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From: Board of Governors

Date: September 5, 2018

Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of September 5, 2018**

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

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Kenneth Weinstein  
Governor Leon Aron  
Governor Michael Kempner  
Governor Karen Kornbluh (by telephone)  
Governor Jeffrey Shell  
Jennifer Hall Godfrey, Chief of Staff for Acting Under Secretary Heather Nauert

Governor Ryan Crocker was not in attendance.

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

Chairman Weinstein 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 USAGM website. A digital recording of this meeting can be found at the agency's new website—[www.usagm.gov](http://www.usagm.gov).

The Chairman began by announcing that, as of August 22, the Broadcasting Board of Governors changed its name to the U.S. Agency for Global Media.

Chairman Weinstein pivoted to another announcement on a personnel matter involving the departure of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) President Tom Kent. He thanked Mr. Kent for his contributions to RFE/RL and to U.S. international media more broadly, including improving and amplifying the work of RFE/RL at a critical and challenging moment in U.S. foreign policy. The Chairman and CEO Lansing then presented Mr. Kent with a certificate of appreciation.

The Chairman turned to the topic of threats to press. The Board recognizes that threats against journalists around the world continue at an alarming rate, and USAGM journalists are no exception. In recent months, journalists from China to Nicaragua, Turkmenistan, to Cambodia, have felt increasing pressure.

#### Ukraine

RFE/RL contributor Stanislav Aseyev continues to be held by Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. On July 20, Senator Marco Rubio tweeted a call for his release and

Congressional Freedom of the Press Caucus co-chairs Representative Adam Schiff and Representative Steve Chabot issued a statement also calling for Aseyev's release.

### Turkmenistan

The United Nation Human Rights Commission has issued a decision finding the Turkmen government responsible for the death of RFE/RL Turkmen Service's contributor Ogulsapar Muradova, who was in custody 12 years ago. This long overdue ruling is significant because of the continuing government actions taken against RFE/RL Turkmen Service's correspondents.

### Vietnam

Three Voice of America (VOA) Vietnamese reporters were arrested and detained in June as they covered violent demonstrations in Vietnam that erupted after the government announced plans to create economic zones that protestors said would favor Chinese investors. Despite this, they were able to file dramatic footage showing police surrendering to local protestors in Binh Thuan province, vehicles on fire, and burned down government property. Their videos were viewed more than three million times, documenting what turned out to be a rare violent protest and the largest demonstration in Vietnam in decades.

On July 5, authorities in Vietnam arrested independent blogger and political contributor to VOA Le Anh Hung and charged him with "abusing democratic freedoms to infringe upon the interests of the State, lawful rights, and interests of organizations and/or citizens. He is a key figure of Vietnam's radio community and a member of the Independent Journalists Association of Vietnam.

Radio Free Asia (RFA) Vietnamese videographer Nguyen Van Hoa, who continues to be held in prison, was reportedly beaten by authorities while in prison. Nguyen is currently serving a seven-year sentence.

### China

In August, two VOA Mandarin Service's journalists were harassed and briefly detained after interviewing 84-year-old professor Sun Wenguang, a critic of the Chinese government. This follows a dramatic event that played out live on VOA's air, as the professor was forcibly detained in his house while giving a live telephone interview.

Also in China, the family members of several RFA Uyghur Service's journalists continue to be held in "re-education camps."

### Nicaragua

VOA Spanish reporters Gesell Tobias and Iacopo Luzi survived a week of reporting amid multiple stops and detentions by police, paramilitary, and military personnel in Nicaragua. In one incident, they were briefly detained, and their passports and press IDs were confiscated.

### Cambodia

In Cambodia, restrictions on press freedom were tightest ever, leading up to the July 29 election. Dozens of independent radio stations were closed, and RFA was forced to cease operations in the country.

