

WACC HANDBOOK for DIRECTORS

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ABOUT WACC

1. WACC's Vision

Communication for All.

2. WACC's Mission Statement

The World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) is an international non-governmental organization that promotes communication as a basic human right, essential to people's dignity and community. Rooted in Christian faith, WACC works with all those denied the right to communicate because of status, identity, or gender. It advocates full access to information and communication, and promotes open and diverse media. WACC strengthens networks of communicators to advance peace, understanding and justice.

3. WACC's Principles of Communication

WACC believes that communication plays a crucial role in building peace, security and a sense of identity as well as in promoting justice, mutual accountability and transparency. Communication, WACC believes, contributes to the common good. This conviction has led WACC to articulate seven guiding principles:

- Communication is a spiritual exercise
- Communication builds and shapes community
- Communication enhances participation
- Communication promotes freedom and demands accountability
- Communication celebrates cultural diversity
- Communication builds connectedness
- Communication affirms justice and challenges injustice

WACC sees genuine communication as the basis of understanding and co-operation between peoples of different faiths and cultures. It works for human dignity, justice and peace and promotes communication rights and the democratisation of communication, especially in situations of censorship and oppression.

Based on these beliefs, WACC's general aims are:

- To promote democratic forms of communication which encourage dialogue and debate, enhance people's creativity and solidarity, and respond to people's needs.
- To contribute towards building a communications environment that is open to all and founded on respect for human dignity.
- To support processes that lead to the democratisation of the mass media including advocacy, reflection, policy development, and networking.
- To implement communication programmes and to support projects that lead to the empowerment of people, especially the dispossessed and marginalised, indigenous peoples, refugees, migrants, women, children and people with disabilities.

4. Membership

Membership of WACC is open to organisations and individuals who are sympathetic to its aims and objectives as reflected in its Principles, Vision and Mission Statement. Organisations and individuals are members of the global Association. Members are organised in eight Regional Associations (Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America and Pacific). There are two classes of membership: Institutional Members and Personal Members.

GOVERNANCE

5. Board of Directors

The governing body of WACC UK is its Board of Directors. It currently consists of twelve (12) persons, comprising the President, Treasurer, eight (8) directors elected by the Board from among those nominated by the Regional Associations (with due regard for gender balance), a director resident in England & Wales (appointed by the Board), and the General Secretary (ex officio). The Board meets in person or online to monitor and review WACC's global programmes and activities.

Every Director is entitled and encouraged to speak, to ask questions, and to vote. Decisions are usually taken by simple majority vote.

5.1 Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

According to the Institute of Institutional Directors (2014):

“The role of director is one of stewardship. Directors are responsible for managing, or supervising the management of, the corporation. Directors have complete discretion to exercise their powers as they deem appropriate, subject to the constraints imposed by law. Each director must act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the corporation and must exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances. Delegation is permitted with certain exceptions and must be reasonable in the circumstances, but responsibility for major decisions and the exercise of general discretion will always be the responsibility of the directors.

The board's responsibility for strategic planning and monitoring opportunities and risk is critical. This responsibility involves more than merely adopting a strategic planning process. The board should be responsible for developing the corporation's strategic direction by approving a strategic plan that identifies business opportunities and business risks. The board should oversee management's systems for managing business risk and periodically review the strategic environment with management.

In order for a board of directors to discharge its responsibilities, it must not only be aware of and approve the general direction and plans of the corporation, it must also be satisfied that the plans that it has approved are being effectively implemented and that appropriate internal and external monitoring and audit systems are in place to ensure that the corporation's affairs are being run responsibly. This is done, in part, by reviewing and approving materials such as strategic plans, operating plans and

budgets, and by seeking and relying on the advice of experts, both from within the ranks of the corporation's management and from outside the corporation."

5.2 Additional Appointed Directors

The Board of Directors has the power to appoint up to two additional directors who are not nominated by the Regional Associations in order to meet specific needs in terms of expertise and/or experience.

