



GFMD Annual Report 2018/19
Supporting journalism and media development
through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and advocacy

April 2019

YEAR IN REVIEW

This has been a year of positive developments for GFMD, ranging from expanding our capacities in order to offer even more opportunities to our members and partners, to expanding our team to better serve the GFMD community. Some highlights include:

- Being granted special consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Launching our newly redesigned website in August 2018
- Establishing our five working groups: Impact and Learning, Internet Governance, Women in Media, SDG 16.10 – Access to Information, and Local and Community Media
- Introducing our Capacity Building Programme for members
- Launching our issue paper on Internet governance and media development at the 13th global Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and starting a process to establish a Dynamic Coalition within the IGF
- Submitting two rounds of joint comments to UNESCO towards their initial template on the methodology for measuring the SDG 16.10.2 indicator, and celebrated Right to Know Day in collaboration with members
- Implementing a GFMD membership survey “Recipient Perceptions of Media Development Assistance: A GFMD Study,” which will be presented during the donor meeting on 31 January 2019
- Welcoming three new team members to the GFMD Secretariat

PROJECTS

GFMD recognises that collective efforts are the most effective way of driving system-level change and overcoming key challenges within this sector. It has an exceptional experience of bringing the needs and priorities of local media to the attention of donors, and has also played a vital role in identifying the key drivers for success and failure in media development worldwide.

At the current time, GFMD’s core activities can be summarised as follows:

Networking: GFMD has an excellent track record in connecting media development agencies through a combination of networking activities and online engagement. As well as enabling an exchange of experience and ideas, networking activities are effective in building

partnerships between individual agencies as well as exploring opportunities for collaboration or pooling resources in the context of ongoing initiatives. GFMD is working to catalyse these efforts through our five established working groups: Impact and Learning, Internet Governance, Women in Media, SDG 16.10 – Access to Information, and Local and Community Media.

Peer-to-peer learning: A key achievement of the past year has been the launch of our Capacity Building Programme for GFMD members, which enables an exchange of knowhow and skills between organisations operating in very different environments. Webinars are the main learning platform, offering beneficiaries the chance to learn from their peers through moderated sessions and follow-up engagement. Informal surveys of GFMD members point towards a growing interest in this service, particularly in areas such as proposal development and impact evaluation.

Communications: The newly revamped website and social media platforms offer GFMD members a broad range of services and resources. They also ensure that the secretariat can share information on upcoming events and opportunities. GFMD will continue to invest time and resources in enhancing these platforms to the benefit of members worldwide. There is also room for using social and digital media discussion forums as conduits for professional debate and constructive interaction.

Knowledge management and sharing: GFMD has accrued a wide experience of disseminating research and analysis, including insights into access to information cases and media consumption patterns. The organisation has considerable potential to showcase best practice in the sector and capture lessons learned, then to stimulate a discussion of new techniques and approaches. Knowledge management efforts are underpinned by the website, which offers an increasing range of downloadable resources.

Advocacy: GFMD tackles the political and structural constraints to media sustainability and media freedoms by engaging in peer-led advocacy. Through research and networking activities, it documents how high-quality journalism and media can impact on governance, civic participation, poverty alleviation, conflict resolution, and economic prosperity worldwide. Using a combination of bespoke events and third-party forums, GFMD works to mainstream these issues, thereby shaping the international discourse and reaching a wide range of decision-makers and duty-bearers.

These activities contribute to GFMD's core mission: to enhance the impact, efficiency, and professionalism of a sector that supports the creation and strengthening of independent, sustainable journalism and pluralistic media that meets the information needs of communities across the globe.