VOA Khmer Service's D.C.-based reporter Khemara Pov Sok traveled to Cambodia to cover the election and to provide extra support to the local bureau staff. While there, this image came out labeling Khemara and other international reporters, including some from RFA, as enemies of the people. The image was widely distributed on Facebook, and Khemara received several threatening phone calls.

Shortly after the election, two former RFA Khmer Service's journalists, Uon Chhin and Yeang Sothearin, who had been jailed for eight months on trumped-up charges, were released on bail in Phnom Penh. While their release is welcome, these former journalists should never have been put in this predicament in the first place.

The Chairman spoke for all Board Members present by stating he abhors the harassment, imprisonment, and attempt to silence USAGM journalists.

Turning to Board business, the Chairman 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 on August 22, 2018. He added that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

Governor Kempner moved for adoption of the consent agenda. Governor Aron 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, President of the Public Diplomacy Council and Director of Washington Programs for the University of Southern California's Annenberg Center, to address the Board for three minutes.

Chairman Weinstein asked CEO Lansing to report on agency operations since the last Board meeting.

CEO Lansing began by noting how the agency has significantly expanded the way it works in the last few years. Collaborative programs, a digital-first focus, and new research and strategy have all contributed to a meaningful impact on audiences. The agency's brand evolution from BBG to USAGM captures that progression and builds on the work of all employees. CEO Lansing shared two videos that described the above.

CEO Lansing then turned to the U.S. International Coordinating Committee (ICC) to highlight their progress in several key strategic areas of USAGM.

VOA Director Amanda Bennett spoke about VOA and RFE/RL's collaboration on a new 24/7 Persian-language global network, *VOA 365*. The network will leverage the existing strong brands from both networks. A soft launch with a news program was expect this fall and a hard launch was expected in January 2019. The aim of the network is to grow USAGM's audience in Iran and target the Iranian diaspora around the world. VOA Director Bennett touched on VOA's new

English-language learning content for the Rohingya refugees living in and around Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, and its plans to expanding broadcasting in that region.

Office of Cuba Broadcasting Director Tomas Regalado talked about expanded live news programming for the Martis and showed a video highlighting some of the energizing content the Martis are producing and distributing to Cuban audiences on the Island.

RFE/RL President Tom Kent described the network's coverage of repressive governments wanting to rewrite history. Along with covering today's news, RFE/RL also painstakingly gives its audiences an honest record of the past in hopes of inspiring the values of democracy and tolerance and promoting a better present day.

RFA President Libby Liu gave an update on how RFA's Cambodia Service continues to report on the Hun Sen regime in midst of difficult circumstances. Despite the systematic dismantling of free press in Cambodia, RFA continues to change the information landscape in that country. RFA President Liu showed a video about how RFA's journalist continue to shed a light on authoritarian abuses in that country.

Ambassador Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, spoke about the network's resurgence among pan-Arab media and dynamic new programming. He noted that some transformations had occurred around the network, including refreshing Alhurra TV's content and look. Ambassador Fernandez then showed a video about the new shows, studios, and digital platforms as part of the network's relaunch.

In closing, Chairman Weinstein noted the extraordinary momentum and collaboration within USAGM. He expressed his appreciation to CEO Lansing for his strategic leadership and to the hardworking staff, some of whom put their lives at risk every day to report the truth.

Chairman Weinstein stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled to be held at MBN headquarters in Springfield, VA, on November 14, 2018. 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 Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of June 6, 2018 Board Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of the June 6, 2018 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Voice of America's English to Africa Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Voice of America's English to Africa Service as set forth in Attachment 3.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: CEO and Director John Lansing; Chief of Staff Matthew Walsh; General Counsel and Board Secretary David Kligerman; Managing Director Oanh Tran; Director of Global Communications and Office of Public Affairs Nasserie Carew; Chief Strategy Officer Haroon Ullah; Special Communications Advisor Matt Schuck; Director of Technology, Services, and Innovation Terry Balazs; Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs Ellona Fritschie; Congressional Liaison Marta McLellan Ross; Research Analyst Pradeep Mistry; Special Assistant Chelsea Milko; Writer-Editor Laurie Moy; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Sandy Sugawara, VOA Deputy Director; Tomas P. Regalado, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Thomas Kent, President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Christine Fetzko, RFE/RL Chief of Staff; Stephanie Schmidt, RFE/RL Budget Director; Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Laura Lew, RFE/RL Risk & Compliance Officer; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); and Joe Tordella, Special Assistant, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs.

