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From: Board of Governors

Date: June 5, 2019

Subject: **Minutes of USAGM’s Board of Governors Meeting of June 5, 2019**

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 Ryan Crocker  
Governor Michael Kempner (by telephone)  
Governor Karen Kornbluh (by telephone)  
Jennifer Hall Godfrey, Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

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 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 with the topic of threats to press. He noted that oppressive regimes regularly seek to control information and to keep their citizens in the dark by blocking content, harassing or jailing journalists, and going after the journalists’ families. He added that USAGM journalists are working twice as hard to shine a light on the truth. There followed a short video highlighting the following:

In March, the government of Burundi banned Voice of America (VOA) and expanded restrictions on its operations in the region. VOA reporters in Burundi are now forbidden to provide any coverage of any story on any platform.

On May 9, many social-media apps and news websites, including that of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s (RFE/RL) Kazakh Service, were inaccessible in Kazakhstan for most of the day following several protests and “unsanctioned” rallies on Victory Day. More protests were expected leading up to the June 9 presidential elections. During those same protests in Kazakhstan, the cars of two RFE/RL cameramen were broken into or blocked, effectively keeping both from documenting the rallies.

Stringers for VOA's Urdu service in Pakistan have been followed around by the Pakistan Intelligence Bureau.

In Tajikistan, Tajik students and educators have reported being forced to "troll" government critics, on "orders from their university administrations and the Education and Science Ministry, which they claimed in turn received instructions from law enforcement agencies."

In Zimbabwe, VOA's Harare-based stringer Godwin Mangudya received a threat from a coal mining company contractor who was under investigation for bribery. After reporting on the investigation, Mangudya received a phone threat to his life.

RFE/RL Kyrgyz Service investigative reporter Ydrys Isakov was harassed physically and legally this past month in retaliation for his in-depth reporting on the corruption in Osh.

The families of several Radio Free Asia's (RFA) reporters in China are facing tremendous pressure in retaliation for their reporting. Six RFA Uyghur Service reporters have family members detained in a growing network of political re-education camps throughout the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. They are unreachable and in many cases, their conditions are unknown.

On June 2, RFE/RL Ukrainian Service freelancer Stanislav Aseyev began his third year of detention by Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine's so-called Donetsk People's Republic. Aseyev was last seen publicly in a "highly questionable" video confession that aired on Russian state TV.

In Vietnam, three separate USAGM journalists remain wrongly imprisoned. VOA contributor Le Anh Hung continues to be held after being detained in July 2018, after writing about a new cybersecurity legislation that would significantly expand the state's power to censor and control the internet. His family is also being harassed and there is no word on a release date. Meanwhile, Truong Duy Nhat, a weekly contributor for RFA Vietnamese Service's blog section, was being held in a Hanoi prison. He had gone missing on January 26, after writing a commentary on the growing opposition movement in Venezuela and the prospects of change in Vietnam. Additionally, Nguyen Van Hoa, a videographer and blogger for RFA's Vietnamese Service, was serving a seven-year sentence in Vietnam's An Diem Prison and being held in solitary confinement after being beaten and choked by prison guards earlier last month.

The Chairman added that USAGM is proud and grateful for the sacrifices its journalists make every day. He also thanked Senator Edward Markey (MA) and Representative Alan Lowenthal (CA) for their recent letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo highlighting the number of troubling cases of arrests and detentions of independent journalists in Vietnam.

Turning to Board business, Chairman Weinstein 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 22, 2019. He added that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

Governor Crocker then made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Jennifer Hall Godfrey 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 Anne Noonan of the Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting and Assem Tokayeva, a former editor for RFE/RL, to address the Board for three minutes.

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

CEO Lansing began by updating the Board on the agency's response to the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) Soros issue. In May 2018, OCB aired a blatantly anti-Semitic video segment that was deeply offensive and wholly inconsistent with USAGM's professional standards and ethics. He directed a review of OCB, including a panel of independent experts to examine an extensive sample of OCB content to identify and address any patterns of unethical, unprofessional, biased, or sub-standard journalism. He noted that the report from that independent panel was published a couple of weeks ago and posted on the USAGM.gov website. He then thanked the independent experts for their thorough review and emphasized that Tomas Regalado, OCB Director, will remain a key driver of the reform efforts. He then invited Mr. Regalado and the other USAGM networks to highlight their progress in several key strategic areas.

Mr. Regalado said that he and the rest of OCB take the reform recommendations seriously and are actively implementing them. He then went on to brief the Board on OCB's "The Church that Grew-up with the Exile" reporting project. The investigative and historic series looks the last 60 years of the Roman Catholic diocese in Miami and how the church was instrumental in helping Cubans who came to Miami after 1959.

RFA President Libby Liu presented a summary of a video series commemorating the 30th anniversary of the brutal suppression of the Tiananmen Square student protest in Beijing – one of the most significant human rights and democracy movements. President Liu also highlighted a joint Mandarin and Uyghur Services project entitled, "Three Things You Should Know about Xinjiang." The series is particularly timely and valuable, providing context to the issue of growing Uyghur repression and detentions in Western China.

VOA Director Amanda Bennett joined the meeting by phone to tell the Board about a VOA Learning English team that traveled to the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to conduct training for a group of 100 English teachers. This was part of VOA's larger goal to bring their Learning English products to information-starved refugee camps around the world.

Acting RFE/RL President Daisy Sindelar reported on a Current Time documentary on the Russian Internet.

Finally, Ambassador Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, discussed Alhurra's new investigative unit and some of the stories they have uncovered.

CEO Lansing moved to press freedom highlights, which included a video from USAGM’s Media for Democracy Forum held on May 7 at the U.S. Institute of Peace. He then closed with an announcement of this year’s Nathanson Public Diplomacy Scholars, who will attend the Aspen Institute Socrates Seminars held from July 5 to July 8 in Aspen, CO.

In closing, Chairman Weinstein stated that the next Board meeting will be held at USAGM headquarters in Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2019. 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 March 6, 2019 Board Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of the March 6, 2019 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Social Media Policy. The Board adopted the Social Media Policy as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Smith-Mundt Guidelines. The Board adopted the Smith-Mundt Guidelines as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Belarus Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Belarus Service as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution Honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks’ Alhurra Television and Alhurra-Iraq Television. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks’ Alhurra Television and Alhurra-Iraq Television as set forth in Attachment 6.

#### Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: CEO and Director John Lansing; General Counsel and Board Secretary David Kligerman; Managing Director Oanh Tran; Director of Global Communications and Office of Public Affairs Nasserie Carew; Acting Chief Strategy Officer Shawn Powers; Associate Director for Program Support Gary Thatcher; Director of Technology, Services, and Innovation Terry Balazs; Acting Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs Marta McLellan Ross; Office of Congressional Affairs Intern Andrea Heyward; Special Assistant Chelsea Milko; Writer-Editor Laurie Moy; Public Affairs Detailee Freshta Azizi; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA) (by telephone); Sandy Sugawara, VOA Deputy Director; Bridget Serchak, VOA Public Relations Director; Tomas P. Regalado, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Daisy Sindelar, Acting President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Bernadette Burns, RFA General Counsel; Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); and Deirdre Kline, MBN Communications Director.

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Kenneth Weinstein  
Chairman

Witnessed:

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David Kligerman  
Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda of the June 5, 2019 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of March 6, 2019 Board Meeting
3. Social Media Policy
4. Smith-Mundt Guidelines
5. Resolution Honoring the 65th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Belarus Service
6. Resolution Honoring the 15th Anniversary of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks' Alhurra Television and Alhurra-Iraq Television.

**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**June 2019 Meeting Agenda**

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

**Wednesday, June 5**

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**10:45 - 11:45 Board of Governors' Open Meeting (USAGM Conference Room)**

- A. Chairman's Remarks
- B. Consent Agenda
  - Draft Minutes of March 6, 2019 Board Meeting
  - Draft Social Media Policy
  - Draft Smith-Mundt Guidelines
  - Draft Resolution Honoring 65th Anniversary of RFE/RL's Belarus Service
  - Draft Resolution Honoring 15th Anniversary of MBN's Alhurra Television and Alhurra-Iraq Television
- C. Public Comment
- D. CEO & Director's Report
- E. Other Items for Consideration at Next Board Meeting

From: Board of Governors

Date: March 6, 2019

Subject: **Minutes of the USAGM Board Meeting of March 6, 2019**

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  
Michelle Giuda, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs

Governors Ryan Crocker 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 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 welcoming Michelle Giuda, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs. On February 5, Secretary of State Pompeo delegated to Ms. Giuda the authorities of the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. Ms. Giuda said that it was her honor to participate as Secretary Pompeo's representative on the Board and she looks forward to working with everyone at USAGM.

The Chairman turned to the topic of threats to press. He expressed, on behalf of the Board, condolences to the Alhurra family on the death of Alhurra-Iraq assistant videographer Samer Ali Shakara. Samer was just 29 when he was killed in Baghdad on January 9 after an apparent carjacking that turned fatal. Every day, journalists for the networks of USAGM risk harassment, physical harm, and imprisonment simply to do their jobs. In recent months journalists from Vietnam to Venezuela, Uzbekistan to Ukraine, have felt increasing pressure.

#### VIETNAM

Popular blogger and RFA contributor Truong Duy Nhat has been missing for more than three weeks since he fled his home in Da Nang, Vietnam, for neighboring Thailand to seek asylum. It is feared

that Mr. Nhat was abducted and taken back to Vietnam for imprisonment and interrogation.

Also in Vietnam, RFA contributor Nguyen Van Hoa remains imprisoned, serving a 7-year sentence, after daring to report on protests following a toxic-waste spill in 2016. He has been repeatedly beaten in detention and forced to make a false confession, which Vietnamese authorities used to convict an environmental activist. Mr. Hoa recanted that confession at a court hearing last August, possibly subjecting himself to renewed torture.

### SUDAN

Since the outbreak of demonstrations in Sudan and the extensive coverage that MBN has given the events, the Sudanese authorities have been obstructing the work of the Al Hurra reporter, Abdelbagi Alawad Aldaw Mohamed, in Khartoum. After a two week delay he was finally granted journalist accreditation. However, the Sudanese government has retracted those credentials without explanation.

### RUSSIA

Russian officials have launched a retaliatory criminal investigation into Radio Sloboda contributor Svetlana Prokopyeva in a clear attempt to silence the journalist. She faces up to seven years in prison on charges of “justifying terrorism.” Human Rights Watch has condemned the investigation as a “misuse of anti-terrorism laws to stifle free speech.” Reporters Without Borders has called the investigation “baseless”

### UKRAINE

RFE/RL Ukrainian Service freelancer [Stanislav Aseyev](#) continues to be held incommunicado by Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine’s so-called Donetsk People’s Republic. Aseyev disappeared in June 2017 and was last seen publicly in a “[highly questionable](#)” video confession that aired on Russian state TV channel Rossiya 24 on August 17, 2018.

### VENEZUELA

A VOA Spanish reporter was followed to her hotel by Venezuelan paramilitary police after she’d spent time reporting from Caracas. The owner of the hotel as well as the guests stopped the police from entering the premises. The journalist is taking necessary precautions to remain safe.

### IRAQI KURDISTAN

On February 5 the car of a VOA Kurdish Service stringer was set on fire outside of his home. Authorities discovered evidence of arson and are investigating. Another VOA Kurdish stringer has been charged with “promoting terror” in retaliation for reporter done in 2014 and 2015. The stringer’s court date has not yet been set.

### PAKISTAN

[Pressure](#) on RFE/RL’s Pashto-language operations in Pakistan have intensified since the forced closure of its Islamabad bureau last year. For the past six months, Mashaal’s website has been blocked throughout the country. RFE/RL freelancers working in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have also faced significantly increased pressure in the past two months from Pakistani intelligence agencies.

## UZBEKISTAN

RFE/RL correspondents continue to be harassed and [persecuted in Uzbekistan](#). A home owned by RFE/RL Uzbek Service journalist Shukrat Babajanov was seized in August by a court in Uzbekistan; Babajanov claims the seizure is an act of political retribution motivated by his work for RFE/RL and that it follows a pattern of other actions by the government against him and his family.

