



From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: September 28, 2016
Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of September 28, 2016**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today in the Cohen Building (BBG headquarters) in Washington, D.C. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Jeffrey Shell
Governor Matthew Armstrong
Governor Leon Aron
Governor Ryan Crocker
Governor Michael Kempner
Governor Kenneth Weinstein
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel

Governors Karen Kornbluh was not in attendance. Other persons in attendance are listed at the end of these minutes.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

Chairman Shell called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website.

The Chairman began with a sad announcement regarding two unexpected deaths in the BBG family over the past few weeks. First was Ron Moore, a Television Master Control Supervisor for the Voice of America (VOA) had passed away. Chairman Shell said that Mr. Moore is remembered as someone who always made sure that VOA puts out the best broadcast quality possible. Second was Jeff Means, and the Board remembers him well as an instrumental hand who helped at Board meetings, usually behind the scene, setting up the podium and lapel mics, and always quick with a joke. The Chairman noted that both Jeff and Ron were integral members of the BBG family and consummate professionals, and that their deaths came on the heels of two other deaths in the BBG family this summer—Richard Hoffman in the Office of Technology, Services and Innovation and Robert Long in VOA. He expressed deepest condolences from the Board and from the BBG family to their families and friends at this difficult time, and requested a moment of silence to remember these colleagues.

Chairman Shell segued to the threats that other BBG journalists continue to face around the world. He noted that Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) correspondent Saparmamed

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Nepeskuliev, who reported on economic development, infrastructure, social services, and education in Turkmenistan's western regions, remains in detention in Turkmenistan following his arrest in July 2015. He said that the Board believes Mr. Nepeskuliev's imprisonment is unlawful and demands his immediate release. He also highlighted the following incidents involving BBG's journalists: In South Sudan, a VOA journalist was forced to leave the country for Uganda in August after receiving threats against his life; in Zimbabwe, a VOA journalist was detained by police while covering clashes during a nationwide strike but was later released without charge; in Somalia, a VOA journalist was among several reporters arrested by Kismayo police on charges of "creating chaos in the city," VOA's Kismayo affiliate, Sooyaal Radio, was taken off the air, but the journalists were later released without charge while the station resumed VOA broadcasts; in Crimea, RFE/FL stringer Mykola Semena remains under house arrest, but in a joint appeal issued this month, the International Federation of Journalists and European Federation of Journalists called on Russian authorities to allow Mr. Semena to leave the peninsula to receive medical care; and in Azerbaijan, RFE/RL freelancer Islam Shikalizade was briefly detained on August 18 by plainclothes police in front of Baku's court of appeals while reporting on the arrest of an activist with the Azerbaijani youth group N!DA.

Moving to Board business, Chairman Shell stated that the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, permitting the Board to conduct business based on majority vote. He said that the Board had received by email materials for the consent agenda, and that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

The Chairman described the five items on the consent agenda for the Board's consideration: draft minutes of the June 23, 2016 meeting of the plenary Board; a resolution honoring the 10th anniversary of VOA's Deewa Service; a resolution honoring the 20th anniversary of VOA broadcasts in Afan Oromo and Tigrigna; a resolution honoring the 20th anniversary of VOA broadcasts in Kirundi and Kinyarwanda; and a resolution honoring the 20th anniversary of Radio Free Asia (RFA). Governor Armstrong moved for adoption of the consent agenda. Governor Crocker seconded. Without objection, the consent agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board.

In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, the Chairman invited Adam Clayton Powell III from University of Southern California to address the Board for three minutes. The Chairman took this opportunity to say a few things: 1) That he does not usually comment on public speakers as a policy; 2) that he is proud to be a member of this Board, a bi-partisan board that actually acts bi-partisan; and 3) that there are two things happening at BBG which the public does not always see, the first is the BBG probably has the best team he has seen anywhere, and the second is the collaboration that is happening under Mr. Lansing's leadership. He added that things have changed at the BBG but it still has a lot of work to do. He expressed his gratitude for Mr. Lansing and for the people sitting around the table. On that note, he then invited Mr. Lansing to give his report.