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Kenneth Weinstein  
Chairman

Witnessed:

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David Kligerman  
Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda of the September 5, 2018 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of June 6, 2018 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring 55th Anniversary of Voice of America's English to Africa Service

**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**September 2018 Meetings Agenda**

(ALL MEETINGS ARE AT THE COHEN BUILDING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.)

**Wednesday, September 5**

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**10:30 – 11:30 Broadcasting Board of Governors’ Open Meeting (BBG Conference Room)**

- A. Chairman Remarks
- B. Consent Agenda
  - Draft Minutes of June 6, 2018 Board Meeting
  - Draft Resolution Honoring the 55th Anniversary of Voice of America’s English to Africa Service
- C. Public Comment
- D. CEO & Director’s Report
- E. Other Items for Consideration at Next Board Meeting

## ATTACHMENT 2

From: Broadcasting Board of Governors  
Date: June 6, 2018  
Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of June 6, 2018**

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 Kenneth Weinstein  
Governor Ryan Crocker  
Governor Michael Kempner  
Governor Karen Kornbluh (by telephone)  
Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Heather Nauert

Governors Leon Aron and Jeffrey Shell were not in attendance.

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

Chairman Weinstein 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 by welcoming Heather Nauert, Acting Under Secretary of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, who represents Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the Board. The Chairman noted that the Board has benefited from its strong partnership with the State Department and invited Heather to make brief remarks. Acting Under Secretary Nauert praised the BBG's first-rate journalists and acknowledged the importance of more collaboration and communication between the BBG and State.

Chairman Weinstein announced the appointment of Tomás P. Regalado as the new Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB). He noted that, for over 20 years, Mr. Regalado served the city of Miami, Florida, as a journalist, City Commissioner, and two-term Mayor. BBG Chief Executive Officer (CEO) John Lansing then performed a swear-in office ceremony for Mr. Regalado. At the Chairman's invitation, Mr. Regalado expressed his thanks for all the support and reaffirmed his commitment to creating a new era for the Martis.

The Chairman then pivoted to another personnel matter involving the departure of BBG Deputy Director Jeff Trimble. He thanked Mr. Trimble for his 21 years of dedication and service to U.S. international media and presented him with a career achievement award.

Chairman Weinstein said that the Board recognizes the difficult working conditions many of our journalists operate in, and the importance of highlighting incidents of threats to the journalist since the last Board meeting. He noted that the BBG had mourned the loss of a number of its journalists and welcomed the release of a contributor for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). There followed a video of current threats to press outlining the following: 1) In May, three RFE/RL journalists paid the ultimate price. All three, Sabawoon Kakar, Abadullah Hananzai, and Maharram Durrani were killed in a Kabul, Afghanistan terrorist attack targeting journalists; 2) While reporting on political events in Burundi, three VOA reporters were harassed by security officials; 3) On May 18, while reporting on a fatal plane crash in Cuba, independent journalists Cesar San Martin and Rudy Cabrera were detained by authorities for almost 24 hours; 4) In May, longtime RFE/RL Turkmen contributor Sultan Achilova was attacked despite a claim from the Turkmen government that RFE/RL can operate freely in the country; 5) Current Time journalist Alexei Aleksandrov and RFE/RL contributor Zosya Rodvevich were detained by police while covering political demonstrations on May 5; 6) Three RFE/RL Armenian Service staff, Naira Bulghadarian, Anatoly Yeghiazarian, and Arus Hakobian, were assaulted by government security forces on April 21 and 22 while reporting on massive government protests in the capital; 7) Radio Free Asia (RFA) Cambodian Service journalists Yeang Sothearin and Uon Cchin remain behind bars on trumped up charges; 8) In Vietnam, RFA contributor Nguyễn Ngọc Già and videographer Nguyễn Văn Hoá remain jailed for doing their jobs; 9) In Ukraine, RFE/RL contributor Stanislav Aseyev continues to be held in an undisclosed location by Russian-backed separatists; 10) In Syria, Alhurra correspondent Bashar Fahmi has been missing since August 2012; and 11) in Western China, 40 family members of six RFA Uyghur Service employees have been sent to reeducation camps. Their whereabouts and wellbeing are unknown.

