In this report
It is regrettable that the year 2019 as happened with the previous years, came and went without fulfilment of the much-anticipated media legislative and policy reforms which have been on the agenda since the inception of the 2013 Constitution.

These reforms, which are not only restricted to the media and information industry but also include wholesale political and economic policy shifts in line with the Constitution, are critical to unlocking both domestic and foreign direct investment.

While the government gazetted the Freedom of Information Bill and the Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill as part of the reform agenda, it is regrettable that the two Bills presented in 2019 were widely criticised as a far cry from meeting the country’s constitutional yardsticks as well as regional and international benchmarks and best practices.

The government’s lethargic, if not lacklustre approach, in implementing genuine democratic reforms thus remained a cause for great concern during the year under review.

This should be viewed on the backdrop of the resuscitation of the repressive Public Order and Security Act (POSA) – albeit under a new name – the Maintenance of Order and Peace Act (MOPA), but with the retention, if not tightening of POSA’s draconian provisions.

As MISA Zimbabwe, we thus can only be cautiously optimistic where it concerns the outcomes of the current legislative reform processes.
We therefore urge the government to prioritise the urgency and necessity of democratic reforms by ensuring the bills are debated and fine-tuned during the 2020 parliamentary sessions.

Suffice to say the country’s democratic space continued to shrink during the year under review as evidenced by the suppression of demonstrations and abductions of civic society activists and other dissenting voices.

Inevitably, several journalists were caught in the crossfire of the government’s crackdowns against constitutionally guaranteed rights to media freedom, freedom of expression, assembly and association.

Despite the foregoing and given the situation as it obtained in 2019, MISA Zimbabwe remains focused in terms of its strategic interventions and lobby and advocacy work as informed by its mission and vision statements.

This becomes even more critical as the countdown to the 30th anniversary (in 2021) of the 1991 Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press, gathers momentum.

This momentous event offers immense opportunity to reflect and take stock on the milestones that have been achieved and what still needs to be done towards the realisation of the benchmarks envisaged under the Windhoek Declaration.

The Windhoek Declaration is critical for MISA Zimbabwe and indeed other media freedom, freedom of expression and access to information lobby and advocacy groups as it is the foundation upon which our work is built.

The Declaration is a historic document that gave birth to the World Press Freedom Day commemorations as we know them today, the African Charter on Broadcasting, among its other benchmarks.

It goes without saying that the Declaration is the cornerstone and trailblazer to the contemporary democratic benchmarks on the enjoyment of free expression offline and online, media freedom and access to information.

With that in mind, and going forward in 2020, our work will thus be informed by our 2019 – 2021 Strategic Plan. The 2019 – 2021 strategic plan, sets MISA Zimbabwe on a path towards maintaining market leadership in the category of promoting free expression, media freedom and access to information within Zimbabwe and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The organisation’s interventions are guided by an all-encompassing goal of consolidating
its position as leader and principal think tank in media development, defence of freedom of expression, digital rights, and pursuit of enjoyment of the right to access to information in Zimbabwe and the SADC region.

MISA Zimbabwe will thus continue to push forward with its dual advocacy strategy of technical lobby on one hand and people-centred advocacy on the other.

It is within this perspective that MISA Zimbabwe managed to score successes within and without the country. Some of the successes or achievements include, but are not limited to the 100% success in all the cases handled under the Media Defence Fund as well as successfully challenging the January 2019 Internet shutdown.

This also came at a time of our being the lead technical partner in terms of the media laws reform processes led by the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. To crown it all, MISA Zimbabwe was also appointed into the SADC Internet Governance Forum Steering Committee. Our National Director, Tabani Moyo, was also elected into the International Freedom of Expression (IFEX) Governing Council.

Allow us to also extend our special appreciation to Zimbabwe's media and journalists for being on the forefront in defending their right to media freedom, which is critical to citizen participation in governance issues.

We are also encouraged by the open-door engagements that we had with the Ministry of Information during the course of 2019 in our quest for a democratic media environment in Zimbabwe. Suffice to say our mission and vision as MISA Zimbabwe remains intact as evidenced by the inroads we continue to make in terms of our programming and outreach activities.