CEO Lansing thanked the Chairman and acknowledged the strong executive team that he was fortunate to join. He began his report by responding to two requests of the Board in June for an update on how BBG networks are generating impactful content for women and girls and an update on the BBG's work to cover violent extremism. At the CEO's invitation, RFA President

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Liu, speaking for the BBG's networks, offered an overview of BBG content for women and girls. Brian Conniff followed with examples of BBG content that continue to provide truthful reporting and amplify alternative narratives to refute the extremist worldview.

To give other key highlights by the BBG's networks, CEO Lansing invited VOA Director Amanda Bennett to speak about VOA's first ever global town hall for Somali diaspora in Minneapolis-Saint Paul to speak directly with the Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud, providing a platform for Somalis to discuss critical issues that impact their daily lives and connecting them to everyday Americans, in this case Somali-Americans. He noted that, with assistance from RFA, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) recently hosted the first-ever Cuba Internet Freedom (CIF) Conference on September 12 and 13 in Miami that the Cuban government was highly critical, notably it a "weapon of subversion." He asked OCB Director Malule Gonzalez to offer highlights from the CIF Conference. He then invited RFE/RL President Tom Kent to give a report on his tenure so far, including his vision for RFE/RL.

CEO Lansing updated the Board on two developments in the area of Internet Freedom. He introduced Dr. Nnake Nweke as Director of the Office of Internet Freedom (OIF) and asked Dr. Nweke to quickly brief the Board on his first two months, and plans moving forward, particularly a strategy for OIF. CEO Lansing noted great collaboration among the BBG's networks for the Global Internet Freedom Project and invited VOA Newscenter Managing Editor Clara Dominguez to describe the project by which Managing Editor or representatives from each network meet biweekly to discuss covering issues related to Internet Freedom, particularly Internet repression and freedom.

As a follow-up to the social media panel discussion at the April Board meeting, CEO Lansing informed the Board about a recent Social Media Summit that was held at RFE/RL's offices in Washington, DC. He added that it was a gathering from a multitude of BBG's social media and digital practitioners for a day of open discussion with the goal to unearth best practices and set baseline performance expectations for using social, mobile, and digital tools. He noted that Ms. Sugawara – along with Matthew Baise from VOA and Glenn Kates from RFE/RL – led this effort and asked her to report on the Summit.

Finally, CEO Lansing updated the Board on the ongoing work to implement the BBG's new Impact Model. He noted that BBG Director of Research Sonja Gloeckle had been leading this effort alongside colleagues from across BBG's five networks and invited Ms. Gloeckle to update on the progress.

In closing, Chairman Shell stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled to be held at BBG headquarters in Washington, D.C., on December 1, 2016. He said that the Governors were encouraged to give input regarding other topics that they may like to see addressed at the next meeting.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

Minutes of September 28, 2016 Meeting

1. Adoption of Minutes of June 23, 2016. The Board adopted the minutes of the June 23, 2016 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring the 10th Anniversary of Voice of America's Deewa Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 10th anniversary of Voice of America's Deewa Service as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America Broadcasts in Afan Oromo and Tigrigna. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 20th anniversary of Voice of America Broadcasts in Afan Oromo and Tigrigna as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America Broadcasts in Kirundi and Kinyarwanda Bosnian Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 20th anniversary of Voice of America Broadcasts in Kirundi and Kinyarwanda as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Radio Free Asia. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 20th anniversary of Radio Free Asia as set forth in Attachment 6.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG CEO and Director John Lansing; Chief of Staff Rob Fallon; Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary Elizabeth Parish; Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Director of Congressional Affairs Ellona Fritschie; Senior Advisor on Communications Nasserie Carew; Jeffrey Trimble, IBB Deputy Director; Andre Mendes, IBB Director of the Office of Technology, Services, and Innovation; Gary Thatcher, Associate Director for Program Support; Sonja Gloeckle, Director of Research; Laurie Moy, Writer-Editor (Multimedia); Nnake Nweke, Director of the Office of Internet Freedom; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Sandy Sugawara, VOA Deputy Director; Kelu Chao, VOA Associate Director for Language Programming; Clara Dominguez, VOA Newscenter Managing Editor; Maria "Malule" Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Thomas Kent, President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Stephanie Schmidt, RFE/RL Acting Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer; Laura Lew, RFE/RL Risk and Compliance Officer; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); and Joshua Lipsky, Senior Advisor for BBG, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs.