6. Officers

The Officers comprise the President, two Vice-Presidents (appointed by the Board from among its members), Treasurer, and General Secretary (ex officio).

6.1 Duties and responsibilities of Officers

(a) The President shall preside as chairperson at every meeting of the Board of Directors or if he/she shall not be present or is unwilling to act a Vice-President shall so preside or if he/she shall not be present or is unwilling to act the Directors present shall elect one of their number to be chairperson of the meeting.

(b) The Treasurer has oversight of the maintenance of proper accounting records in compliance with the Act as well as the deposit of money, the safekeeping of securities and the disbursement of funds of the Corporation; whenever required, the Treasurer shall render to the Board an account of all such transactions and of the financial position of WACC.

(c) The General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer. The General Secretary shall manage the day-to-day operations and administration of WACC. The General Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and he/she or designated staff will serve ex-officio on all committees of the Board, except the Nominations Committee, but shall have no voting rights.

7. Meeting of Members

The World Association for Christian Communication is a UK Registered Charity (number 296073) and a Company registered in England and Wales (number 2082273) with its Registered Office at 16 Tavistock Crescent, London W11 1AP, United Kingdom. WACC is also registered in Canada as a not-for-profit corporation (438311-7) and an incorporated charitable organisation (number 83970 9524 RR0001) with its offices at 308 Main Street, Toronto ON, M4C 4X7.

Under revisions to both constitutions approved and filed in 2018 and 2019, WACC UK is the sole member of WACC Canada.

Meetings of the Members of the Association shall be held in accordance with the UK Companies Acts except that only Institutional Members may vote at any General Meeting and each Institutional Member shall have only one vote. The Board of Directors may determine to hold the General Meetings by telephone conference or other form of electronic communication.

In Canada, an annual meeting of Members shall be held at such time in each year as the Board may from time to time determine, provided that the annual meeting must be held not later than 15 months after holding the preceding annual meeting and no later than six months after the end of the Corporation's preceding fiscal year.

8. General Secretariat

The General Secretariat refers to the administrative offices of WACC. The majority of staff are located in Canada and the UK in relation to the registered offices. To maximize representation and efficiency, consultants may also be contracted in other locations, e.g. New York City. The General Secretariat facilitates the implementation of programmes and activities approved by the Board. The Secretariat comprises professionals tasked with implementing WACC's programmes and policies, working with its Regional Associations, project-partners and others to advance WACC's Strategic Plan.

WACC STAFFING

9. Relationship to Board

Under the authority of the General Secretary, staff are responsible for implementing WACC's Strategic Plan and all programmes and activities from time to time approved by the Board.

10. Administration

WACC's programmes and activities are organised in two sectors. The Services Sector is responsible for financial management, funding development, membership administration and the day-to-day running of the General Secretariat. The Programme Sector is responsible for integrating work that includes activities under specific programme headings, workshops, seminars, training, and publications.

WACC'S PROGRAMME

11. Integrated Programmes

WACC takes an integrated programme approach that includes gender as a crosscutting theme. At present, the main programme areas are "Gender and Communication" and "Communication for Social Change".

12. The Development Initiative Programme (DIP)

With the financial support of Bread for the World, small communication projects are funded as part of integrated programmes on a year-to-year basis. Projects supported under DIP must be developmental, innovative, and not part of an ongoing activity or larger programme already funded by WACC or its partners. In addition, the project must begin and be completed within a certain period.

WACC and its REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

13. Membership-base of the Regions

Members of WACC are currently organized in eight Regional Associations that elect Executive Committees responsible for general tasks and the specific activities they may from time to time agree.

14. Responsibilities of WACC Regional Committees

A Regional Association may, but need not be, incorporated. The constitution, By-laws, letters patent or Articles of Incorporation, or other governing documents of each Regional Association shall be subject to the approval of the Board. Such documents shall contain any provisions deemed necessary by the Board in Operating Policies having regard to the role of Regional Associations as extensions of WACC within their respective geographical areas.

