सामुदायिक रेडियो प्रसारक संघ नेपाल
चौधौं साधारण सभा तथा सामुदायिक रेडियोहरुको राष्ट्रिय सम्मेलन

सुर्खेत घोषणा पत्र, २०७५

कर्णाली प्रदेशको राजधानी सुर्खेतमा मिति २०७५ फागुन १ र २ गते सम्पन्न सामुदायिक रेडियो प्रसारक संघ, नेपालको १४ औं वार्षिक साधारण सभा तथा राष्ट्रिय सम्मेलनमा सहभागि हामी देशभरका सामुदायिक रेडियोका सञ्चालकहरु अभिव्यक्ति स्वतन्त्रता प्रति प्रतिबद्ध रहँदै, आवाज विहिनहरुको आवाज बन्दै, नागरिकको सूचनाको हकको संरक्षण र सम्बर्द्धनका लागि प्रतिवद्धता दोहोऱ्याउँदै, लोकतन्त्र, मानवअधिकार र बहुलबादलाई आत्मसात गर्दै, आत्मसम्मान सहितको जीवनशैलीका पक्षमा वकालत गर्दै, दिगो विकासका लागि जनतालाई सुसुचित गर्दै र सरोकारवालाहरुलाई खवरदारी गर्दै सामुदायिक रेडियोहरुले वर्तमान समयमा सामना गर्नु परेका चुनौतीको सम्बोधन एवं प्राप्त अवसरहरुलाई उपयोग गर्नका लागि निम्नानुसारको सुर्खेत घोषणा पत्र जारी गर्दछौं ।

प्रतिवद्धताहरुः

१) नेपालको संविधान २०७२ द्वारा प्रदत्त सुचनाको हक, मिडियाको स्वतन्त्रता र अभिव्यक्तिको स्वतन्त्रतालाई व्यवहारिक रुपमा आधारभुत तहसम्म अनुभुत गराउन सक्ने सामुदायिक रेडियोको विशिष्ट सामर्थ्य र जिम्मेवारि प्रति सम्पूर्ण रुपमा सचेत रहँदै यसका लागि थप उर्जा र रणनीति सहित अघि बढ्ने प्रतिवद्धा व्यक्त गर्दछौं ।

२) समानता र सुशासन प्रवर्धनका लागि भूमिका निर्वाह गर्दै, सामाजिक रुपान्तरण मार्फत दिगो विकासको अभियानमा सामुदायिक रेडियोको गतिबिधि बिस्तार गरी रेडियोमा समुदायको सहभागिता बृद्धि गर्ने प्रतिवद्धता व्यक्त गर्दछौं ।

३) सामुदायिक रेडियोमा सहभागिता, नेतृत्व र प्रसारण सामग्रीमा महिला, आदीबासी, बालबालिका, जेष्ठ नागरिक, फरक क्षमता भएका, दलीत, अल्पसँख्यक लगायत पछि पारिएका समुदायहरुलाई समान ढंगले अबसर दिने कुरा नीतिगतरुपमै व्यवस्था गर्न हामी प्रतिवद्धता व्यक्त गर्दछौं ।

४) वालविवाह, दाईजोप्रथा, छाउपडी, छुवाछुत, वोक्सी लगायतका कानुनद्धारा नै दण्डनीय भनिएका सामाजिक विभेद र कुरितिको अन्त्यका लागि निरन्तर रुपमा क्रियाशील रहने प्रतिवद्धता व्यक्त गर्दछौं ।

मागहरु

(५) सञ्चार माध्यमको लोकतान्त्रिकरण सम्बन्धी विश्वव्यापी मान्यता विपरित स्थानीय सरकारहरुले आफैं एफएम रेडियो सञ्चालन गर्ने कुराको जोडदार बिरोध गर्दछौं । र, एफएम रेडियो (व्यवस्थापन, नियमन तथा संचालन) का लागि कार्यविधी बनाउने नाममा रेडियो बन्द गर्ने सम्मका अधिकार बिपरितका व्यवस्थाहरु तत्काल खारेज गर्न र रेडियो सम्बन्धी नीति नियम बनाउँदा रेडियोका प्रतिनिधीहरुको सहभागिता सुनिश्चित गर्न माग गर्दछौं ।

६) सञ्चार तथा सूचना प्रविधि मन्त्रालयले श्रमजीवि पत्रकारलाई दिएको पारिश्रमिकको बैंक स्टेटमेण्ट सूचना विभागमा वुझाउनुपर्ने बाध्यकारी व्यवस्था गरी नविकरण लगायतका कार्य रोक्ने कानुनविपरितको कार्य तत्काल सच्चाउन माग गर्दछौं ।

(७) लोककल्याणकारी विज्ञापन वितरणमा विद्युतीय र छापा माध्यम प्रति गरिएको विभेद अन्त्य गरी समानुपातिक विज्ञापन नीति लागु गर्न सरकारसँग जोडदार माग गर्दछौं ।