Jeffrey Shell
Chairman

Witnessed:

Elizabeth Parish
Interim Board Secretary

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Attachments:

1. Agenda for September 28, 2016 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of June 23, 2016 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring the 10th Anniversary of Voice of America's Deewa Service
4. Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America Broadcasts in Afan Oromo and Tigrigna
5. Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America Broadcasts in Kirundi and Kinyarwanda
6. Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Radio Free Asia

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ATTACHMENT 1

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS September 2016 Meeting Agenda (ALL MEETINGS ARE AT COHEN BUILDING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.)

Wednesday, September 28

2:30 – 3:45 Broadcasting Board of Governors' Open Meeting

Chairman's Remarks

A. Consent Agenda

- Draft Minutes of June 23, 2016 Meeting
- Resolution Honoring the 10th Anniversary of Voice of America's Deewa Service
- Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America Broadcasts in Afan Oromo and Tigrigna
- Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America Broadcasts in Kirundi and Kinyarwanda
- Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Radio Free Asia

B. Public Comment

C. CEO & Director's Report

D. Other Items for Consideration at Next Board Meeting

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ATTACHMENT 2

From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: June 23, 2016
Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of June 23, 2016**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today in the Cohen Building (BBG headquarters) in Washington, D.C. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Jeffrey Shell
Governor Matthew Armstrong
Governor Leon Aron (via telephone)
Governor Ryan Crocker
Governor Michael Kempner
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel (via telephone)

Governors Karen Kornbluh and Kenneth Weinstein were not in attendance. Other persons in attendance are listed at the end of these minutes.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

Chairman Shell called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website. He noted all Board members were in attendance except Governors Kornbluh and Weinstein, and that Under Secretary Stengel was joining by telephone from the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Stanford University.

Moving to Board business, Chairman Shell stated that the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, permitting the Board to conduct business based on majority vote. He said that the Board had received by email materials for the consent agenda, and that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

The Chairman described the five items on the consent agenda for the Board's consideration: draft minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting of the plenary Board; a resolution honoring the 65th anniversary of Voice of America's Armenian Service; a resolution honoring the 65th anniversary of Voice of America's Georgian Service; a resolution honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bosnian Service; and a resolution honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Balkan Service's Macedonian Unit. Governor Armstrong moved for

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adoption of the consent agenda. Governor Kempner seconded. Without objection, the consent agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board.

Chairman Shell noted that Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director John Lansing and his team briefed the Board yesterday on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Internet Freedom Spend Plan. He also noted that the CEO and his team have worked hard to put a structure in place consistent with the Board's directive. Governor Armstrong then made a motion to approve the FY 2016 Internet freedom spend plan that was presented by CEO Lansing. Chairman Shell seconded. Without objection, the FY 2016 Internet Freedom Spend Plan was unanimously adopted by the Board. The Chairman thanked Under Secretary Stengel for making the effort to join the Board by telephone and invited the Under Secretary to stay on if time permits. Under Secretary Stengel responded that he was scheduled to speak at an event shortly and, therefore, must hang up.

Governor Aron announced his participation by telephone. Chairman Shell welcomed Governor Aron and told him that the Board has unanimously approved the consent agenda and the FY 2016 Internet Freedom Spend Plan.

The Chairman said that there had been a flurry of activity at the end of the year and commented on Congressman Mac Thornberry's amendment to the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would seek a number of changes to the structure and composition of the BBG. He added that NDAA had passed in the House of Representatives along with the amendment, and that the Senate had passed their own version of the NDAA without any language regarding BBG reform in their authorization. He stated that, while there will be a conference on the amendment, CEO Lansing and his team were hard at work on formulating the Board's position on the pieces of legislation that it would support. He noted that the Board was not ready to take a position, and that this was not something the Board is taking lightly.