Turning to Board business, Chairman Weinstein 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 February 22, 2019. He added that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

Ms. Guida moved to table Board consideration of the agency's Smith-Mundt guidelines, pending further review by the State Department's legal team. Chairman Weinstein seconded the motion. Without objection, the Board unanimously voted to table the vote on the Smith-Mundt guidelines. Chairman Weinstein then moved for adoption of the remainder of the consent agenda. Governor Kempner seconded. Without objection, the remainder of 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 the public to address the Board for three minutes. No members of the public were present to speak at the meeting.

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

CEO Lansing began by noting two personnel updates. First, he welcomed Steve Capus, former President of NBC News, who started on February 19 as a consultant. Steve serves as an expert to CEO Lansing and USAGM, providing advice and guidance on various aspects of broadcast and digital journalism to international audiences.

CEO Lansing then spoke about the December 7, 2018 appointment of Daisy Sindelar to the role of Vice President and Acting President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Daisy joined RFE/RL in 2001 and has extensive knowledge of RFE/RL's programming and operations as well as fluency in the Russian language.

CEO Lansing then turned to the U.S. International Coordinating Committee (ICC) to highlight their progress in several key strategic areas of USAGM. Before he invited each of the ICC to give a brief report, CEO Lansing highlighted some recent key events, including the February 7 soft launch of VOA 365, a 24/7 Persian-language global network, and a March 5 VOA 365 showcase event held on Capitol Hill.

The CEO also gave an update on the OCB Soros issue, including the agency's fulsome response, which includes a recently completed, comprehensive human resources investigation of the incident and an independent third-party review of OCB content.

VOA Director Amanda Bennett spoke about a new show called *Our Voices*, which launched in early December 2018. It is a half-hour English TV program focusing on African women throughout the continent and around the world. Director Bennett also highlighted VOA's comprehensive coverage of the Venezuela crisis.

Office of Cuba Broadcasting Director Tomas Regalado briefly talked about the Marti's special series called "Cuba 60 Years." He also spoke to OCB's current coverage on-site at the border of Colombia and Venezuela and the network's slate of new TV shows.

RFE/RL Acting President Daisy Sindelar gave an update on RFE/RL's efforts to provide uncensored local and regional news, responsible discussion, and open debate via radio, television, and digital media. Acting President Sindelar also introduced Radio Farda's new director, Medhi Parpanchi, and spoke about recent attacks on journalists working for the Ukrainian Service's Schemes Unit. She also showed a promo for the network's re-launched Bulgarian Service and highlighted a new bureau in Kiev, Ukraine.

RFA President Libby Liu explained RFA's Mandarin Service deep dive into some of the "gray rhinos" that are rearing their heads in China now – everything from bad debt in the bank system to the real estate bubble to issues with the state-owned enterprises, any of which could have a disastrous effect on China's domestic economic situation. President Liu emphasized that RFA programming does not push values or judgements but rather provides its audience with evidence to make their own decisions.

Finally, Ambassador Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN), delivered an update on progress made since the relaunch of Alhurra Television four months prior. Under Ambassador Fernandez's leadership, Alhurra has expanded its news coverage and narrowed the divide between traditional broadcast and modern digital platforms.

In closing, Chairman Weinstein stated that the next Board meeting will be held at USAGM headquarters in Washington, D.C., on June 5, 2019. 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 November 14, 2018 Board Meeting. The Board adopted the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring 20th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Balkan Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring 20th anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Balkan 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; Acting Chief Strategy Officer Shawn Powers; Expert Consultant Steve Capus;

Special Communications Advisor Matt Schuck; Director of Technology, Services, and Innovation Terry Balazs; Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs Ellona Fritschie; Special Assistant Chelsea Milko; Writer-Editor Laurie Moy; Special Assistant Yuna Jacobson; Public Affairs Detailee Freshta Azizi; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Sandy Sugawara, VOA Deputy Director; Kelu Chao, VOA Programming Director; Bridget Serchak, VOA Public Relations Director; Natalie Liu, VOA Public Relations Detailee; Tomas P. Regalado, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Emilio Vazquez, OCB Deputy Director; Jorge Jauregui, OCB Central News Director; Daisy Sindelar, Acting President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Nenad Pejic, RFE/RL Editor-in-Chief; Christine Fetzko, RFE/RL Chief of Staff; Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Mehdi Parpanchi, RFE/RL Director of Radio Farda; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Alberto Fernandez, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN); Deirdre Kline, MBN Communications Director; Jennifer Hall Godfrey, Chief of Staff for the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs; 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 March 6, 2019 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of November 4, 2018 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring 20th Anniversary of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Balkan Service

International Broadcasting Bureau  
Broadcasting Administrative Manual

NOTICE

Material within this Broadcasting Administrative Manual may no longer be current. To ensure having the most current policy or procedure, please contact the Agency office responsible for the subject matter, e.g., information about performance appraisal, staffing, or compensation should be directed to the Office of Human Resources. For assistance in determining which office to contact, please contact Chris Luer of the Office of Administration at (202) 203-4595 or cluer@bbg.gov.

BAM Update: The policy with the most recent date takes precedence over policies in other sections of the existing and new BAM that have older dates.

**PART V-XXX PERSONNEL (XXX), 500 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, CONDUCT, AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section XXXX

**SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

XX01 Purpose

XX02 Scope

XX03 Social Media Definition

XX04 Basic Social Media Policy

XX05 Additional Considerations for Journalists

XX06 Government-Wide Standards of Conduct

- XX06.1 Ethical Standards
- XX06.2 Misuse of Position
- XX06.3 Use of Non-Public Information
- XX06.4 Political Activity
- XX06.5 Discrimination and Harassment

XX07 Official Use of Social Media

XX08 Posting Journalistic Content to Personal Social Media Accounts

- XX08.01 Directly Posting Journalistic Material
- XX08.02 Indirectly Posting Journalistic Material

Section XXXX

## Social Media Policy

### XX01 Purpose

This policy establishes a framework for access to and use of social media. This policy shall be modified and/or amended in the future to accommodate additional social media issues.

### XX02 Scope

This policy applies to all Agency personnel and all users of Agency systems, including Civil Service employees, personal service contractors, employees abroad including locally employed staff, and contractors performing duties under their contract with the United States Agency for Global Media.