Turning to Board business, the Chairman 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 on May 23, 2018. He added that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

Governor Kempner 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, President of the Public Diplomacy Council and Director of Washington Programs for the University of Southern California's Annenberg Center, to address the Board for three minutes.

Chairman Weinstein asked CEO Lansing to report on agency operations since the last Board meeting.

CEO Lansing began by reiterating his appreciation of Emilio Vazquez for stepping in as Acting Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting and expressed his excitement for OCB's next chapter under Mr. Regalado's leadership.

Before inviting the U.S. International Coordinating Committee (ICC) to highlight their progress in several key strategic areas of the BBG, CEO Lansing pointed out that establishing the ICC was one of his first acts when he joined the BBG in 2015. Since then, the ICC has served as a force multiplier in the work that the BBG does around the world.

CEO Lansing recently asked the ICC to consider a global reporting project that all five BBG networks could collectively work on. The complex story they chose to tell is that of the rising power of China around the world. The project, called "Dragon's Reach: Tracking China's Economic Power Play," shows how China is using soft power and economic might to influence the developing world and regional partners.

Voice of America (VOA) Director Amanda Bennett spoke about "Dragon's Reach" and VOA's leading coordination role to make this first-of-its-kind project possible. VOA's project lead, Yolanda Lopez, spoke about how the multiple components of this project came together seamlessly and proceeded to show a short video clip.

Acting OCB Director Emilio Vazquez showed a video that highlighted some of the unique and creative content the Martis are producing and distributing to Cuban audiences despite the challenging operating environment on the Island.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) President Tom Kent described the network's coverage of protests and political unrest in both Russia and Armenia. In both examples, RFE/RL served as trusted surrogate media when the official state-run media remained largely silent and could not or would not tell the truth.

Radio Free Asia (RFA) President Libby Liu gave an update on the threats and intimidation that RFA's Uyghur Service journalists face in reporting about China. Despite the persecution faced by their families back in China, the Uyghur Service's journalists continue to report on the repression of their people by Chinese authorities as well as the continued development of government surveillance tactics.

Ambassador Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, spoke about the network's engaging coverage of important events in Arab-speaking regions, including recent elections in Iraq. In its reporting, MBN aimed to highlight topics that were not well-covered by other media outlets, including corruptions and citizens' hopes for the future.

In closing, CEO Lansing updated the Board on the 2018 Nathanson Public Diplomacy Scholarship recipients. The Nathanson Scholarship, funded by former BBG Chairman Marc Nathanson and his wife, Jane Nathanson, identifies emerging leaders and middle management

officials in areas related to public diplomacy and international media for participation in executive training at the nonpartisan Aspen Institute.