At the Chairman's invitation, the following Governors commented on the amendment: Governor Kempner said that there are some provisions, depending on how they are defined, the Board might or might not like but was diligently working to find out; Governor Crocker stated that these are weighty matters that will require considerable deliberation from the Board, and that he looks forward to being part of that process; Governor Armstrong agreed with Governor Crocker; and Governor Aron denoted that the Board was close to crystallizing several consensus points but needed to delve into them and cautioned against excessive deliberation.

Chairman Shell stated that this is his fourth year on the Board and noted that the BBG has important things to do and has nothing to do with the legislation, but it can memorialize the things that are working really well now. He noted that the Board does not intend to create things that make it harder to do for the next Board and the next leadership, and that it is trying to be very careful and thoughtful. He conveyed that the Board has had some disagreements behind closed doors, which was good for any healthy Board; moreover, the Board's goal is to be helpful and to support the people in and outside the room doing hard and dangerous work. The Chairman then thanked the Board for its efforts to continue to formulate a position.

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The Chairman recognized that there was something much more important than the legislation and that was the loss of a member of the BBG family. He announced that Zina Kavalou had passed unexpectedly at her home on May 14, 2016 at the age of 49 years old. He noted that Ms. Kavalou was instrumental in ensuring that the BBG Board was able to carry out the live webcasts of its meetings, working behind the scenes to keep the show moving. He commented that, in the very early days before his appointment on the Board, he watched the webcast. Ms. Kavalou was a foundational pillar for the technological progress and growth of the Voice of America's (VOA) chyron graphics, including helping programmers to develop Persian, Khmer, and Urdu language capabilities for VOA. At the Chairman's request, there followed a moment of silence for Zina Kavalou.

Before summarizing incidents of threats to the press around the world, Chairman Shell reported on the release of Khadija Ismayilova. On May 25, the Board was pleased to learn that Azerbaijan's Supreme Court suspended the jail sentence of Ms. Ismayilova, an award-winning journalist and contributor for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) who had been in a Baku prison for nearly 18 months as part of a seven and a half year sentence for retaliation for her government corruption reports. The Chairman recognized the assistance in support of Ms. Ismayilova from many outside organizations – Congress, the U.S. Department of State, NGOs, and others – who had pressed her case in public and private. The Chairman stressed the need to continue to support Ms. Ismayilova because she was not truly free yet. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman urged Azerbaijan authorities to clear Ms. Ismayilova's name and remove her travel restrictions. He also called for the immediate reopening of RFE/RL's bureau in Baku, which has been closed since December 2014.

The Chairman noted that while progress was made in Ms. Ismayilova's case, the Board was dismayed that Saparmamed Nepeskuliev, RFE/RL's correspondent in Turkmenistan, was approaching his one-year of detention. He also noted that the Board believes his imprisonment is unlawful and demands his release. He said Mr. Nepeskuliev courageously reported on economic development, infrastructure, social services, and education in Turkmenistan's western regions, but was detained in July 2015 and held incommunicado before being convicted of fabricated narcotics charges and sentenced to three years in prison in closed proceedings in a Turkmenbashi city court on August 31, 2015.

Chairman Shell reported that, since the last Board meeting, there have been several attacks on VOA journalists in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia: In Turkey, two VOA Turkish reporters were assaulted and hospitalized while covering a car bomb; In Angola, a VOA correspondent was roughed up by police and detained without cause because he was doing a story on police corruption; and VOA journalists were beaten and harassed in separate incidents in Pakistan and Iraqi Kurdistan. In the case of the latter, the Chairman reported that the Kurdistan region security agency had issued a formal apology to VOA and VOA's Kurdish Service for the attack. He called on the authorities in Turkey, Pakistan, and Angola to hold those attackers accountable.

The Chairman concluded by noting that, elsewhere, BBG journalists have faced harassment, intimidation and threats in Crimea, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Iraq. He denounced these and all

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threats made to journalists in an effort to silence them, and said that the BBG will not be deterred from bringing uncensored news and information to people living under these oppressive regimes.