### XX03 Social Media Definition

Social media consist of a variety of digital technologies that foster interaction among individuals who use the tools. Social media enable individuals to post their own content to Web sites accessible to others; comment on, rate and/or tag content that others have posted; download distributed media files; dynamically develop software applications; interact in simulated learning, gaming and trading environments; engage in online conversations; and observe the interactions of others.

### XX04 Basic Social Media Policy

As a general matter, the Agency encourages the responsible use of social media consistent with current laws, policies and guidance that govern information and information technology.

The Agency notes that while social media have vastly accelerated the speed of communication and greatly broadened audience size, they neither restrict nor expand the existing limitations on speech by Agency personnel. Agency personnel do not surrender their First Amendment rights as a result of their employment; however, the Government may restrict the speech of its personnel when they are not speaking as private citizens on matters of public concern or when the Government's interest in the efficient provision of public services outweighs the interest of its personnel in their speech.

### XX05 Additional Social Media Considerations for Journalists

The Agency is required by law:

- a. to conduct international broadcasting in accordance with the highest professional standards of broadcast journalism, 22 U.S.C. § 6202(a) (5), which includes
- b. news which is consistently reliable and authoritative, accurate, objective, and comprehensive, 22 U.S.C. § 6202(b) (1), and
- c. a balanced and comprehensive projection of United States thought and institutions, reflecting the diversity of United States culture and society, 22 U.S.C. § 6202(b) (2).

To effectuate this, Agency journalists, defined as those involved in the gathering, production, editing, translation, presentation, or dissemination of content, must be fair, impartial, and objective in all public spaces, including social media. Accordingly, journalists must avoid action that undermines their objectivity as journalists and/or the credibility of the Agency and its constituent entities as news organizations.

Therefore, in addition to the social media policy set forth in this Broadcasting Administrative Manual, journalists must comply with any and all applicable journalistic standards governing use of and conduct on social media, as set forth by their respective entity's best practices guides or internal professional guidance. Failure to do so may be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the Federal Service or contractual termination, as applicable.

#### XX06 Government-Wide Standards of Conduct

All Agency personnel are required to adhere to government-wide standards of conduct that apply to online communications at all times, whether by means of Agency or personal social media accounts. In general, the restrictions on communications by Agency personnel are adapted from statute and the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.). While not exhaustive, the following restrictions apply to all personnel, and violations may be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the Federal Service or contractual termination, as applicable:

XX06.1 Ethical Standards - Agency personnel shall not engage in criminal, infamous, dishonest, immoral, or notoriously disgraceful conduct, or other conduct prejudicial to the Government. (5 C.F.R. § 735.203)

XX06.2 Misuse of Position - Agency personnel shall not use their public office for private gain, for the endorsement of any product, service, or enterprise, or for the private gain of friends, relatives, or other acquaintances. Agency personnel shall not use or permit the use of their Government position or title or any authority associated with their public office in a manner that is intended to coerce or induce another person to provide any benefit, financial or otherwise, to themselves or to friends, relatives, or persons with whom they are affiliated in a nongovernmental capacity. Subject to limitations set forth in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.702(b) and(c), Agency personnel shall not use their Government position or title, or Federal or Agency seals or logos, in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that the Government endorses or sanctions their personal activities or those of another. (5 C.F.R. § 2635.702)

XX06.3 Use of Non-Public Information - Agency personnel shall not allow the improper use of non-public information to further their own private interest or that of another, whether by engaging in financial transactions using such information, through advice or recommendation, or by knowing unauthorized disclosure. Non-public information is information that an individual gains by reason of Federal employment and that he or she knows or reasonably should know has not been made available to the general public. (5 C.F.R. § 2635.703)

XX06.4 Political Activity - Certain restrictions on political activity by certain Agency personnel apply regardless of whether they are on duty or on their personal time. Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 7321-7326). For example, no employee may solicit, accept, or receive political contributions, at any time or in any forum. Id. § 7323(a)(2). Additional information is available in Office of Special Counsel's [Hatch Act Guidance on Social Media](#) and [Hatch Act Social Media Quick Guide](#).

XX06.5 Discrimination and Harassment - All Agency personnel are responsible for treating fellow employees with basic respect and dignity, and must not harass or discriminate against fellow employees based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, disability (physical or mental), genetic information, status as a parent, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor. (5 U.S.C. §§ 2301- 2302)

#### XX07 Official Use of Social Media

Agency personnel may access and contribute content (both original entries and responses to entries) on and through social media in their official capacity. Agency personnel are responsible for the content they publish in their official capacity, which must:

- a. abide by the Terms of Service - defined as a contract between social media users and third-party site providers - of the site on which the content is posted;
- b. comply with intellectual property laws;
- c. adhere to host country laws, as applicable and directed by management;
- d. conform to the standards and principles for United States international broadcasting set forth in Sections 303 of the United States International Broadcasting Act, 22 U.S.C. § 6202.
- e. comply with the the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, as amended(the "Smith-Mundt Act"), 22 U.S.C. § 1461 et seq.

Agency personnel using social media in their official capacity must also comply with:

- a. the Agency policy on safeguarding Personally Identifiable Information (PII), codified in in Section 200 of Part XI of the Broadcasting Administrative Manual;
- b. the Agency policy on information security awareness training and role-based training requirements and responsibilities, codified in in Section 300 of Part XI of the Broadcasting Administrative Manual; and
- c. the [2008 Privacy Breach Notification Policy](#).

Agency personnel using social media in their official capacity shall also:

- a. refrain from using or permit Agency computer systems, electronic devices, and social media accounts to be used for other than authorized purposes; and
- b. use time allocated to official use of social media in an honest effort to perform official duties.

Violations of the foregoing may be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the Federal Service or contractual termination, as applicable.