	Planned	Achieved
Advocacy	Bill Orme will continue to pursue UN Special Consultative Status for GFMD	On 24 July 2018, GFMD was formally granted special consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This success is the culmination of three years of concerted efforts by GFMD's UN representative, Bill Orme, the GFMD Steering Committee, and the GFMD Secretariat in Brussels. UN consultative status makes it easier for GFMD and its member organisations to participate in UN processes, and apply for and receive project funding at the local, regional, and global levels from UN agencies, grant-making initiatives, and donor countries – along with much more.
Resource Development and Communications	A new and improved website for GFMD, including a digital Resource Centre for research and policy, as well as a members-only area for direct communication between individuals from the member organisations	The new and improved GFMD website was launched in beta in August after many months of hard work. Feedback from members and partners has been overwhelmingly positive, although there is still significant work to be done. The members-only section will be tested when a new communications channel for organisations and partners working on journalism safety policy, which we plan to launch in spring 2019.
		The GFMD site now contains seven resource pages dedicated to gender and diversity; Internet governance; SDG 16.10; safety, capacity building; investigative journalism; and research.
Advocacy and Knowledge sharing	Producing a white paper on Internet governance and media development, and publishing policy briefs and best-practice guidelines	The issue paper was officially launched at the Media Development Symposium at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), held in Paris, in November. GFMD also published a briefing article in December on how to tackle digital platforms, regulation, and media sustainability that draws on the issue paper's recommendations.
	Measuring media sustainability	A pilot study by Drs. Coral Milburn-Curtis and François Nel from the Innovative Research Group was commissioned by GFMD in the course of the autumn to identify links between journalism and development indicators in an effort to demonstrate the importance of free press and media for building sustainable democratic societies. The report is in the final draft stages.
	Shaping the discussion on media development donor funding	In November, the GFMD embarked on a study of how members of its community perceive donor policies and procedures with the goal of helping to shape discussions on how the planning and management of funding could be improved. The two-month study, conducted and written by Cara Stern, has been informed by a literature review of

		<p>related research, an analysis of survey responses from GFMD members, one-on-one interviews with selected members, and additional conversations with stakeholders in the field. A draft version of findings and recommendations will also be reviewed and discussed by GFMD's working group on Impact and Learning prior to its finalisation.</p>
<p>Networking and Advocacy</p>	<p>Working groups</p>	<p>Women in Media (WiM): The Women in Media working group was launched in March. Five meetings have been held within the group along with 3-4 I consultation meetings initiated by members interested in submitting a joint proposal for the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference (CSW63) in March. As result of these consultations, GFMD hosted a panel on women in media and digital spaces at a side-event for CSW63 together with Fondation Hirondelle, IMS, FPU, MDI, IREX and Internews. A set of recommendations on how to ensure a safe environment for women in media in the online space will be drawn up by the group to be presented to the UN as a follow up to the event. Since its launch, the Women in Media working group has grown steadily, with representatives from SembraMedia, Panos West Africa and ICFJ</p> <p>An issue of the GFMD newsletter published in November was dedicated to the work of various members of the Women in Media working group. Three additional Global South members were added to the group in December.</p> <p>In connection with International Women's Day, members of the WiM group suggested and co-drafted a joint statement to media leaders urging them to secure gender equality in the workplace. This was done with minimal urging by the GFMD working group coordinator, showing how the group has evolved to be an inclusive and participatory group that finds added value in sharing information and working together to address joint concerns.</p> <p>In addition to our WiM activities, GFMD was actively involved in Internews and partners' United for News initiative, which is addressing media-related issues relevant to gender and sustainability among others.</p> <p>Internet Governance: GFMD organised the second-annual Media Development Symposium together with CIMA, DW Akademie, IMS, and ARTICLE 19 at the IGF, which was hosted by UNESCO. The meeting featured presentations by Guy Berger (UNESCO) and Elodie Vialle (Reports Sans Frontier), and also saw us officially launch</p>