In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, the Chairman invited Ann Noonan from the Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting (CUSIB) and Adam Clayton Powell III from University of Southern California to address the Board for three minutes.

At the Chairman's request, BBG CEO Lansing began his report by inviting each of the BBG network heads to give examples of some of the great work they are doing. He announced the appointment of Sandy Sugawara as VOA's new Deputy Director and invited VOA Director Amanda Bennett to speak about the soft launch of VOA's Extremism Watch Desk and to introduce members of VOA's affiliates from Mexico and Central and South America. Malule Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB), revealed a new OCB newsletter highlighting upcoming projects and initiatives. Before going to Nenad Pejic for his update on the 24/7 satellite stream of *Current Time*, CEO Lansing announced Thomas Kent as RFE/RL's new President and took the opportunity to recognize Mr. Pejic with a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as RFE/RL Interim Chief Executive while maintaining his full time responsibilities as Vice President and Editor in Chief. Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia, highlighted the coverage of North Korea's progress under Kim Jong Un, China's investment in control of Southeast Asia in Laos and Cambodia, and the crackdown and restrictions on Uyghurs. Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN), showed a video of a new Alhurra program that followed four women in Egypt who work in traditionally male dominated jobs. Among other topics, CEO Lansing reported on his participation at the 2016 Global Media Forum in Bonn, Germany hosted by Deutsche Welle; meetings in New York with Dr. Richard Haas of the Council for Foreign Relations and the leadership at the Committee to Protect Journalists; and announced the BBG candidates for the 2016 Nathanson Public Diplomacy Scholarship who will be in Aspen, Colorado in July for the Aspen's Socrates Program, including Carolyn Presutti, VOA News Center; Douglas Boynton, IBB Director of Marketing; Emilio Vazquez, OCB Staff Director; Glenn Kates, RFE/RL Managing Editor for Digital; Bay Fang, RFA Managing Director for Northeast Asia; and Fadoua Massat, MBN Managing Editor for Alhurra and Radio Sawa.

The Board then took a short recess and reconvened for a panel consisting of representatives of the BBG's networks to discuss the BBG's enhanced impact model, give examples of where the BBG has had impact through its journalism, and describe how the agency can adopt impact as a driving ethos for its journalism pursuits.

Following the panel, Chairman Shell stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled to be held at BBG headquarters in Washington, D.C., on September 29, 2016. He said that the Governors were encouraged to give input regarding other topics that they may like to see addressed at the next meeting.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

Minutes of September 28, 2016 Meeting

1. Adoption of Minutes of April 20, 2016. The Board adopted the minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Voice of America's Armenian Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 65th anniversary of Voice of America's Armenian Service as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Voice of America's Georgian Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 65th anniversary of Voice of America's Georgian Service as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bosnian Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bosnian Service as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution Honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Balkan Service's Macedonian Unit. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Balkan Service's Macedonian Unit as set forth in Attachment 6.
6. FY 2016 Internet Freedom Spend Plan. The Board adopted the FY 2016 Internet freedom spend plan that was presented by the Chief Executive Officer and Director of BBG.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG CEO and Director John Lansing; Chief of Staff Rob Fallon; Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary Elizabeth Parish; Assistant General Counsel (Fiscal & Policy) David Kligerman; Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Director of Congressional Affairs Ellona Fritschie; Senior Advisor on Communications Nasserie Carew; Jeffrey Trimble, IBB Deputy Director; Andre Mendes, IBB Director of the Office of Technology, Services, and Innovation; Sonja Gloeckle, Director of Research & Assessment; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Kelu Chao, VOA Associate Director for Language Programming; William Bell, VOA Director of Research; Ernest (E.A.) Torriero, VOA Editor in Charge of Extremism Watch Desk; Maria "Malule" Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Natalia Crujeiras, OCB Chief Content Officer; Thomas Kent, President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Nenad Pejic, RFE/RL Vice President and Editor in Chief; Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Stephanie Schmidt, RFE/RL Acting Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer; Daisy Sindelar, RFE/RL Regional Director for Europe; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Bay Fang, RFA Managing Director for East Asia; Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); Nada Alwadi, MBN Community Manager of Alhurra's Raise Your Voice; Deirdre Kline, MBN Director of Communications; Joshua Lipsky, Senior Advisor for BBG, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs; and members of VOA's affiliates from Mexico and Central and South America.