14.1 Operating Policies

The Board may approve such Operating Policies relating to the membership, organization, function and method of operation of Regional Associations as well as services available from WACC.

In practical terms, Regional Associations are responsible for:

- (a) Implementing and promoting WACC's aims and objectives.
- (b) Strengthening and working with organizations and individuals dedicated to communication rights and the democratization of communications.
- (c) Promoting and recommending to churches, communities, organisations and individuals the establishment of effective programmes and strategies of communication that reflect WACC's Principles of Communication.
- (d) Stimulating continued research, study and reflection on regional communication needs, trends and features, and recommending relevant activities through conferences, seminars, encounters, workshops and disseminating the results of such activities as widely as possible.
- (e) Promoting the development of communication practices through training, the exchange of information and knowledge and the creation of communication networks aimed at social change.
- (f) Working toward a society based on peace, justice, democracy, and fairness through the democratic and ethical use of communication and the media.
- (g) Promoting the use of communication so that peoples and communities can create, affirm, promote and defend their identity and culture.
- (h) Establishing relationships of cooperation and exchange with like-minded organisations in the region.

(i) Promoting the creation and development of democratic and participatory models and policies of communication.

(j) Participating actively in the ecumenical movement in the region.

(k) Promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue in the region.

15. WACC Staff and Regional Liaison Role

15.1 Each WACC Region will be assigned a named liaison with the WACC Global office. Each person so named may dedicate up to 10% of their staff time to this relationship.

15.2 The liaison relationship supports the administrative relationship between the region and the WACC Global office. The liaison staff is to be the one person that the region will turn to for information, advice and support on matters of governance and administration. Other programme staff may relate to the region on matters related to a specific programme theme. However, it is the named liaison that is responsible for the day-to-day contact between the region and global office on routine and emerging issues. The liaison staff person is responsible to interpret the region to the global office and the global office to the region.

15.3 The liaison relationship will vary from region to region, depending on the identified needs and priorities of each region. It will not be unusual for the staff liaison to give attention to matters such as regional grants, fund raising, nominations, administrative procedures, membership, regional participation in governance meetings, other events, and general enquiries.

15.4 Subject to financial constraints, the liaison staff will normally participate in one regional event every other year.

15.5 The liaison staff will not necessarily be a citizen of/from the region.

15.6 It is anticipated that liaison staff will be named to serve a region for four years, if possible, at which time a review of the assignment will be made in consultation with the region.

Appendix 1: Rules of Procedure for Meetings of WACC Board of Directors

A. The chairperson

The President of WACC shall preside as chairperson at every meeting of the Board of Directors (the Board) or if he/she shall not be present or is unwilling to act, one of the Vice-Presidents shall so preside, or if he/she shall not be present or is unwilling to act, the Directors present shall elect one of their number to be chairperson of the meeting.

B. Formal responsibilities of the chairperson

The chairperson shall announce the opening, suspension, or adjournment of the Board meeting, and shall announce at the beginning of every session the business of that session according to the agenda.

C. Questions arising

Questions arising at a meeting of the Board shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Directors present entitled to vote and so voting. In the case of an equality of votes, the same question shall be put a second time to the meeting, and if on a second vote there shall be an equality of votes, the chairperson of the meeting shall give a second or casting vote.

D. Business of the Board

The Board shall be declared in session for the following business matters: adoption of the agenda and subsequent proposals for change to the agenda, nominations, elections, discussions and proposals with reference to the structure, organisation, budget and programmes of the World Association for Christian Communication, and any other business requiring action by the Board.