		<p>the issue paper we wrote collaboratively in 2018. The event centred around Ishara Denasakara (Vikalpa) and other voices from the Global South who shared their experiences, and discussed the increasing number of digital and political challenges to their work. We concluded by exploring ways to support them and where we should focus going forward.</p> <p>At the IGF, we also participated in various workshops as speakers, conducted multiple bilateral meetings, and participated in a roundtable discussion on artificial intelligence hosted by UNESCO as an invited panellist. Read more about our IGF work here.</p> <p>In light of our participation, GFMD released a statement calling on the global Internet governance community to recognise the need for broader inclusion of journalists and the news media community within the IGF and wider Internet governance ecosystem. Concurrently, we also called on journalism organisations, news media, and journalism support and media development organisations to be more engaged in Internet governance bodies and processes.</p> <p>In addition to the post-IGF call, we are currently in the process of launching a new Dynamic Coalition within the IGF with CIMA, DW Akademie, and WAN-IFRA – the Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media. We are now reaching out to our Internet Governance Working Group, which comprises of 50 individuals from 21 member organisations as well as representatives from 21 of our partners, to expand support for the initiative and to encourage their participation.</p> <p>GFMD also co-authored a joint statement to the UN’s High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation (HLPDC), which sought input to inform its deliberations and development of actionable recommendations for its culminating report, due in summer 2019.</p> <p>Outside of the IGF ecosystem, we submitted comments in early November, to the Council of Europe’s Committee of Experts on Quality Journalism in the Digital Age (MSI-JOQ) concerning their draft declaration on the financial sustainability of quality journalism in the digital age. We are also preparing for the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) and RightsCon 2019, both of which members from the secretariat are working in organisational roles (Mira, RightsCon, and Michael, EuroDIG).</p>
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		<p>Impact and Learning: The Impact and Learning working group was launched in September to mobilise conversations towards tracking best practices in the media development sector. This working group has secured the commitment of academics in the field along with media development organisations including Fondation Hirondelle, Free Press Unlimited, International Media Support, BBC Media Action, and IREX.</p> <p>Thus far, the group has explored benchmarking theories of change, as well common standards for efficient journalism support. Work on a bi-annual digest will be initiated within the group in the early months of this year. GFMD also organised a knowledge sharing panel at the Berlin FoME symposium in November. The panellists included Fatemah Farag (Egypt), Taras Yatsenko (Ukraine), and Vitomir Ognjanović (Serbia) who discussed media sustainability with lessons learned from their local models.</p> <hr/> <p>SDG 16.10 – Access to Information: Launched in August, the group has had two successful meetings since. Along with the group, GFMD submitted two rounds of joint comments to UNESCO towards their initial template on the methodology for measuring the SDG 16.10.2 indicator. GFMD is also participated with the Transparency, Accountability, & Participation (TAP) Network, and is contributing to the review of the SDG Accountability Handbook.</p> <p>The members are preparing for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) review of SDG 16, which will take place in July 2019, and have committed to lobby for more non-official sources to be included in the reporting as well as inclusivity of provincial data in the reporting process. Specifically in support of the HLPF’s review of SDG 16, GFMD is coordinating the launch of pilot projects with three local partners – Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) in Serbia, Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF), and Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF) – by applying the FOIANet methodology in order to produce shadow reports that inform the HLPF review. GFMD is planning to participate in side events together with partners at HLPF in order to showcase outcomes from the overall project on SDG 16.10.1 & SDG 16.10.2. An oral statement has also been submitted for the High-Level Segment (HLS) due to GFMD’s Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC.</p> <p>GFMD also participated to the “Claiming Civic Space Together – Joint strategies to ensure development and humanitarian action” conference held by Global Focus in</p>
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	Safety of Journalists Coalition	GFMD is actively involved in a coalition of international civil society organisations (CSOs) working to better coordinate journalism safety policy and initiatives in a set of pilot countries. We have offered to host a communications channel for the organisations working on the ground as well as a channel for the coordination of gender-based safety initiatives within the group.
	Organising a knowledge-sharing conference for media development actors	A meeting for European media development actors hosted by GFMD took place in London on 8 January 2019. Topics discussed included: drafting a joint statement from GFMD members that we could send to the meeting of donors on 31 January 2019 based on the points raised during the meeting in London and our donor study conducted by Cara Stern (Recipient Perceptions of Media Development Assistance: A GFMD Study). Other topics included mapping policy issues relevant to GFMD's European members and engagement strategies.
	Co-hosting knowledge-sharing events with other GFMD members	GFMD is actively involved with the Journalism Trust Initiative.
	Coordinating a joint letter regarding the EU's 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework	The GFMD secretariat led a campaign with 23 of its member organisations to draft a joint letter urging the EU to ensure stable funding for human rights and democracy globally as well as for journalism and media pluralism in Europe within its 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
Peer-to-peer learning	IPDC SDG 16.10 webinars and digital document	With the help and expertise of Bill Orme, GFMD completed a series of webinars, initiated in 2017, and created a digital document on SDG 16.10 in Colombia. The document still needs to be translated to Spanish before it can be uploaded to the SDG Resource Centre page on the website. The plan is for this to be an open document that members can add to and will eventually be expanded to include all countries where