Jeffrey Shell
Chairman



Broadcasting
Board of
Governors

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Witnessed:

Elizabeth Parish
Interim Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda for June 23, 2016 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of April 20, 2016 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Voice of America's Armenian Service
4. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Voice of America's Georgian Service
5. Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of Voice of America's Bosnian Service
6. Resolution Honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Balkan Service's Macedonian Unit

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ATTACHMENT 3

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S DEEWA SERVICE

September 28, 2016

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting in Pashto on August 25, 2006 to provide accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region;

WHEREAS, VOA's Deewa Service has served for a full decade as a vital communications link with people in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan Provinces in support of freedom and democracy during the rise of the Taliban, and through all the challenges this volatile region faces today;

WHEREAS, VOA's Deewa Service has successfully adopted radio on television, online, mobile and social media platforms to reach even greater numbers of Pashtuns in this region;

WHEREAS, VOA Deewa is the most trusted source of news and information for Pashtuns in the border region about United States policy, and expert analysis on Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United States and the world;

WHEREAS, VOA Deewa is a unique source of news and information for the Af-Pak border region about American society and its achievements in democratic governance, business, medicine, science, technology and the arts, which can serve as an inspiration and a model for all who reside there;

WHEREAS, VOA Deewa remains a respected source of objective and accurate news and information about Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United States and the world, with a major focus on human rights, religious and cultural rights, freedom of speech, and democratic values and practices; and

WHEREAS, VOA's Deewa Service continues to broadcast daily to millions of people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan Provinces and Pashto speakers around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Voice of America's Deewa Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Broadcasting Board of Governors commends and congratulates both the current and former members of the Voice of America's Deewa Service for their dedication in serving the people of the Af-Pak border region and fostering friendship and the open communication of information and ideas between them and the United States.

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ATTACHMENT 4

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS IN AFAN OROMO AND TIGRIGNA

September 28, 2016

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to ethnic Oromos of Ethiopia in Afan Oromo and to people in the country's northern Tigray region and Eritrea in Tigrigna on July 15, 1996;

WHEREAS, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna also reach diaspora populations in surrounding countries and the world on multiple media platforms, including radio, digital and mobile;

WHEREAS, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna, together with Amharic, comprise the languages of VOA's Horn of Africa Service, the leading international broadcaster in Ethiopia with a weekly audience of nearly three million adults;

WHEREAS, survey results indicate that more than 90 percent of Horn of Africa Service listeners say the "station is reliable and trustworthy" and that it has "increased their understanding of current events;"

WHEREAS, survey respondents inside Ethiopia and the diaspora consistently report that VOA is practically the sole source of independent news about political events in their country, in languages most Ethiopians and Eritreans can understand;

WHEREAS, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna broadcast local, regional, U.S. and international news, as well as an array of programming about Ethiopian, Eritrean and American culture, politics, current affairs, economics, health, education, entertainment and more;

WHEREAS, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna have been providing blanket coverage of stories of great concern to their audiences, including the country's worst drought in 50 years, the migrant crisis and violent clashes between Ethiopian government security forces and protesters in the regional states of Oromia and Amhara; and

WHEREAS, Afan Oromo and Tigrigna have made significant progress on their digital social platforms, while averaging nearly one million page views a month each on their sites.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Voice of America Horn of Africa Service's Afan Oromo and Tigrigna language broadcasts.