The 2019 – 2021 strategic plan, sets MISA Zimbabwe on a path towards maintaining market leadership in the category of promoting free expression, media freedom and access to information within Zimbabwe and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
Misa Zimbabwe will thus continue to push forward with its dual advocacy strategy of technical lobby on one hand and people-centred advocacy on the other.
The operational environment and democratic space remained volatile, uncertain and unpredictable as evidenced by the suppression of demonstrations and abductions of civic society activists and other dissenting voices.

In January 2019, an estimated 17 people were killed by security personnel following nationwide protests against fuel price increases resulting in a four-day Internet shutdown.

Inevitably, several journalists were caught in the crossfire of the government's crackdowns against constitutionally guaranteed rights to media freedom, freedom of expression, assembly and association.

Meanwhile, on 20 May 2019, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Nick Mangwana, held a progress update meeting on the media law reform process.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss other media-related issues such as licensing of community radio stations, the appointment of the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe's board, as well as progress on Zimbabwe's migration to digital broadcasting.

The Zimbabwe government has so far based its media law reform process on the repeal of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA). This law currently regulates three broad areas of law namely, access to information, data protection and regulation of the media industry.

This came after the government conceded to breaking AIPPA into three Bills, i.e. the Freedom of Information Bill, Protection of Personal Information Bill and Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill. The Broadcasting Services Act was also to be duly amended through the proposed Broadcasting Services Amendment Bill.

However, as the year 2019 came to an end, no timelines or indications were given on when and whether other statutory provisions that restrict media freedom would actually be reviewed and amended or repealed. Contrary to popular belief, it is the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act that has generally been used to violate free expression and media freedom in Zimbabwe, when compared with AIPPA.

Crimes found in the Criminal Law Code such as the publishing or communicating false statements prejudicial to the State, or undermining the authority of the President, have been used to punish offenders for publication of information that portrays the State or President in an unflattering manner.

Suffice to say laws such as the discredited AIPPA, used to licence and regulate the
media; the Official Secrets Act (OSA), to broadly embargo information held by public bodies and the Broadcasting Services Act (BSA), to hinder the free establishment of private radio stations, remained entrenched in the country’s statutes.

Other restrictive laws include the Censorship and Entertainment Controls Act (CECA), and the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act. This should also be viewed against the government’s accelerated efforts to introduce the cybercrime laws, generally perceived as intended to curb free speech online.

These laws essentially curtail citizens’ right to freedom of assembly and association, demonstrate and petition, including the right to freedom of conscience, as provided for by Sections 58, 59 and 60 of the Constitution as well as Sections 57, 57, 61 and 62 which protect the right to privacy, privacy, free expression, media freedom and access to information.

Thus the situation remained relatively unchanged in 2019 during which 12 journalists were assaulted while conducting their lawful professional duties.

It is against this background that more than 30 Harare-based journalists on 8 April 2019 petitioned the Zimbabwe Republic Police following the firing of teargas canisters by the police into the offices of online publication 263Chat in Harare on 4 April 2019.

The journalists marched to Harare Central Police Station where they were initially barred from entering the premises by heavily armed police officers.

However, after an initial standoff, they were then allowed to enter the police station where
they presented their petition to Chief Superintendent Simba Chagu.

Earlier, the journalists had marched from the Media Centre to Town House where they were addressed by Harare Mayor Herbert Gomba upon presentation of the same petition. The mayor said the Council had instituted an investigation into the incident.

The incident happened on 4 April 2019 during a joint operation against vendors by police and Harare municipal police officers in the central business district. Comedienne Samantha Kureya of Bustop TV was also reportedly abducted by unidentified armed men from her home in Harare’s high-density suburb of Mufakose. The armed and masked men reportedly forced their way into the house around 10 pm and assaulted Kureya’s family members as well, including minors.

Such violations of media freedom and free expression impose greater urgency and the requisite political will on the need for comprehensive media law and policy reforms. These reforms should not only be restricted to the media and information industry but also include wholesale political and economic policy shifts in line with the Constitution which are critical to unlocking both domestic and foreign direct investment.
Programmes

Our programming was organised into five programme areas which are:

01 **Campaign for Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information**
Promotes legal reform and the introduction of new legislation to improve the protection and implementation of media freedom and the right to information.

02 **Media Freedom Monitoring**
Monitors media freedom violations and developments and issues action alerts. Provides MISA with an important advocacy platform.

03 **Campaign for Broadcasting Diversity**
Promotes an open system of broadcasting licensing, editorial independence and the introduction of a three-tier system of broadcasting comprising public, commercial and community broadcasting.

