



2020 World Press Freedom Conference
Ministerial round table: the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity

Videoconference from The Hague, 9 December 2020

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn,
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg**

Dear Audrey and Stef, dear colleagues,

We all agree it is urgent and important to protect journalists against the threats they are facing. Luxembourg is honoured to join you today in adopting the Hague Commitment to increase the safety of journalists.

As a candidate for the Human Rights Council for the term 2022-2024, Luxembourg is committed to protecting media workers and journalists, under the guidance of the United Nations and the Hague Commitment.

We support the Global Media Defence Fund administered by UNESCO, as well as its International Programme for the Development of Communication. Luxembourg is part of the Media Freedom Coalition, which places the tools of diplomacy at the service of protecting media workers worldwide. We also support the International Partnership on Information and Democracy launched last year by *Reporters Sans Frontières* in order to counter disinformation and to protect democracy.

We continue to back the crucial work of High Commissioner Bachelet and the UN's special procedures mandate holders. The multilateral system works when it comes to protecting journalists, also at the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

Let us all unite to push back against high-level political attacks that are targeting journalists and the media in general. I am pleased to work with all of you to promote press freedom and thereby strengthen human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

Thank you.