. Obadiah Mailafia and Channels Television for interviewing the spokesman of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, Mr. Emma Powerful, for allegedly breaching the controversial 'Broadcasting Code' are cases in point; yet the Federal Government has remained aloof to the calls for policy palliatives for the media to enable practitioners to continue providing the invaluable verifiable information for the public good. Readers are left with the option of patronizing cheap and unverifiable news from the social media due to the high cost of mainstream verifiable news.

Conclusion

The NWICO debates underlined the centrality of information and communication developments to societal transformation in the twenty-first century. Yet the global shift toward a purely market logic, the interplay between eastern and western superpowers, the lack of political will to address unequal information structures concretely, and the incapacity to engage a wider public in discussions, is not allowing this global debate to live up to the many expectations it had raised. Although the struggle between maintaining the old order or transmitting fully to the new order of information and communication between the North and the South has resulted in brilliant innovations like; the internet; the extension of media powers to developing countries such as Mexico, Korea, Kenya and Nigeria; the adoption of protectionist measures in regards to the free market by western countries like Canada and France; and the rise of satellite broadcasting as a transnational

means for non-western countries as some of the notable changes around Nigeria as fallout of the NWICO movement.

The NWICO debate has unarguably led to explosion in human communication in ways previously thought impossible, Nigeria has launched a number of communication satellite that are helping in divers' fields including agriculture, weather and disaster control but usually human and resource challenges have resulted in poor implementation of findings. The media industry in Nigeria as in many parts of the world is gasping for survival, the astronomical cost of production inputs and the massive technology disruptions over the past 20 years have shrunk the readership bases of the mainstream newspapers. Many media houses have folded up, and many more are just barely there. The UNESCO really has a job exploring means of keeping providers of verified information in business. It is left to be seen how developing countries like Nigeria have made use of the opportunities made available by NWICO to deepen ethical media practices and information flow in ways that avoids privacy violation by government or by powerful media houses, it is left to be seen how the Nigeria media has intensified press freedom and protected the human rights of journalist without proscription. Therefore, NWICO in Nigeria is a work in progress. In view of these concerns the following recommendations were made;

Recommendations

i. The use of strategic litigation by Civil Society Organizations such as Nigeria Legal Council and lawyers alert Nigeria to challenge existing laws and actions that violate constitutionally guaranteed rights of the media practitioners, as well as to act as an independent oversight body to supervise the activities of the investigating authorities to stop privacy violation. Alongside improving the law must be action to raise public awareness of privacy rights and surveillance practices by the public orientation agency. A strong civil society, independent media and independent courts are needed to challenge government actions. This is critical for holding governments accountable and upholding the privacy rights of citizens everywhere.

ii. The need for the ministry of communication and the ministry of trade and investment to engage in trade diplomacy with developed countries to unveil policy palliatives to cushion the astronomical cost of production inputs and the massive technology disruptions for the media, to enable practitioners continue to provide affordable and invaluable verified information for the

public good. This will hopefully expand readership bases of the mainstream media in terms of affordability and subscriptions.

iii. Civil societies need to draws attention to unethical use of the new media of communication and the dangers of fake news on the part of social media users, while cautioning attempts at media proscription by government.

iv. The Federal and state government must show commitment to free and fair flow of information through improvement and generation of adequate electricity to promote access and use of the new media of information and communication.

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