		GFMD members are active.
	Delivering a series of webinars on management and fund-raising for media NGOs	GFMD launched its Capacity Building Programme in mid-September. Three webinars on donor-funding and application-writing presented by media development expert Michael Randall were held in October and November. Participation has been very promising, with 36 participants over three webinar sessions. The smaller numbers reflect the fact that the webinar series is only for paying GFMD members. Initial registration of non-members has in fact resulted in a few new members to the organisation due to an offer to access the programme for free for three months followed by full membership in 2019.

OPERATIONS

How the secretariat is working

In the course of 2018 and beginning of 2019, the GFMD secretariat underwent several staff changes. Stephanie Khalaf left the secretariat in June, and four new members joined in the second half of the year.

Michael J. Oghia, who originally was consulting for the secretariat on issues related to Internet governance, joined as a part-time staff member in July. He started as GFMD's communication & engagement manager, taking over all of our platforms and communication channels while continuing his engagement on our Internet governance advocacy work. Michael's first Herculean task was to update GFMD's Insightly CRM system. His communications skills soon landed him the responsibility for membership engagement, a task at which he continues to excel.

Navya Hebbar originally started out as our research and communications intern in July but joined us as part-time staff in September, with responsibility for the impact and learning working group. She has also worked with Mira on initiating the DW Akademie project on SDG 16.10 in Serbia, Pakistan, and Ghana, as well as represented GFMD at the UNESCO IPDC Talks in Tunisia in September. In December, she took over managing GFMD's communications from Michael so he could focus more on our advocacy, engagement, and Internet governance-related activities.

Justine Marchal, who was previously working as a projects and policy intern, transitioned to coordinating our SDG project work as of January 2019.

Klea Zivkovic, based in Serbia, took over the GFMD accounts in July, and has helped to lessen the considerable administrative burden on Mira. Klea was hired through Upwork and has been a significant asset to the team, ensuring that all payments are made in a timely fashion and that the financial reports to donors are accurate and orderly.

Throughout the year, the secretariat's work has been supported through the invaluable help of interns, most notably Millie Cooper, who was with us from December 2017 until August last year. The interns have assisted in many varied tasks, from answering correspondences,

taking meeting minutes, engaging on social media, managing events, to writing concept notes for policy and engagement, and launching our working groups.

The secretariat continues to meet online on a weekly basis, a working condition that we all have become accustomed to. Nevertheless, everyone was excited to be at the first full staff meeting (in the secretariat's current constellation) in Brussels in December. The meeting provided a rare opportunity to fully engage in strategy talks and in conversations on how to improve communications and workflow within the group. Additionally, Mira and the team are in regular contact with the Executive Committee, and communicate with our Steering Committee members around areas of interest.

As part of our efforts to streamline our services, boost engagement, and improve our communication, we also re-evaluated our membership structure in response to the changing landscape of the media development and journalism support community. We have made significant strides in terms of connecting with members, informing them about the services offered and privileges included in their membership, and continue to facilitate connections between members, both bilaterally as well as within our working groups. Feedback from members about their involvement with GFMD has been overwhelmingly positive as well.

Our membership now includes more than 75 general members, and we welcomed the following organisations who joined as members since January 2019: Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa (FLIP), Media Matters for Democracy, Newsgain, Panos Institute Southern Africa, Radio Tuungane Minembwe, and Sembra Media. Two more organisations – the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) and Thomson Foundation – are finalising their membership status, while others such as the 3ayin news portal (formerly Nuba Reports) is re-examining membership after we reached out to them in February. Lastly, we have been undertaking an associate member review with the goal of reinvigorating their engagement and to encourage them to join as a general member. So far, we have reached out to around a third of our associate membership, and one organisation – the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN) in Bosnia and Herzegovina – has decided to re-engage with us and become a general member. Lastly, we have updated the members section of our website to include the most up-to-date list of GFMD general members.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Strategy and Action Plan acknowledges that GFMD reaches out to a range of target groups and has significant potential to bring concrete benefits to institutions and stakeholders beyond its immediate membership. The paragraphs below describe this widening sphere of influence.