The rules of procedure applicable to the Board are:

(1) Chairperson

The chairperson shall seek to achieve the orderly and responsible despatch of business. He/she shall seek as far as possible to give fair and reasonable opportunity for differing views to be expressed. He/she shall ensure good order, relevance, and to prevent repetition. To these ends, the chairperson may request a speaker to move to another point or to cease speaking. The chairperson shall grant the right to speak and determine the order of speakers.

His/her decision is final in all matters with the exception of his/her decision on a point of order under paragraph (19) below, or his/her pronouncement on the sense of the meeting on a particular issue under paragraph (12) below, or as to the result of voting under paragraphs (14) and (15) below.

(2) Speaking

Any person desiring to speak shall raise his/her hand to get the attention of the chairperson and speak only when given the right to do so by the chairperson. The speaker shall address his/her remarks to the chairperson. A speaker may only engage in the debate, state a point of procedure, propose or second a motion or amendment. Anyone may give notice of his/her desire to speak, and

the chairperson shall have regard to such notice but shall remain free to grant the right to speak and to determine the order of speakers under paragraph (1).

(3) Proposing a motion

Anyone who desires to propose any motion arising from business on the agenda shall state it orally and, except in the case of a motion under paragraphs (10) or (11), shall furnish a written copy to the chairperson. Anyone who desires to propose an item of new business shall follow the procedure set out under Rule E.

(4) Seconding a motion

A motion shall not be considered by the Board until it is seconded by a Director. When a motion has been seconded, it may not be withdrawn except with the consent of the proposer and seconder of the motion.

(5) Debate

When a motion has been seconded, the ensuing debate shall be opened by the Director who proposed the motion. The Director may speak for not more than five minutes. When the debate is about to be closed, the Director who proposed the motion may speak in reply to points raised during the debate.

(6) Amendment to a motion

Any Director may propose an amendment to a motion in the same manner as a motion. Paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) shall apply to an amendment. The debate on an amendment shall be limited to the amendment. The proposer of the motion shall be given the opportunity to speak in the debate on an amendment. The chairperson shall rule out of order and shall not receive an amendment which is substantially the negative of the motion being debated.

(7) Amendment to an amendment

Any Director may propose an amendment to an amendment in the same manner as an amendment, but the chairperson shall rule out of order and shall not receive an amendment to an amendment to an amendment.

(8) Debate and voting on amendments

The debate and vote shall be first upon the amendment to the amendment, then upon the amendment, and finally upon the motion. When an amendment to an amendment, or an amendment, has been voted upon, an additional amendment to the amendment, or an amendment, may be proposed, but the chairperson shall rule out of order and shall not receive an amendment to an amendment, or an amendment, substantially the same as one already voted upon.

(9) Rights of the chairperson to take part in a debate

The chairperson shall not propose a motion or amendment or participate in a debate without handing over his/her duties to another Officer, or failing that to a Director, and shall not after that return to the chair until that matter of business has been decided.

(10) Privileged motions

Any Director who has not previously spoken on a motion or amendment may move at any time, but not so as to interrupt a speaker, one of the following privileged motions, which shall take precedence over pending business, and shall have priority in the order listed, the motion with the highest priority being listed first.

a. To recess or to adjourn

If the Board decides to recess or adjourn, the matter pending before the recess or adjournment shall be taken up when the Board reconvenes.

b. That the question not be put

If the Board agrees that the question shall not be put, it shall pass to the next business without taking a vote or decision. The matter may then be brought back to the body at a subsequent plenary session.

c. To postpone indefinitely

When a matter has been postponed indefinitely, it may not be taken up again during the entire meeting of the Board, except with the consent of two-thirds of the Directors present and so voting.

d. To postpone to a time specified

When a matter is postponed to a time specified, it becomes the 'order of the day' for that time and takes precedence over all other business.

e. To refer to a sub-committee

When a matter is referred to a sub-committee nominated by the Board, that sub-committee shall report on it during the meeting of the Board unless the Board itself directs otherwise.

Once a privileged motion has been seconded, a vote on it shall be taken immediately without debate.