04 **Media Support**
Aims to promote and enhance media accountability and professionalism. Seeks to create awareness of the need for a code of ethics and self-regulatory bodies. Also promotes professionalism in the media through media training initiatives.

05 **Legal Support**
Provides funds under the Media Defence Fund, for legal assistance to media practitioners and institutions with the aim of protecting freedom of expression.
It is against these developments that the organisation convened the 2019 Inaugural Regional Multi-stakeholder Internet Governance Conference in November to raise awareness about the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms (AfDec). The conference ran under the theme: Getting ordinary citizens involved in the internet governance conversation. Above all, the conference brought together critical digital rights campaigners from South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi, Kenya, Swaziland and Lesotho to stimulate a regional approach towards pushing for a human rights centric internet governance approach in the regional frameworks of regulation and governance of the internet space in the respective countries.

MISA Zimbabwe pioneered the Multi-stakeholders approach towards democratic internet governance in September 2015. Since then, the annual stakeholder’s conference have since become a permanent fixture on the organisation’s calendar as the most representative forum bringing together the regulator, Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ); the Mobile Network Operators (MNO)s; Internet Service Providers (ISP)s; the Government, through the Ministry of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) & Courier Services; Parliament of Zimbabwe, through the Portfolio Committee on ICTs and Courier Services; the Police; the Media; Civil Society and the Content Creators among others.

This has led to the recognition of MISA Zimbabwe as a credible convenor on the subject matter leading to the organisation gaining a seat in the Zimbabwe Internet Governance Forum (ZIGF); Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SAIGF) and leading various campaigns.
at the regional scale, in its scope to replicate the gains accumulated in Zimbabwe to other regional spaces.

Hence the inaugural Regional Conference held in Harare, in November 2019 was a first bold step towards consolidating a movement approach in the struggles for democratic internet governance. This was done in line with the AfDec sets the principles which are necessary to uphold human and peoples’ rights on the Internet, and to cultivate an Internet environment that can best meet Africa's social and economic development needs and goals.

Furthermore, the AfDec initiative seeks to build on seminal African human rights instruments such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR), the Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press, the African Charter on Broadcasting, the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa, and the African Platform on Access to Information Declaration.

African Union member states such as Zimbabwe, have obligations under the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights; (ACHPR) Resolution 362 of 2016 to implement “legislative and other measures to guarantee, respect and protect citizens’ right to freedom of information and expression through access to Internet services” in line with the Commission's resolution on the Right to Freedom of Information and Expression on the Internet in Africa.

In terms of Principle 37, of ACHPR's Declaration on Principles of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, States are encouraged to facilitate access to the Internet by:

- Facilitating freedom of expression and access to information online and the means necessary to exercise these rights.
- Recognising that universal, equitable, affordable and meaningful access to the internet is necessary for the realisation of freedom of expression, access to information and the exercise of other human rights.
- Cooperating with all relevant stakeholders adopt laws, policies and other measures to provide universal, equitable, affordable and meaningful access to the internet without discrimination.

Journalists in Kwekwe march through the streets during the World Press Freedom Day Commemorations.
Campaign for freedom of expression and access to information

During the year under review, MISA Zimbabwe escalated its access to information campaign through the building of access to information movements by capacitating communities to make requests for vital information that impact on their daily affairs from public bodies. Marginalised communities were identified and trained on how they can request information from public institutions.

Impact

On 21 October 2019, during an Access to Information community interface meeting, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) director of voter registration and delimitation, Tinos Madondo, made a call to the Signs of Hope Trust Zimbabwe, an organisation which represents people with disabilities (PWDS), to partner with them in formulating a database with PWDS who are eligible to vote and they also encouraged the organisation to avail interpreters during voter registration.

The call was made following Signs of Hope Trust Zimbabwe’s appeal for statistics of people with disabilities who registered to vote in 2018, the number of observers who were deployed and the number of people with disabilities who were elected into office (council, parliament, and senate).

Addressing members of the Signs of Hope Trust Zimbabwe and journalists, Madondo revealed that ZEC was working on modalities aimed at promoting the participation of people living with disabilities in electoral processes and considering the following: printing of braille voter education materials to cater for the visually impaired, collaboration to design voter education material (posters) and visuals which include people with disabilities, encode voter education materials into sign language and disseminate messages using sign language.