#### XX08 Personal Use of Social Media

XX08.01 Posting Journalistic Material - Agency personnel are permitted to link to and embed Agency journalistic material from official, public-facing outlets. However, Agency personnel are prohibited from directly posting Agency journalistic or wire service material to their personal social media accounts, of any length or in any format and including archived and unaired content ("B-roll"). Doing so may violate intellectual property laws, and harms the Agency's ability to grow and maintain audiences through official distribution channels. Violations may constitute grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

**USAGM SMITH-MUNDT GUIDELINES**

Table of Contents

**GUIDING PRINCIPLE** ..... 2

Summary of Smith-Mundt Restrictions ..... 2

**KEY POINTS RE U.S. DISTRIBUTION OF USAGM CONTENT** ..... 2

USAGM [ENTITY] Guidelines ..... 3

Content Distribution Platforms..... 3

FAQS..... 4

    Town Halls, Forums, and Other Such Events; Partnerships; and activities to support the recruitment and retention of high-quality journalists;..... 4

    Talking about [ENTITY] Content & Programming..... 4

    Op-Eds by network heads ..... 5

    Usage Requests ..... 5

**APPENDIX A** ..... 6

    Sample workflow or process ..... 6

**APPENDIX B** ..... 7

    Legal and Statutory References (emphases added)..... 7

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE

SMITH-MUNDT RESTRICTIONS RELATING TO DOMESTIC DISSEMINATION ARE TO BE APPLIED TO ALL ENTITIES / NETWORKS OF THE USAGM, INCLUDING GRANTEES.

USAGM NETWORKS MAY ONLY SEEK TO REACH FOREIGN AUDIENCES ABROAD; AND MAY NOT SEEK TO INFLUENCE US PUBLIC OPINION OR PERSONS WITH THEIR CONTENT.

### Summary of Smith-Mundt Restrictions:

**The United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (the “Smith-Mundt Act” or “Smith-Mundt”), 22 USC 1461 et seq., only authorizes Agency-funded broadcasts and activities to target “foreign audiences abroad.” 22 USC §1461 Note (emphasis added).**

Congress has made clear “[n]o funds authorized to be appropriated to ... the Broadcasting Board of Governors [USAGM] shall be used to influence public opinion in the United States.” 22 USC §1461–1a(a). The Agency may not take or fund actions which would appear to seek “to develop audiences within the United States”, including by means of “syndicat[ing] such material through domestic media outlets.” H.R. CONF. REP. 112-705 (2012). Statutory references appear in Appendix B.

It does not prevent us from using the Internet and social media to distribute our products to non-U.S. audiences, overseas just because people in the U.S. might also see the material. (For example, we can disseminate program material to foreign audiences abroad via websites even though persons within the U.S. can also access such websites.) The law does not prevent incidental exposure of U.S. audiences to program material, as long as those audiences are not being targeted. As described herein, USAGM broadcasters have an affirmative obligation to take all steps to ensure that US audiences are not being targeted; for example, broadcasters must opt out of boosting content to audiences located in the U.S. As described in this guidance, if a platform does not allow for the agency to exclude pushing content to U.S. audiences, then the technology must be reviewed on a case by case basis by USAGM. Until such a review, such technology should not be used.

The statute does not prevent the provision of “program material” to people in the U.S. *upon request*, so long as such provision is consistent with the purposes of Smith-Mundt. It does not prevent us from entering into certain partnerships or providing opportunities for exposure for network journalists to enhance retention and recruitment.

But USAGM entities / networks may not attempt to target audiences in the United States. Ultimately, **if** it looks like the intent is to subvert the rules – i.e., **if the goal is to influence public opinion in the United States or otherwise develop audiences within the United States** - then the activity is prohibited.

## KEY POINTS RE U.S. DISTRIBUTION OF USAGM CONTENT

- THE SMITH-MUNDT RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO DISTRIBUTION OF USAGM [ENTITY] CONTENT & PROGRAMMING WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.
- THEY DO NOT IN ANY WAY RESTRICT USAGM [ENTITY] COVERAGE OF NEWS STORIES. [ENTITY] IS FULLY AUTHORIZED AND EXPECTED TO COVER STORIES IN THE U.S. FOR DISTRIBUTION TO FOREIGN AUDIENCES OVERSEAS.
- USAGM [ENTITY] / NETWORK STAFF SHOULD NOT INITIATE A DIRECT OFFER OF CONTENT<sup>1</sup> TO ANY NEWS OUTLET, REGARDLESS OF GEOLOCATION, THAT BROADCASTS TO, TARGETS, OR REACHES AUDIENCES IN THE U.S., WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION PURSUANT TO A PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER THESE INTERNAL GUIDELINES.
- USAGM ENTITIES CANNOT SPEND ANY ADVERTISING OR OTHER FUNDS TO SPECIFICALLY TARGET OR DEVELOP AUDIENCES IN THE U.S.
- WHEN VIOLATIONS OF SMITH-MUNDT PROHIBITIONS (I.E., TARGETING OF U.S. AUDIENCES) ARE IDENTIFIED, WHETHER BY AN AUDIT OR IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF BUSINESS, THEY MUST BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE USAGM CTO.
- USAGM WILL PERIODICALLY AUDIT OR REQUEST TO SEE AUDITS CONDUCTED AT EACH NETWORK.
- NEW TECHNOLOGIES WHICH COULD PUSH CONTENT TO USERS SHOULD FIRST BE EVALUATED FOR SMITH-MUNDT COMPLIANCE (SEE CONTENT DISTRIBUTION PLATFORMS, BELOW).

### USAGM [ENTITY] Guidelines

1. Each [ENTITY] shall develop and maintain an auditable workflow to process questions or requests regarding Smith-Mundt.
2. Each [ENTITY] shall assign a designated single point of contact and an escalation point of contact to connect with other entities and the USAGM regarding Smith-Mundt issues.
3. Each [ENTITY] shall develop, implement and maintain appropriate policies to address violations, up to and including termination of staff or contractors.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The law does permit USAGM to enter into contractual content sharing agreements with private entities, including American media agencies.

<sup>2</sup> Any policies with employment-related consequences would be developed in consultation with the entity's HR office

4. Each [ENTITY] shall develop, implement and maintain mandatory training and materials to ensure current and new consultants or staff who are authorized to make decisions regarding Smith-Mundt requests or ad placement are aware of Smith-Mundt, its scope and application, and these guidelines. Training shall reoccur at regular intervals with a signed and auditable acknowledgment of completion.

## Content Distribution Platforms

In any new undertaking with any new or existing platform, it may be incumbent upon [ENTITY] to request that the platform restrict the content from U.S. users.<sup>3</sup> A standing USAGM working group will evaluate the proposed agreement prior to its execution according to multiple factors designed to ensure compliance with the law.

