



## **I. Preamble**

We, the representatives of the Puntland Judiciary, office of the Attorney general, office of the Independent Puntland Human rights Defender, Civil Society groups, Journalists & Media representative - assembled at the workshop aimed at raising awareness on media laws and human rights organised by the Media Association of Puntland with support from the Free Press Unlimited (FPU), held from 23 to 24 November 2017 at the new rays hotel in Garowe, reaffirm our commitment to Uphold the rule of law, promote freedom of expression and Media independence.

During the interactive sessions of this workshop, we have extensively discussed the importance of freedom of expression and media independence, reviewed the processes through which cases against journalists have been approached and recognize that these approaches have not been in conformity to the Puntland constitution, media law and the international legal frameworks.

### **We now hereby declare to:**

#### **A. Collectively**

1. Welcome and encourage the MAP efforts aimed at identifying and raising awareness of the Puntland Media Law enacted December 2016.
2. Note that most of the cases against journalists did not go through legal procedures on search arrests, and pretrial detention;
3. Commit ourselves to building a free and fair environment for media practice in Puntland, cognizant that a free media is significant for enabling good governance and transparency.
4. Recognizing that humankind is at a crossroads, we have united in a common resolve to make a determined effort to respond positively to the promotion of freedom of expression at the benefit of Puntland citizen, by promoting media independence.

#### **B. Judiciary**

- I. Ensure that cases brought against Journalists, and media workers are done in a legal and transparent process and in respect to the Puntland Constitution and Puntland Media law
- II. Reaffirm the reflection of the Puntland Media law when handling such cases related to Media and Journalists

#### **C. Media Executives and Journalists**

1. *Promote* Journalists' Ethics and Training
2. Ensure media outlets report on high ethical standards when reporting always.

3. Raise awareness amongst members and staff at media outlets on the Puntland media law 2016

**D. Name and Organisations representatives**

Mohamed Hared Farah – Deputy Attorney General Puntland

Mohamed Yusuf – Chair – Independent office of the Puntland Human rights Defender.

Nuur Isse Mohamud – Deputy Chair – Puntland Supreme Court

Faisal Khalif Barre – Chair – Media Association of Puntland