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Parliamentary Public Hearings

MISA Zimbabwe mobilised its grassroots structures to participate in the parliamentary public hearings for both the Freedom of Information Bill and Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill through caucus meetings organised by its Advocacy Committees ahead of the hearings as part of its lobby and advocacy for democratic media laws.

Impact

The mobilisation was effective as the government conceded during the process that they would make changes to the Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill and incorporate co-regulation which was being demanded by citizens as shown in the meetings that MISA Zimbabwe live-streamed in partnership with Open Parly.

Ordinary citizens told parliamentarians that the law must empower them to report infractions against the right to access to information to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission as opposed to the Zimbabwe Media Commission.

Most of the citizens who participated included women and youths were also against the levying of excess fees on requests to access information.

The caucus meetings organised by MISA Zimbabwe capacitated ordinary citizens to understand the importance of the Bills.

World Press Freedom Day Commemorations

To maintain momentum on the need for democratic reforms, MISA Zimbabwe kicked off the May 3 World Press Freedom Day commemorations in Harare under the theme: Regional & Continental Instruments Key to Democratic Reforms, before decentralising them to Kwekwe, Gweru, Bulawayo, Gwanda, Masvingo, Mutare and Chinhoyi.

Journalists, lawyers, government officials, Members of Parliament, civil society organisations and academics attended and participated in the commemorations. At least 85 delegates attended the event with a balanced gender attendance.
The theme was deliberately coined to push the government to undertake media reforms in line with the country’s constitution and regional and international instruments such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR).

Other instruments include:

- Windhoek Declaration
- ACHPR’s Declaration on the Principles of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information
- African Charter on Broadcasting
- African Platform on Access to Information
- ACHPR Model Law on Access to Information
- African Declaration on Internet Rights
- African Charter on Democracy and Election

Engagement with policymakers

MISA Zimbabwe held engagement meetings with policymakers such as parliamentarians, the Attorney-General, Minister of Justice, Parliamentary and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services officials and law enforcement agents on various issues especially around legal reforms. These networking, lobby and advocacy efforts buttressed MISA Zimbabwe’s position as a leader in media lobby and advocacy.

MISA Zimbabwe participated in the Writes Shop in Nyanga organised by the Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services to deliberate on the proposed bills to replace AIPPA as well as the proposed amendments to the Broadcasting Services Act.
MISA Zimbabwe also met the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Information and Communication Technology and Courier Services to present findings and recommendations by the communities it engaged on the ideal and democratic surveillance and privacy laws they envisage for them to realise their rights.

**Knowledge Management and Production**

MISA Zimbabwe produced two milestone publications: Beyond a Click: Regional Assessment on State of Digital Rights and Digital Terrestrial Television Migration in Zimbabwe: Challenges and Opportunities, outlining the broadcasting environment in the country.

Another publication Reporting Renewable Energy in Zimbabwe: A Media Handbook to Communicating Our Renewable Energy Resources, was also produced during the year under review. Additionally, MISA Zimbabwe also produced commentary and fact sheets on the Freedom of Information Bill and Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill, that are set to replace AIPPA.

These knowledge products were vital in incapacitating parliamentarians, communities and other key stakeholders to articulate issues as part of the organisation’s lobby and advocacy for democratic media law and policy reforms.

**Impact**

During the public hearing into the Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill in Harare, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Information, Media and Broadcasting Services, invited MISA Zimbabwe as a ‘friend of parliament’ to make further written submissions on the provisions of the Bill.
Media law reforms

MISA Zimbabwe maintained its pressure on the government to implement outstanding media law reforms since the coming into being of the 2013 Constitution with its explicit provisions on freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information, among other progressive provisions in the Bill of Rights.

The organisation raised the decibels in its lobby against the continued existence and application of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) and Broadcasting Services Act.

Advocacy papers

In that regard, MISA Zimbabwe produced commentaries and fact sheets on the Freedom of Information Bill, Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill (ZMC Bill), Broadcasting Services Amendment Bill. These materials were used to articulate MISA Zimbabwe/ Media Alliance of Zimbabwe (MAZ) positions on the respective bills during the parliamentary public hearings that were conducted on the Freedom of Information Bill and ZMC Bill.