## FAQS

[Town Halls, Forums, and Other Such Events; Partnerships; and activities to support the recruitment and retention of high-quality journalists;](#)

USAGM entities may host or play a role in Town Halls or related events in the United States if the purpose of the event is to engage overseas audiences; to inform U.S. stakeholders about [ENTITY] programs; or to educate U.S. taxpayers about [ENTITY] operations. For example, if a town hall is being filmed and/or broadcast live to an overseas audience, that would be okay if intended to connect overseas audiences with persons in the U.S. to show overseas audience how people in the U.S. do a particular thing; or something newsworthy to an overseas audience.

In line with efforts to adhere to the highest standards of broadcast journalism, there may be times, subject to any required approvals, that [ENTITY] journalists appear as subject-matter experts in other news outlets. This may be allowed if the purpose is to benefit [ENTITY] by facilitating development of new sources of information, enhancing [ENTITY]'s credibility, and/or contributing to the recruitment or retention of high-caliber journalists.<sup>4</sup> The purpose may not be influence domestic audiences in violation of Smith-Mundt. In other cases, the purpose may be to disseminate [ENTITY] content overseas as part of an arrangement with another news organization.

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and legal counsel.

<sup>3</sup> For example, Facebook ad “boosting” allows for a user to opt out of targeting audiences in the U.S., so Facebook ad “boosting” is only allowed if the [ENTITY] first ensures that the U.S. is not among the geographic locations targeted by the boost.

<sup>4</sup> Any engagement with such news outlets must adhere to and be consistent with [ENTITY]'s best practices guides and policies for journalists.

Please clear such events, partnerships, and activities in advance with [ENTITY] leadership, who should consult with their Office of General Counsel. They should also consult with the USAGM Office of General Counsel if any questions arise re the application of Smith-Mundt or these guidelines to this or any other circumstance.

USAGM leadership may be able to engage in certain partnership arrangements if the purpose is to enhance the quality or distribution of USAGM content to foreign audiences overseas. Such partnerships must be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by USAGM.

### Talking about [ENTITY] Content & Programming; Op-Eds by [ENTITY] heads

As indicated herein, the funds that the USAGM provides are only authorized to create and distribute news and information to “foreign audiences abroad” However, the law also makes clear that nothing prevents USAGM from “providing information about its operations, policies, programs, or program material, or making such available, to the media, public, or Congress, in accordance with other applicable law.”

If someone from a domestic U.S. news organization asks you about [ENTITY]’s work, you can freely talk about the content [ENTITY] produces. Nothing in Smith-Mundt prevents that. Furthermore, Smith-Mundt does not prevent an [ENTITY] President or other officer from submitting an op-eds to a domestic news publications on behalf of his/her respective network, on an issue of interest to the public **relating to [ENTITY’S] operations**. For, example if an issues about ENTITY operations became a story in domestic media, Smith-Mundt does not prevent an [ENTITY] Officer from publishing an op-ed providing the [ENTITY’s] view of the [ENTITY’S] operational issue. Such publication is still subject to any other relevant USAGM or [ENTITY] policy on such matters. This is distinguishable from the conduct prevented by Smith-Mundt.

### [ENTITY] AppS

An [ENTITY] App is determined to be like an [ENTITY] Website, whereby (1) users must visit it to get content, and (2) it is designed to target users overseas.

[ENTITY] may post mobile applications for download in a ny app stores, so long as the purpose is for overseas audiences to use the app. If using the U.S. App store for this purpose, the [ENTITY] should (1) disable push functionality (e.g., pop-up news alerts) or render it opt-in; and (2) notify or inform users, in the Terms of Service, of how the application is being provided in the U.S. App store in a manner consistent with the Smith-Mundt restrictions.

### Usage Requests

Smith-Mundt authorizes the provision of content, developed with funds appropriated to USAGM, to individuals and organizations in the United States if they request it, so long as the provision would not be inconsistent with the purposes of the Smith-Mundt restrictions

relating to domestic dissemination.<sup>5</sup> From time to time, USAGM [ENTITY] staff may receive requests for **one-time** use of content or for **ongoing use** of programming. These usage requests could come from anyone, including U.S.-based media organizations, diaspora media outlets, overseas media outlets, or from educational institutions.

Each USAGM entity that has not yet developed a Smith-Mundt-compliant process for usage requests, shall do so. A sample workflow is attached in Appendix A.

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<sup>5</sup> Regulations pertaining to domestic requests for program material created by the Agency's Federal Entities/Networks are set forth in 22 CFR Part 502.

## APPENDIX A

### Sample workflow or process

(Note: Each Grantee’s process may differ slightly, so long as they do not result in an impermissible affiliate relationship or other arrangement with an entity seeking to reach audiences within the U.S.)

#### **[ENTITY] Staff Should Not Respond Directly To REQUESTS**

- Instead, they should develop a workflow that will identify and separate out the following:
  - Requests for **one-time use** of [ENTITY] original content
  - Requests for **ongoing use of [ENTITY] programming** from entities that qualify as overseas affiliates
  - Requests for **ongoing use of [ENTITY] programming** from entities that do not qualify as overseas affiliates, e.g. entities seeking to reach audiences in the U.S.
- Requests for **one-time use** of [ENTITY] original content should be routed to a dedicated office for that purpose.
- Requests for **ongoing use of [ENTITY] programming** from entities that qualify as overseas affiliates should be routed to USAGM Office of Business Development
- Requests for **ongoing use of [ENTITY] programming** from entities that do not qualify as overseas affiliates (so called “non-affiliate” requests) should receive the following reply:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding a subscription to / affiliate agreement for [ENTITY] content. Under the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (the “Smith-Mundt Act”), 22 U.S.C. § 1461 et seq., [ENTITY] may make its content, which is intended for dissemination to foreign audiences abroad, available to qualified requestors. This law, however, prohibits [ENTITY] from syndicating its content through domestic media outlets with the intent to develop audiences within the United States or expending funds to influence public opinion within the United States. Because you seek to disseminate [ENTITY] content on an ongoing basis to a U.S. audience, we cannot fulfill your request.