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ATTACHMENT 5

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS IN KIRUNDI AND KINYARWANDA

September 28, 2016

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information in the Kirundi and Kinyarwanda languages to Rwanda and Burundi on July 15, 1996;

WHEREAS, Kirundi and Kinyarwanda also reach audiences in surrounding countries and the world on multiple media platforms, including radio, digital and mobile;

WHEREAS, Kirundi and Kinyarwanda comprise the languages of VOA's Central Africa Service, a leading international broadcaster in the Great Lakes region;

WHEREAS, VOA's Central Africa Service has featured some of the most respected journalists in Burundi and Rwanda covering conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda's post-genocide recovery, and the political power sharing that ended Burundi's civil war;

WHEREAS, VOA's Central Africa Service has played a key role in the national reconciliation and family reunification after the genocide in Rwanda;

WHEREAS, VOA's Central Africa Service has a bigger audience than any other international broadcaster and is one of the only international sources of news and information in Kirundi and Kinyarwanda for a Great Lakes region that faces contentious presidential elections after years of ethnic-based violence;

WHEREAS, Kirundi and Kinyarwanda broadcast local, regional, U.S. and international news, as well as an array of programming on health, entrepreneurship, entertainment, and youth;

WHEREAS, new short broadcasts and reprogrammed FM streams in Bujumbura and Kigali carry expanded call-in shows, broader reporting from the ground, and more drive-time newscasts; and

WHEREAS, VOA's Central Africa Service has seen steady growth on its digital social platforms, while garnering more than 400,000 page views each month.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Voice of America Central Africa Service's Kirundi and Kinyarwanda language broadcasts.

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ATTACHMENT 6

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE ASIA

September 28, 2016

WHEREAS, Radio Free Asia launched its inaugural broadcast on September 29, 1996 and will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary;

WHEREAS, Radio Free Asia provides reliable domestic journalism and uncensored content and commentary to more than a billion people living in mainland China and Hong Kong, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, North Korea, and Vietnam, who otherwise have little or no access to accurate, timely news and information beyond their borders;

WHEREAS, Radio Free Asia serves as a model for free press and free expression in places that restrict free speech by reporting developments and events ignored or censored by state-controlled media and by enabling audiences to engage in an unfettered exchange of ideas and opinions via traditional and new media; and

WHEREAS, Radio Free Asia has achieved, among other great accomplishments, the following:

- Launched and grown the impact of nine language services in some of the world's most restricted and closed media environments;
- Expanded its audience reach and engagement beyond broadcasting via short- and medium-wave by utilizing satellite, television, 10 unique content websites, social media platforms, and mobile applications;
- Created and maintained eight Asian offices and a network of more than 200 dedicated stringers through Northeast and Southeast Asia;
- Trained journalists, call-in hosts, feature writers, videographers, and overseas stringers, technical staff and content makers to produce award-winning, fact-based multimedia reports and products that often drive the news cycle and conversation in oppressive places often under authoritarian rule;
- Cultivated and utilized vast networks of inside sources and citizen journalists to aid in the coverage of developments happening within closed countries and remote regions;
- Built strong credibility by breaking major news such as religious persecution and crackdown on Christian "house" churches in Eastern China; the Tibetan people's protests against Beijing's rule; North Korea's overseas labor; the seizure of farm land in Vietnam; the damming of the Mekong River; government corruption in Laos and Cambodia; ethnic unrest in China's Uyghur region; and the jailing of bloggers, petitioners, and rights lawyers in China, among other hard-to-get stories.
- Earned status as a trusted, credible source for breaking news cited frequently by the BBC, Reuters, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, *The Wall Street Journal*,

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NHK Japan, KBS News, Chosun News, *The South China Morning Post* and numerous other major U.S. and international media outlets;

- Won numerous awards for such stories from press organizations and international human rights groups as well as for investigative journalism on environmental and health risks, human trafficking, human rights and the rule of law, and corruption, among other topics important to its audiences in Asia;
- Gave a voice to the voiceless—from dissident intellectuals to ordinary workers and farmers—in Asian countries lacking a free press;
- Served as a virtual news agency, filling major gaps in the coverage of important stories, with the decline in numbers of foreign correspondents covering Asia; and
- Made major strides in providing Internet freedom to journalists, human rights defenders, political dissidents and netizens in closed societies around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 20th anniversary of Radio Free Asia and applaud the persons who have made this possible.