



October 7, 2005

Dear Colleague from the Zimbabwean Media and International Media Organisations,

International Media Support Copenhagen (IMS), the Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa (NiZA), Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) and the Open Society Institute, Southern Africa (OSI) are pleased to invite you to attend an international round table on media support strategies for Zimbabwe. The round table will take place in Johannesburg on November 29-30 and will bring together representatives of media outlets and press freedom organizations in Zimbabwe, as well as media support and donor organizations from around the world.

This meeting is being convened due to the continuing deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe and the need for continued support, improved strategies and stronger collaboration and cooperation between key stakeholders in and outside Zimbabwe.

The key objective of the meeting is to jointly analyse the past media experience and to develop an overall strategy for the further protection and expansion of press freedom and freedom of expression as well as enhanced production, dissemination and access to independent and relevant information by and for Zimbabweans. The round table seeks to encourage pledges of support for resulting strategies and projects, and to ensure continuity, follow-up activities will be coordinated by one or more participating organizations.

Prior to the meeting, a background document will be produced by consultants with the guidance and support of IMS, NIZA, OSI and MISA which will provide an analysis of the current media and freedom of expression situation in the country; of the current media projects underway internally and externally; support being provided by international organizations and donors and additional strategies that could be pursued. This background document will be used as a basis for deliberations and you, who represent the Zimbabwe media, are invited to take part in a preparatory strategic planning meeting the day before the full round table, i.e. November 28, also in Johannesburg.

Travel to South Africa, accommodation and meal costs during the round table times are covered for the Zimbabwean media only. Attached is a paper outlining the concepts of the round table. Agenda, additional background documentation and participants list will be sent to all participants closer to the date of the event. Please RSVP to the MISA regional secretariat by October 24: Tel: +264 61 232975, Fax: +264 61 248016 or e-mail to [bonita@misa.org](mailto:bonita@misa.org) and [research@misa.org](mailto:research@misa.org).

We look forward to your participation in this important event.

Regards,

*International Media Support Copenhagen*      *Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa*

*Media Institute of Southern Africa*

*Open Society Institute, Southern Africa  
Network Media Programme*