Primary target groups

- *General members and associated members:* GFMD remains centrally focused on serving its members, both in terms of building their capacity and representing them on the international stage. GFMD also seeks to increase its membership by demonstrating the value of the services on offer and by giving media development actors, particularly in the Global South, the chance to lend their voice to lobbying initiatives.
- *Independent media outlets seeking external funding:* Whilst sub-granting programmes aimed at supporting content production in the independent sector have become commonplace, potential beneficiaries often lack the skills and capacity to apply for these grants, manage them, and evaluate their impact. This is an area in which GFMD can provide essential support and make a major contribution to the sustainability of independent operators.

Secondary target groups

- *Donors supporting the development of media and civil society:* Increasingly, donors are seeking professional advice and insight into ways of building resilience to the challenges faced by media and civil society in the digital age. These challenges include countering state-sponsored dis/misinformation campaigns and developing new business models. GFMD has access to the experience and expertise needed to inform donor strategies, whilst its independent profile ensures that this advice is perceived as strictly impartial.
- *Policy-makers engaged in media-related fields:* By the same yardstick, policy-makers in government, media, and civil society share a commitment to devising regulatory or ethical frameworks aimed at improving public access to credible information. GFMD has already gained a strong reputation for enriching these debates and ensuring that the viewpoints of diverse media actors are heard.

End beneficiaries

- *Media audiences:* GFMD’s work to improve the effectiveness and impact of international aid has a direct benefit for the general public who gain better access to media programming that reflects their needs and concerns. Furthermore, by promoting audience-centric research methodologies, GFMD can help ensure that audiences have a say in the development of new content and platforms.
- *Democratic institutions:* Media’s role as a key pillar of democracy is recognised across the development community and, therefore, improvements in coordination and collaboration ultimately benefit those institutions that have a responsibility for promoting and conducting transparent democratic processes.
- *Civil society:* CSOs continue to make an important contribution to media programming, providing journalists with access to diverse stakeholder groups and acting as a sounding board for specific initiatives. GFMD actively involves CSOs in its advocacy work, and encourages members to forge stronger links between media and civil society.

2019 ACTIVITIES

In order to ensure that GFMD remains relevant and that its services are properly targeted, the organisation’s core activities must be closely aligned to “zeitgeist” issues that affect media practitioners and the wider media industry. Consequently, GFMD has adopted a participatory, consultative approach in its dealings with both internal and external stakeholders. These consultations have helped to identify and expound the following priorities:

- GFMD needs to continue demonstrating its value as a network that offers concrete benefits to its members. This is essential in maintaining and broadening the community of best practice that it has established. It also boosts GFMD’s credibility and role as a catalyst for innovation within this community. Part of the process involves an emphasis on responding to perceived needs and researching findings.
- GFMD has prioritised amplifying the voices of small and medium-sized organisations and Southern actors in policy debates, thereby addressing concerns that the agenda is dominated by large international agencies based in the North. GFMD recognises that local organisations often have a better insight into the immediate needs of media communities as well as a clearer idea of the possible barriers to success. GFMD is also committed to improving their business-winning skills, thereby shifting what has been described as “the balance of power” in this sector.

- There is a perceived need to converge towards common standards and approaches, particularly when it comes to measuring impact and sharing results across the community. GFMD is working closely with international partners to develop an online Resource Centre which will capture the work of various stakeholders seeking to improve the quantity and quality of rigorous, independent research on the impact of media assistance. Established under the umbrella of the GFMD website, the Centre will include a searchable database of reports, studies, statistics and external evaluations as well as tools developed by different agencies for monitoring and evaluation purposes.
- GFMD will source funding to expand the size, reach, and capabilities of its secretariat. Staffed by an Executive Director, a Policy and Programmes Manager, an Advocacy and Engagement Manager, and a Communications and Learning Manager, the secretariat plays an essential role in ensuring high levels of engagement amongst members as well as between members and external stakeholders. It is currently overstretched, and struggles to respond to the requests and requirements of a growing community.

1. Advocacy

GFMD will continue to advocate for increased understanding and recognition of journalism support and media development within the international donor community. This will also entail regular engagement with the representatives of key donor and philanthropy organisations to better articulate existing needs and priorities within the sector. It is anticipated that this engagement will help to create more streamlined, flexible, and efficient mechanisms for funding journalism worldwide.