In a final comment, Governor Kempner noted the BBG's extraordinary arc of success over the years made possible by improvements in collaboration, quality of content, and coverage. Chairman Weinstein stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled to be held at MBN headquarters in Springfield, VA, on August 29, 2018. 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):

1. Adoption of Minutes of March 14, 2018 Board Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of the March 14, 2018 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Armenian Service – Azatutyun Radiokayan. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RFE/RL's Armenian Service – Azatutyun Radiokayan as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Georgian Service – Radio Tavisupleba. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RFE/RL's Georgian Service – Radio Tavisupleba as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kazakh Service – Radio Azattyq. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65th anniversary of RFE/RL's Kazakh Service – Radio Azattyq as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kyrgyz Service – Radio Azattyk. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65th anniversary of RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service – Radio Azattyk as set forth in Attachment 6.
6. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Tajik Service – Radio Ozodi. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65th anniversary of RFE/RL's Tajik Service – Radio Ozodi as set forth in Attachment 7.
7. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Uzbek Service – Radio Ozodlik. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 65th anniversary of RFE/RL's Uzbek Service – Radio Ozodlik as set forth in Attachment 8.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG CEO and Director John Lansing; Chief of Staff Matthew Walsh; General Counsel and Board Secretary David Kligerman; Managing Director Oanh Tran; Director of Global Communications and Office of Public Affairs Nasserie Carew; Chief Strategy Officer and Acting Director of the Office of Internet Freedom Haroon Ullah; BBG Special Communications Advisor Matt Schuck; BBG Deputy Director Jeffrey Trimble; Director of Technology, Services, and Innovation Terry Balazs; Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs Ellona Fritschie; Congressional Liaison Marta McLellan Ross; Research Analyst Pradeep Mistry; Special Assistant Chelsea Milko;

Special Assistant Yuna Jacobson; Writer-Editor Laurie Moy; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Associate Director for Program Support Gary Thatcher; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Sandy Sugawara, VOA Deputy Director; Kelu Chao, VOA Program Director; Yolanda Lopez, VOA Director of Central News; Tomas P. Regalado, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Emilio Vazquez, OCB Staff Director; Thomas Kent, President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Christine Fetzko, RFE/RL Chief of Staff; Stephanie Schmidt, RFE/RL Budget Director; Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Pam Goodnow, RFE/RL Chief Financial Officer; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Bay Fang, RFA Executive Editor; Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); Deirdre Kline, MBN Director of Communications; and Stephanie Forman Morimura, Special Assistant, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs.

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Kenneth Weinstein  
Chairman

Witnessed:

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David Kligerman  
Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda of the June 6, 2018 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of March 14, 2018 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Armenian Service – Azatutyun Radiokayan
4. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Georgian Service – Radio Tavisupleba
5. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kazakh Service – Radio Azattyq
6. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Kyrgyz Service – Radio Azattyk
7. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Tajik Service – Radio Ozodi
8. Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Uzbek Service – Radio Ozodlik

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
VOICE OF AMERICA'S ENGLISH TO AFRICA SERVICE**

**September 5, 2018**

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting in English to Africa on August 4, 1963, to provide accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to the African people;

WHEREAS, the VOA's English to Africa Service has served for decades as a vital communications link with the African people in support of freedom and democracy, and through the challenges African countries face today;

WHEREAS, the VOA's English to Africa Service has successfully adopted television, online, mobile and social media platforms to reach even greater numbers of English-speaking Africans;

WHEREAS, VOA English to Africa is a leading source of news and information for African audiences about United States policy, and expert news and analysis on Africa and the rest of the world;

WHEREAS, VOA English to Africa is a unique source of news and information about African and American society and their achievements in democratic governance, business, medicine, science, technology and the arts, which can serve as an inspiration to audiences;

WHEREAS, VOA English to Africa remains a respected source of objective and accurate news and information about Africa, the United States and the world, with a major focus on political and economic news, human rights, humanitarian affairs, and democratic practices;

WHEREAS, the VOA English to Africa Service continues to broadcast daily to more than 27 million people across Africa and to diaspora audiences around the world; and

WHEREAS, VOA English to Africa Service is among the leading international broadcasters on the continent of Africa.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) that we celebrate and commemorate the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voice of America's English to Africa Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Governors and CEO commend and congratulate both the current and former members of the Voice of America's English to Africa Service for their dedication in serving African audiences and fostering the open communication of information and ideas between them and the United States.