The resources were used to inform and capacitate the public on the provisions of the Bills through caucus meetings convened by the organisation’s Advocacy Committees. During the public hearings, the most vocal citizens were those that had been engaged through the caucus meetings. These commentaries were also submitted to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Information, Media and Broadcasting Services for its consideration.

As a result, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Information, Media and Broadcasting Services produced a report which was a close reflection of MISA Zimbabwe’s submissions as captured in the MAZ/ MISA Zimbabwe shadow reports on the public hearings into the Freedom of Information Bill in particular.

Impact

The Committee in its report to parliament acknowledged MISA Zimbabwe’s input into what needs to be improved to ensure the Bill meets the constitutional provisions on the enjoyment of the right to access to information as well as other regional and international instruments that Zimbabwe is party to such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information and Africa’s Model Law on Access to Information.

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https://zimbabwe.misa.org
The publicity generated through the live-streaming of public hearing meetings and submissions made by members of the public resulted in the government conceding that they would incorporate co-regulation in the Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill.

**Mainstreaming disability**

MISA Zimbabwe ensured marginalised groups in society were taken on board in the legal reform process by mobilising people with disabilities even in marginalised areas such as Tsholotsho and Plumtree in Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South provinces. Residents associations were also engaged and mobilised to participate in the public hearings.
During the period under review, training workshops on constitutionalism, renewable energy and climate change, reporting on illicit financial flows and safety and security, were held to capacitate the media with requisite reporting skills in the aforementioned areas.

Editors Renewable Energy Workshop

MISA Zimbabwe, a HIVOS Southern Africa partner under the Green and Inclusive Energy (GIE) programme with technical support from Climate Tracker, conducted a two-day editors training on renewable energy and climate change in Zimbabwe’s second city of Bulawayo.

Media editors who attended the renewable energy workshop in Bulawayo

A total of 18 editors drawn from both the private and public print and broadcasting sector attended the workshop facilitated by Chris Wright, the co-director of Climate Tracker.

The workshop came on the backdrop of low media
uptake and coverage of the renewable energy sector and related issues such as climate change, global warming and environmental management. This is despite the immense potential of renewable energy in spurring socio-economic development and improving livelihoods.

The objective was to familiarise the editors on the importance of reporting on renewable energy and climate change issues for socio-economic development. The ultimate goal is to get to a stage where the media (journalists and editors) report on these issues consistently through the establishment of relevant dedicated desks.

“The way we were writing renewable energy and climate change stories was boring, now we are thinking of interesting aspects of covering energy and environmental issues such as the use of documentaries,” said Merit Munzwembiri, news manager with the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation.

Impact

Following the training workshops held under the project and the subsequent Editors Retreat Workshop held in Bulawayo, there is now a deluge of stories on renewable energy in both the public and private media on renewable energy and its immense potential to spur socio-economic development.

Renewable Energy and the attendant nexus issues such as climate change, global warming and environmental degradation, has become the story of the day as the Zimbabwean media continues to raise awareness on its potential to curb carbon emissions which pollute the atmosphere.

The media, in the wake of the 20-hour nationwide power cuts, is increasingly coming to grips with the potential of investing in renewable energy, not just to mitigate against the incessant national grid electricity shortages, but in creating jobs improving livelihoods and quality education, particularly in poor rural marginalised communities.

The training workshops and engagement with the editors, has gone a long way in demystifying renewable energy as complex science as evidenced by the then low media coverage of the sector prior to the interventions by MISA Zimbabwe in partnership with HIVOS.

Access to Information Movement

In the year 2019, MISA Zimbabwe maintained its support in strengthening networks around its advocacy issues, one such being strengthening access to information movement in Zimbabwe. This was achieved working together with Community-Based Organisations (CBO)s, Faith-Based Organisations (FBO)s, Residence Associations and community media activists countrywide.

Following the launch of a request under the Access To Information
Campaign by Signs of Hope Trust Zimbabwe to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission last year in August. The Signs of Hope Trust Zimbabwe requested statistics of people with disabilities who registered to vote in the 2018 Harmonised elections, the number of observers who were deployed and the number of people with disabilities who were elected into office (council, parliament and senate). The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) only furnished the former with statistics of people with disabilities who had registered to vote in 2018 and their disabilities, citing that they could not avail all the requested information as some of the information required could only be found from other organisations, which were not stated in their response letter.