In addition, GFMD will continue to support core themes identified by its members (e.g., Internet Governance, SDGs, women in media, journalism safety), channelling their views into international policy debates. GFMD's newly conferred Special Consultative Status at the UN will assist and galvanise these efforts, particularly in terms of developing policy and practice around SDG 16.10.

SDGs

- GFMD aims to continue working with UNESCO, members (including Free Press Unlimited and DW Akademie), campaign partners, and others to ensure adequate implementation and monitoring of Target 16.10. GFMD established the SDG 16.10 Working Group, and is working through the DW Akademie-funded project to mobilise local GFMD members and civil society campaigners as well as government and industry media actors to share lessons learned and to produce shadow reports on

16.10 in their countries. This work will lead to an event at the UN High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2019 when Goal 16 is for the first time being reported by member countries to the UN.

- **16.10.2:** The DW Akademie-funded project to encourage media actors to contribute to Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and/or shadow reports in the lead up to the UN High-Level Political Forum will be completed end-March/mid-April, with follow-up necessary to ensure that the relevant partners in pilot countries Serbia, Pakistan, and Tanzania have the necessary support to produce the planned research and reports.

Internet Governance

- Our successful engagement efforts at the IGF highlighted the need to continue our advocacy within this space as well as regarding the topic as a whole. Both the secretariat and our member organisations participating in the Internet governance working group agreed that more effective coordination is needed, while also emphasising that since the issue paper (mentioned above) is now formally complete, we are taking steps to implement its recommendations.

2. Knowledge management and capacity building to facilitate networking and peer-to-peer learning, as well as develop and disseminate best practice models and effective research tools across the media development community

Working Groups

- **Journalism Safety**
 - GFMD will be launching a communications channel for media development organisations working on the ground in a series of pilot countries, as well as an internal communication channel for organisations within the CSO safety of journalists group working on gender-based safety. These will be the first communication channels integrated into the GFMD members area of the website.
 - We are also planning a campaign together with IMS and CPJ to engage the EU in journalism safety over the coming year. The wider media development community will be invited to join once a concept for the work has been finalised.
- **Capacity Building Programme**

- Four more webinars on capacity building are planned for the first half of 2019. Once funding has been secured, GFMD will be offering individual consultation clinics with media consultant Michael Randall, who will be helping small and medium-sized members of GFMD to evaluate former proposals in order to help them improve their chances to obtain funding in future.
- **Sustainable Development Goals Working Group**
 - GFMD will be launching national multi-stakeholder consultations on shadow reporting for SDG 16.10.2 along with identified civil society groups, information commissioners, and local partners in Tanzania, Serbia, and Pakistan. We will collaborate on the process of data gathering and where appropriate, production of shadow reports based on the FOIANet civil society template.
 - GFMD will continue to lobby, along with its working group members, for additional states to produce Voluntary National Reports on SDG 16 as well as for inclusivity of provincial and non-official source data in the reporting process.
 - The SDG Data Initiative will produce a report that will include both official and unofficial sources, covering all the targets. This report will be used to present during the High-Level Political Forum as well as in all the preparatory meetings. GFMD will be responsible for overseeing the Data Initiative report for which it plans to use data from mostly FOIANet and ARTICLE 19. GFMD is responsible both for SDG 16.10.1 and 16.10.2 indicators in the report.
 - In addition to our HLPF work, we are also planning to organise multi-stakeholder meetings in Brussels to engage on issues surrounding gender and the SDGs in collaboration with our Women in Media Working Group.
- **Research, Impact, and Learning Working Group**
 - Along with its members, GFMD will work to drive dialogue on the topics of funding, sustainability, and impact assessment and learning.
 - We will also focus on exploring collaboration with a Media Development Lab as proposed by BBC Media Action. The lab designed to accelerate understanding of which media assistance strategies work and do not work in supporting independent media and combating misinformation.
 - An OECD DAC/SIDA/NED CIMA donors meeting took place in Paris at the end of January. GFMD was on the agenda to present our research on donor funding as well as a joint advocacy statement from the community.
- **Women in Media Working Group**