Alternatively, you may:

- 1) submit a request for a **one-time** use of content by visiting [ENTITY WEBSITE REQUEST FORM]; or

2) download and broadcast content on an ongoing basis from [ENTITY WEBSITE], subject to your acceptance of and compliance with the website's terms of use. In particular, please note that certain [ENTITY] content may use text, video, audio, photos or graphics that are the intellectual property of third parties, including ABC News, Agence France Presse (AFP), the Associated Press (AP), and Reuters, that is licensed for use in [ENTITY] programming only. This third-party material is not in the public domain and may not be copied, redistributed, sold, or published without the express permission of the copyright owner.<sup>6</sup>

- **Unaired or unpublished original USAGM [ENTITY] material should not be shared.** Please forward those requests to [ENTITY] senior management, the [responsible Editors] and the [ENTITY] Office of General Counsel.

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<sup>6</sup> USAGM and each grantee need to work out separately whether this language would apply to them in light of the fact that they assert a copyright in their content, and can thus restrict download and use.

## APPENDIX B

### Legal and Statutory References (emphases added)

#### Legislative Language

#### **22 USC §1461. General authorization**

##### **(a) Dissemination of information abroad**

The Secretary and the Broadcasting Board of Governors are authorized to use funds appropriated or otherwise made available for public diplomacy information programs to provide for the preparation, dissemination, and use of information intended for foreign audiences abroad about the United States, its people, and its policies, through press, publications, radio, motion pictures, the Internet, and other information media, including social media, and through information centers, instructors, and other direct or indirect means of communication.

##### **(b) Dissemination of information within the United States**

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary and the Broadcasting Board of Governors **may, upon request** and reimbursement of the reasonable costs incurred in fulfilling such a request, make available, in the United States, motion pictures, films, video, audio, and other materials disseminated abroad pursuant to this chapter, the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), the Radio Broadcasting to Cuba Act (22 U.S.C. 1465 et seq.), or the Television Broadcasting to Cuba Act (22 U.S.C. 1465aa et seq.). Any reimbursement pursuant to this paragraph shall be credited to the applicable appropriation account of the Department of State or the Broadcasting Board of Governors, as appropriate. The Secretary and the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall issue necessary regulations—

- (A) to establish procedures to maintain such material;
- (B) for reimbursement of the reasonable costs incurred in fulfilling requests for such material; and
- (C) to ensure that the persons seeking release of such material have secured and paid for necessary United States rights and licenses.

(2) With respect to material disseminated abroad before the effective date of section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013—

- (A) the Secretary and the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall make available to the Archivist of the United States, for domestic distribution, motion pictures, films, videotapes, and other material 12 years after the initial dissemination of the material abroad; and
- (B) the Archivist shall be the official custodian of the material and shall issue necessary regulations to ensure that persons seeking its release in the United States have secured and paid for necessary United States rights and licenses and that all costs associated with the provision of the material by the Archivist shall be paid by the persons seeking its release, in accordance with paragraph (4).

(3) The Archivist may undertake the functions described in paragraph (1) on behalf of and at the request of the Secretary or the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

(4) The Archivist may charge fees to recover the costs described in paragraphs (1) and (2), in accordance with section 2116© of title 44. Such fees shall be paid into, administered, and expended as part of the National Archives Trust Fund.

**(c) No requirement to provide material in different format**

Nothing in this section may be construed to require the Secretary or the Broadcasting Board of Governors to make material disseminated abroad available in any format other than in the format disseminated abroad.

(Jan. 27, 1948, ch. 36, title V, §501, 62 Stat. 9; Pub. L. 92–352, title II, §204, July 13, 1972, 86 Stat. 494; Pub. L. 96–60, title II, §208, Aug. 15, 1979, 93 Stat. 401; Pub. L. 101–246, title II, §202, Feb. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 49; Pub. L. 112–239, div. A, title X, §1078(a), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1957.)

\* \* \*

**RULE OF CONSTRUCTION**

Pub. L. 112–239, div. A, title X, §1078(b), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1958, provided that:

**“Nothing in this section** [amending this section and sections 1437, 1461–1a, and 1462 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 1437 of this title], or in the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), **may be construed** to affect the allocation of funds appropriated or otherwise made specifically available for public diplomacy or **to authorize appropriations for Broadcasting Board of Governors programming other than for foreign audiences abroad.”**

**22 USC §1461–1a. Clarification on domestic distribution of program material**

**(a) In general**

**No funds authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State or the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall be used to influence public opinion in the United States.** This section shall apply only to programs carried out pursuant to the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), the Radio Broadcasting to Cuba Act (22 U.S.C. 1465 et seq.), and the Television Broadcasting to Cuba Act (22 U.S.C. 1465aa et seq.). **This section shall not prohibit or delay the Department of State or the Broadcasting Board of Governors from providing information about its operations, policies, programs, or program material, or making such available, to the media, public, or Congress, in accordance with other applicable law.**

**(b) Rule of construction**

**Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Department of State or the Broadcasting Board of Governors from engaging in any medium or form of communication, either directly or indirectly, because a United States domestic audience is or may be thereby exposed to program material, or based on a presumption of such exposure.** Such material may be made available within the United States and disseminated, when appropriate, pursuant to sections 502 and 1005 of the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1462 and 1437)<sup>i</sup>, except that nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the Department of State or the Broadcasting Board of Governors to disseminate within the United States any program material prepared for dissemination abroad on or before the effective date of section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

### **(c) Application**

The provisions of this section shall apply only to the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors and to no other department or agency of the Federal Government.

(Pub. L. 99–93, title II, §208, Aug. 16, 1985, 99 Stat. 431; Pub. L. 103–236, title II, §232, Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 424; Pub. L. 112–239, div. A, title X, §1078(c), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1958.)

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### **Relevant Legislative History**

#### **H.R. CONF. REP. 112-705 (2012)**

#### **Dissemination abroad of information about the United States (sec. 1078)**

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 1097) that would amend section 501 of the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (also known as the Smith-Mundt Act; 22 U.S.C. 1461) [...]

