

## Press Release



WAN-IFRA is the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers. Its mission is to protect the rights of journalists across the world to operate free media, and provide its members with professional services to help their business prosper in a digital world and perform their crucial role in open societies. It derives its authority from its global network of leading news publishing companies and technology entrepreneurs, and its legitimacy from its 80 member publisher associations representing 18,000 publications in 120 countries.

[www.wan-ifra.org](http://www.wan-ifra.org)

### Inquiries about the Congress in Durban

Christin Herger  
Project Manager Global Events  
WAN-IFRA, Frankfurt, Germany  
Tel +49 69 240063 286  
[christin.herger@wan-ifra.org](mailto:christin.herger@wan-ifra.org)

### Contact Press

Vincent Peyrègne  
CEO  
WAN-IFRA, Paris, France  
Tel +33 68 792 17 25  
[Vincent.peyregne@wan-ifra.org](mailto:Vincent.peyregne@wan-ifra.org)

For immediate release

## World News Media heads to Durban at Critical Time for Industry

**More than 800 the world's top media executives, editors, journalists and publishers, from over 80 countries, will gather in Durban, from 7-9 June, for the 2017 World News Media Congress, World Editors Forum and Women in News Summit.**

**Organised by WAN-IFRA, the events offer those interested and/or invested in the future of news the chance to connect via high-level meetings, tailored conferences, workshops, networking opportunities and social activities.**

South African President Jacob Zuma will open the conference at 4pm on 7 June. The [full programme, events and speakers](#) are online.

The Congress place at a critical time for news media worldwide: journalism has started a fight back against misinformation, but the battle is still raging; and news organisations are searching, with renewed vigour, for ways to boost revenue so that they can keep good journalism alive.

Five reasons why the conference will resonate with South African media people:

- Maria Ressa, Editor in Chief of Rappler.com in the Philippines has gone to war against **twitter bots and paid trolls**, which she believe **Weaponised the Internet** with sophisticated and abusive propoganda techniques that have helped shift public opinion on key issues.
- The first line of **defence against fake news**, which can destroy reputations and careers, is the Social Media Desk - is yours upto the task? Jane Elizabeth, head of the accountability journalism programme at the American Press Institute will offer ideas on how to protect your credibility.
- The Congress is back in South Africa, 10 years after the signing of Declration of Table Mountain, a statement of intent for **press freedom across the continent**, It provides a symbolic moment to assess, during the Press Freedom Round Table, whether we are any closer to achieving the goals set in Cape Town in 2007, and if not, what needs to be done.
- Over 200 exciting, inspiring and innovative women journalists, editors and publishers from all corners of the globe who are **breaking through barriers**, challenging traditional business models and innovating in news, will attend the **inuagural Women in News Summit**. And a special Google breakfast will tackle the issue of *Gender Representation and Gender Bias in News Reporting* in the Age of Social Media, looking at the double standards regarding nudity, objectification and stereotyping, and how media and advertisers play into these.
- Case studies from around the world will be presented with ideas on **how grow digital revenue and reset your stragegy**, from the likes Le Figaro, France; The Nation, East Africa; Ringier Africa & Asia; El Tiempo in Colombia; Schibsted in Norway and Gizmodo in the USA

### Workshops and other highlights

- There is something for all - no matter the size of your news organisation: the **Small and Midsized Business** annual meeting will guide people around the issue of big data and how to make the most of it.
- For those interested in sports, there is a workshop on **Sports news as a major driver for media innovation**.
- The awarding of the **Golden Pen of Freedom** to a individual who has shown courage and personal sacrifice in furthering the cause of press freedom.