- GFMD will continue to coordinate the WiM working group in the coming year. The NGO CSW63 will be the first public commitment of the group, but more are expected to follow (an opportunity to join the United for News panel at the Perugia International Journalism Festival is one such option).
- GFMD will be pursuing a discussion of how the media development sector can be instrumental in securing minimum gender policies and practices in local media and media development organisations on the ground. The group started a conversation in the previous year on how donors can help establish due diligence processes by looking at gender practices, not as a funding obstacle but as a guideline for organisations that don't have established gender policies and practices but want to develop them.
- GFMD will continue to encourage Global South members to join the working group. Currently the group includes members from Panos West Africa, Latin-America-based Sembra Media, Brazilian investigative journalism platform Abraji, and media support group Nai Supporting Media in Afghanistan, together with 7+ larger international organisations.
- GFMD is also planning to propose a gender-based conference with IMS for European stakeholders in Brussels.

- **Internet Governance Working Group**

- Drawing on some of the major themes identified in our issue paper that reflect current challenges to the digital landscape, we plan to address the relationship between digital markets/economy, platforms, and sustainable journalism in 2019. Specifically, our advocacy efforts will focus on how the underlying mechanisms of the digital economy enable the manipulation of online spaces and the proliferation of dis/misinformation in three key fora/processes: the RightsCon Summit Series, the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG), and the annual IGF in 2019. This will entail new requests for funding for our activities, specifically to actors outside of the media development community that are interested in this topic and willing to collaborate. What is encouraging, though, is that many of our members have affirmed that this topic is a highly relevant one to their work and activities.
- We are also in the process of launching a new Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media (DC-Sustainability), which will be a hub for journalism and news media-related advocacy within the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and wider Internet governance ecosystem.

Other planned knowledge management and capacity building activities in line with our 2019-2020 strategy

- Resource Centre page on Disinformation

- We are also planning to launch a GFMD Resource Centre page on Disinformation pending support from the Government of Flanders.
- It will also include producing policy briefs and best practice guidelines from the GFMD network with a special focus on the Eastern Partnership and Southern Neighbourhood countries, as well as hosting a series of webinars on target issue – 2 webinars/knowledge sharing reporting in pre-election campaigns organised and delivered and 3 working group online meetings

Additional activities and planned work

- Throughout the middle and latter half of 2019, extending into 2020, GFMD will begin to prepare and plan for the 2020 GFMD World Forum.

3. **Events** (provisional list)

a. International Donor Meeting, Paris, January 31/February 1

GFMD is presenting at the conference organised by CIMA and SIDA: “*Confronting the Crisis in Independent Media: Strategic Approaches for International Donors*”

b. Journalism Trust Initiative, Paris, May/June

c. UN Committee on the Status of Women, New York, March 21

GFMD will be hosting a panel on how women in media are using online spaces to combat gender stereotypes and misrepresentation.

d. International Journalism Festival, Perugia, April 3-7

GFMD will apply to host a panel together with OCCRP on long term funding solutions for both global and local investigative journalism.

e. IFEX Conference, Berlin, April 7-11

GFMD will be hosting the Steering Committee Meeting and a panel on Internet governance, market regulation, and the media development and freedom of speech sectors.

f. World Press Freedom Day, Addis Ababa, May 3

g. IPI World Congress, Geneva, June 4-6

h. RightsCon Summit Series, Tunis, June 11-14

GFMD submitted a proposal addressing the relationship between digital markets/economy, platforms, and sustainable journalism – specifically, how the underlying mechanisms of the digital economy enable the manipulation of online spaces and the proliferation of dis/misinformation.

i. European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG), The Hague, June 19-20

GFMD is helping to organise the media and content-related sessions as a co-focal point, as well as speak about the same topics discussed at RightsCon.

j. High Level Political Forum (HLPF), UN, July 9-18

GFMD will look into options to organise an event with partners on SDG 16.10.

k. Ministerial conference arranged by DFID, London, July 10-11

l. GIJN conference, Hamburg, September 25-29

m. 14th Internet Governance Forum, Berlin, November 25-29

GFMD will host its third-annual IGF Symposium, propose a workshop similar to the theme at RightsCon and EuroDIG, and officially launch a new Dynamic Coalition on media development-related issues.