The conferees maintain that the Secretary of State and BBG are authorized to utilize funds for public diplomacy programs to provide for the preparation, dissemination, and use of information intended for foreign audiences. **Further, the conferees maintain that no funds authorized for the Department of State or BBG shall be used to influence public opinion in the United States.** The conferees recognize that the ban on domestic dissemination of BBG or Department of State public diplomacy products contained in the Smith-Mundt Act did not envision the development of new technologies, including the Internet or satellite broadcasting, which do not honor national boundaries. The conferees note the modification on the prohibition on domestic dissemination does not apply to other agencies of the U.S. Government, as the initial ban was also not applicable to them. In addition, this amendment in no way broadens or otherwise changes the current missions of the Department of State and BBG.

**In addition, the conferees believe the provision would allow BBG to respond to domestic requests for BBG material, but not to seek to syndicate such material through domestic media**

**outlets with the intent to develop audiences within the United States.** Further, the conferees expect that reimbursements and fees should not exceed the actual costs incurred to make materials available pursuant to the statute. The conferees also believe that the fees charged pursuant to this provision should be assessed according to a standardized, publicly-available fee schedule; and that the Secretary of State, BBG, and the National Archivist should maintain and provide to Congress a regular accounting of the funds collected pursuant to the reimbursement authority of section 501(b)(1) and the fee-collection authority of section 501(b)(4).

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## **22 USC §1437. Utilization of private agencies**

In carrying out the provisions of this chapter it shall be the duty of the Secretary and the Broadcasting Board of Governors **to utilize, to the maximum extent practicable, the services and facilities of private agencies, including existing American press, publishing, radio, motion picture, and other agencies, through contractual arrangements or otherwise.** It is the intent of Congress that the Secretary and the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall encourage participation in carrying out the purposes of this chapter by the maximum number of different private agencies in each field consistent with the present or potential market for their services in each country.

(Jan. 27, 1948, ch. 36, title X, §1005, 62 Stat. 14; Pub. L. 112–239, div. A, title X, §1078(d)(2), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1959.)

## **22 USC §1462. Policies governing information activities**

In authorizing international information activities under this chapter, it is the sense of the Congress (1) that the Secretary and the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall reduce such Government information activities whenever corresponding private information dissemination is found to be adequate; (2) that nothing in this chapter shall be construed to give the Department or the Broadcasting Board of Governors a monopoly in the production or sponsorship on the air of short-wave broadcasting programs, or a monopoly in any other medium of information.

(Jan. 27, 1948, ch. 36, title V, §502, 62 Stat. 10; Pub. L. 112–239, div. A, title X, §1078(d)(1), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1958.)

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S BELARUS SERVICE – RADIO SVABODA  
June 5, 2019**

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) Belarusian-language broadcasts – known as Radio Liberty (Radio Svaboda) – began on May 20, 1954;

WHEREAS, since its first broadcast at the height of the Cold War, Radio Svaboda has earned the trust and gratitude of its audience by promoting the fundamental human rights to freedom and democracy, helping build national identity, and sending a strong signal of international solidarity and hope to the people of Belarus;

WHEREAS, Radio Svaboda plays a special role for its audience, as one of the rare broadcasters, domestic or international, to produce its content in the Belarusian language – a potent symbol of the right of Belarusians to express themselves in their native language, in their homeland;

WHEREAS, Radio Svaboda covers topics and events that local media can't or won't cover, and that the government would prefer to ignore -- the aspirations of Belarusian pro-democracy activists, the plight of political prisoners, the struggles of those pushing back against Russification, the hopes of those who seek a European future for Belarus;

WHEREAS, Radio Svaboda lives up to its slogan, “Your Voice is the Voice of Freedom,” by constantly finding innovative ways of connecting and engaging with its audiences by encouraging citizen journalism, interactivity, and responsible communication on a variety of digital platforms;

WHEREAS, Radio Svaboda works closely with online news aggregator sites in Belarus that serve as multipliers and secondary distributors of its content, enabling its unique coverage to penetrate far beyond the service's direct audience to ignite public debate on mission-related issues; and

WHEREAS, in order to reach those who cannot listen to or see its broadcast programs because of government-imposed restrictions, the Service created the “Liberty Library” – a set of some 70 books and DVDs published since 2002 and available for downloading from the service's website as part of a “Samizdat for the Internet Age,” which includes titles by Nobel Literature Prize winner and Radio Svaboda contributor Svetlana Alexievich.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Governors and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the U.S. Agency for Global Media that we celebrate and commemorate the 65th anniversary of RFE/RL's Belarus Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and CEO applaud and thank current and former members of the Belarus Service for their commitment to their audiences and their dedication to professional journalism.

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
MIDDLE EAST BROADCASTING NETWORKS' ALHURRA AND ALHURRA-IRAQ**

**June 5, 2019**

WHEREAS, Alhurra Television was launched on February 14, 2004, is part of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN), Inc. and will be celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2019;

WHEREAS, Alhurra operates a separate Iraq channel (Alhurra-Iraq) that is one of the top television stations in that country, providing local newscasts and current affairs programs for an Iraqi audience, which is also celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2019;

WHEREAS, in 2018, Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq underwent the most comprehensive transformation since their inception and included substantially increasing the amount of news produced by the two networks, broadening the content with more diverse and hard hitting topics, compelling storytelling, as well as greatly improving the aesthetics of the networks;

WHEREAS, Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq are media outlets that supports and encourages independent voices, reformers and liberal thinkers to share their thoughts and ideas freely, without censorship and government interference;

WHEREAS, Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq's talented and professional journalists courageously report from dangerous areas to provide viewers accurate and unbiased news from the region;

WHEREAS, Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq have earned the trust and confidence of its audience of 16.5 million people every week who tune into the two networks for unbiased news and expert analysis regarding the region, the U.S. and the world;

WHEREAS, Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq serve as a direct line of information regarding the U.S. and U.S. values towards the region, showing all sides of an issue;

WHEREAS, Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq broadcast 24/7 on two separate channels to the Middle East and North Africa and have an all-news website Alhurra.com;

WHEREAS, Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq's mission is to support democratic values by expanding the spectrum of ideas, opinions, and perspectives available in the region's media; and

WHEREAS, Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq are respected sources of news in the region, frequently being cited in articles throughout the Middle East.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Governors and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the U.S. Agency for Global Media that we celebrate and commemorate the 15th anniversary of MBN's Alhurra Television and Alhurra-Iraq Television.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and CEO applaud and thank current and former members of the Alhurra and Alhurra-Iraq team for their commitment to their audiences and their dedication to professional journalism.