(८) सामुदायिक रेडियोले तिर्नु परेको वितरण शुल्क (रोयल्टी) तथा नवीकरण शुल्क खारेजी गरी अन्य सञ्चार माध्यमको पहुँचबाहिर रहेका दुर्गम एवं पछाडि परेका क्षेत्रमा सञ्चालित सामुदायिक रेडियोलाई विशेष सहुलियत र सहयोगको प्रबन्ध गरियोस् ।
(९) यस अघि नै बिशिष्टीकृत ऐनको अभ्यास गरिरहेको सन्दर्भमा पछाडी फर्केर सबै सञ्चार सम्बन्धी ऐन गाभेर आम सञ्चार सम्बन्धी छाता ऐन ल्याउन गरिएको तयारीको बिरोध गर्दै सामुदायिक रेडियो सम्बन्धी छुट्टै ऐनको माग गर्दछौं ।
(१०) कुनै पनि सञ्चार माध्यमको दर्ता खारेज नगरिने संविधान प्रदत्त गरेको हक बिपरित कुनैपनि बहानामा रेडियोको नविकरण रोक्ने र दर्ता खारेजी गर्ने जस्ता कार्य बन्द गर्न माग गर्दछौं ।

Association of Community Radio Broadcasters' (ACORAB) Nepal
14th Annual General Meeting and National Conference of Community Radios

Surkhet Declaration, 2019

We, the participants of the National Conference of Community Radios and 14th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters' (ACORAB), held from 13-14 February 2019 in Surkhet, capital of Karnali province, reiterate our commitment towards freedom of expression, right to information, democracy, human rights, media pluralism and giving voice to the voiceless.

With this Declaration we draw attention to the challenges faced by the community radio sector, even as we pledge our commitment towards creating a well informed citizenship, promoting sustainable development and withholding self respect and dignity for all.

We pledge:

1. We remain committed to our responsibilities as community broadcasters for practicing and promoting the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the common people of Nepal such as the right to information, media independence, and freedom of expression. While being aware of the special power of community radios over ensuring such rights, we commit to renew our strategies and revitalize our initiatives to enhance effectiveness.

2. We pledge to remain committed towards participation, positive social transformation and sustainable development of local communities through the transformational powers of community broadcasting for promoting equality, equity and good governance in the society.

3. We pledge to create equal opportunities of access, participation and ownership of community radios for all marginalized communities such as women, indigenous people, children, senior citizens, differently-abled, and other minority communities.

4. In support of the word and spirit of the constitution of Nepal, we as community radio broadcasters recognize socially and traditionally prevalent mal-practices such as child marriage, dowry system, *chhaupadi*, caste-based discrimination and witchcraft as activities punishable by law and pledge to actively engage in opposing, discouraging and ending such practices.

We demand:

5. A. Our attention has been drawn towards efforts made by several local elected governments to setup FM radio stations, which we view as being detrimental to the spirit of democratization of media. We view such initiatives to be in contradiction of the principles of participatory democracy, and against established international practices of media independence. We demand that such efforts be stopped immediately.

5. B. The Government of Nepal, in the pretext of policy formulation for the operation of FM radio stations, has setup provisions that directly contradict the right of local radios to broadcast freely and independently. We strongly demand to put an end to such provisions. We also call on the Government to put in place a consultative and transparent

procedure of policy formulation that will allow for the participation of representatives of the sector and its stakeholders.

6. We call upon the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of the Government of Nepal to halt with immediate effect its decree for all media organizations to compulsorily disburse salaries of staff members through bank transfers only. This is against the spirit of community broadcasting, which is primarily operated by volunteers. We also strongly oppose the Ministry's decision to stop the renewal of broadcasting licenses in the pretext of enforcing the decree, which is against the prevalent laws and regulations.

7. We demand for the immediate revision of the policy applied by the Government for distributing Public Welfare Advertisements, to put an end to the discrimination against electronic media and to promulgate a proportional distribution policy.

8. We demand the Government to abolish with immediate effect the royalty and renewable fees applied to community radio stations. We consider it to be highly unreasonable that such an unfair taxation system is applied to local 'not-for-profit' broadcasters working with the sole aim of bringing within the purview of information and communication those that have been neglected by all other forms of media and communication in the country. We call on the Government to extend a positive discrimination in favor of community radio stations.

9. We demand that the Government should withdraw its announced intention to formulate a single policy for mass media. This move by the Government effectively demolishes the possibility of the community radio sector receiving a specific recognition as a unique tier of the broadcasting media. We consider this to be regressive step and call upon the Government to formulate specific polices, act, and regulations for the operation of community radio stations in consultation with sector representatives.

10. We strongly demand that the federal, provincial and local Governments do not enact any policy, act or regulation that will allow, directly or indirectly, shutting down of community radios or interference in their regular operations. The constitution of Nepal clearly states that the registration of any type of media cannot be revoked under any circumstance. Any move by the Government in contradiction will not only be deemed as unconstitutional but will be considered to be against the established international practices of media freedom, right to communication and freedom of expression.