During the period under review, the Signs of Hope Trust Zimbabwe interfaced with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, director for voter registration and delimitation, Tinos Madondo. “ZEC is working on modalities aimed at promoting the participation of people living with disabilities in electoral processes and we are also working with organisations representing people with disabilities to register and come up with a database of all of those who were eligible to vote,” said Mr Madondo.

To bridge the information gap, Mr Madondo announced that ZEC is considering printing of braille voter education materials to cater for the visually impaired, collaboration to design voter education material (posters) and visuals which include people with disabilities, encode voter education materials into sign language, and disseminate messages using sign language. Madondo challenged organisations representing people living with disabilities to provide interpreters and assistants to help register their members.

The operational environment and democratic space remained volatile, uncertain and unpredictable as evidenced by the suppression of demonstrations and abductions of civic society activists and other dissenting voices.

1 https://www.herald.co.zw/zec-works-on-disability-modalities/
12 journalists were assaulted while conducting their lawful professional duties. While this marks a decline of 14.3%, the majority of the cases save for two, yet again, involved the police.

The violations for the year 2019 are noted as:

- **27** violations number of journalists and artists who’s media freedom and freedom of expression rights were violated.

- **25** of these cases were recorded with two incidents unrecorded because the journalists involved declined to be so recorded.

- **20** alerts issued (alerts may contain more than 1 violation)

MISA Zimbabwe successfully represented and secured the release of journalists that had been unlawfully arrested or detained during the course of their work and also offered medical assistance to those injured while on duty under its Media Defence Fund.

Regional footprints

MISA Zimbabwe’s work on the digital rights front extended beyond Zimbabwe’s borders and into the region. The organisation was represented in Zambia in May 2019 by its Legal Officer Kuda Hove, as regional countries deliberated on how they would deal with future internet shutdowns. In October, MISA Zimbabwe also participated in policy dialogue on internet regulation in Kenya. This is indicative of MISA Zimbabwe’s growing voice as a leader on internet governance in the SADC region and beyond.

Global footprints

MISA Zimbabwe’s contribution to deepening freedom of expression was confirmed through the election of its director, Tabani Moyo into the governing body of international group IFEX. MISA Zimbabwe’s participation at these platforms meant that the Zimbabwean perspective was presented and also acknowledged on the world stage.
Outlook/projections 2020

1. Government/parliament should prioritise the urgency and necessity of democratic reforms by ensuring gazetted bills such as the Freedom of Information Bill and Zimbabwe Media Commission Bill and the proposed Protection of Personal Information Bill and Broadcasting Services Amendment Bill are fine-tuned and in sync with the Constitution and regional and international principles.

2. The media reform agenda should be expanded and be far-reaching in as far as the laws that affect the enjoyment of the rights to privacy, freedom of the media, free expression and access to information are concerned.

3. The proposed cybercrimes and security laws should be formulated and crafted in sync with national and regional principles that protect privacy of communication, and the right of all citizens to freedom of expression, media freedom and access to information.

4. The police should investigate cases involving the assault, harassment or unlawful arrests of journalists conducting their lawful professional duties for purposes of prosecuting the offenders to reduce and minimise impunity for crimes against journalists.

5. The government, police and political parties, among others, should issue statements condemning media freedom violations with clear warnings to perpetrators on the ramifications of these criminal transgressions.

6. The media and police should revisit and implement the resolutions and action plans agreed to in December 2017. These action plans are aimed at improving the professional working relationship between the media and the police.

7. The media should at all times conduct its duties in a professional manner as guided by the ethics and codes of the profession.

8. Increase and maintain pressure on the urgent need for transformation of the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) into a truly independent public broadcaster.

Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Information Media and Broadcasting Services

MISA Chinhoyi Advocacy Committee gives back to the community during provincial WPFD commemorations 2019

Journalists petition police over brutality after teargassing of 263 Chat offices
Participants at TRF Reporting on Illicit financial flows workshop in 2019 facilitated by Robert Merrifield and Cris Chinaka.

Team MISA during its 2019 Strategic Planning meeting.

MISA Harare advocacy chairperson Ganikayi Chaunza, addressing participants.
Legal and ICT officer Kuda Hove (second from right) as part of a panel on AfroDec at the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa 2019.

National Director Tabani Moyo, gives remarks at the WPFD Breakfast meeting in 2019.