(11) Motion to close debate

Any Director may propose a motion to close debate at any time, but not so as to interrupt another speaker. If seconded, a vote shall be taken immediately, without debate, on the following question: "Shall debate on the pending motion (or amendment) be closed?"

If two-thirds of the Directors present and voting agree, a vote shall be taken immediately without further debate on the pending motion (or amendment).

A further motion to close debate can be made on any business then pending. If a motion to close debate is proposed and seconded on the main motion, before the vote is taken on that motion, the Board shall be informed of the names of the Directors wishing to speak, and of any amendments remaining, and the chairperson may ask the Directors for a show of hands of any wishing to speak.

(12) Sense of the meeting

The chairperson shall seek to understand the sense of the meeting on a pending matter and may announce it without taking a vote. Any Director may challenge the chairperson's decision on the sense of the meeting, and the

chairperson may then either put the matter to the vote under paragraph (14) below, or allow further discussion and again announce the sense of the meeting.

(13) Chairperson to put question

The chairperson shall put each matter not otherwise decided to a vote.

(14) Voting – by show of hands

At the end of a debate, the chairperson shall read the motion or amendment and shall seek to ensure that Directors understand the matter upon which a vote is to be taken. Voting shall ordinarily be by show of hands. The chairperson shall first ask those in favour to vote; then those opposing; then those abstaining. The chairperson shall then announce the result.

(15) Voting – by count or secret written ballot

If the chairperson is in doubt, or for any other reason decides to do so, or if any Director demands it, a vote shall be taken by count on a show of hands. The chairperson may appoint tellers to count those voting and abstaining.

Any Director may propose that the Board vote on any matter by secret written ballot, and if seconded and a majority of the Directors present and voting agree, a secret written ballot shall be taken. The chairperson shall announce the result of any count or secret written ballot.

(16) Results of voting

A majority of the Directors present and voting shall determine any matter. If the vote results in a tie, the vote shall be taken again, and if on a second vote the result is a tie, the chairperson shall give a second or casting vote.

(17) Reconsideration

Any two Directors who previously voted with the majority on any matter voted upon may propose to the Board that the matter be reconsidered. The Board may agree with or refuse that request, but if it refuse, those Directors may follow the procedure set out in Rule E, except that a matter shall not be reconsidered unless two-thirds of the Directors present and voting concur in the reconsideration.

(18) Dissent and abstention

Any Director voting with the minority or abstaining may have his/her name so recorded if he/she desires.

(19) Point of order or procedure

Any Director may raise a point of order or procedure and may, if necessary, interrupt another Director to do so. As a point of order, a Director may only assert that the procedure being followed is not in accordance with these Rules. As a point of procedure, a speaker may only ask for clarification of the matter pending.

(20) Time limits

The chairperson may, at his/her discretion, allow extra time to any speaker if the chairperson believes that injustice may be done through difficulty of language or interpretation, or for any other reason, or because of the complexity of the matter under debate.

E. New business or change in the agenda

When any Director desires to have an item of business included on, or any change in, the agenda, and the Board has after consideration not agreed to its acceptance, he/she may inform the chairperson in writing. The chairperson shall then, at a convenient time, read out the item of business or proposed change and shall explain the reasons for its refusal. The Director may then give reasons for its acceptance.

The chairperson shall then, without further debate, put the following question to the Board: "Shall the Board accept this item of business/proposal?" A majority of the Directors present and voting shall determine the question. If the Board votes in favour of accepting the item of business or change to the agenda, the chairperson shall make proposals as soon as possible for the inclusion or change to take place.

F. Suspension of Rules

Any Director may propose that any Rule may be suspended. If seconded, the Rule shall be suspended only by a vote of two-thirds of the Directors present and voting, and only for the duration of the debate pending.

Appendix 2: Conflict of Interest

Declaration of interests based on WACC's Articles:

32 Unless Article 33 (following) applies, a Director must declare the nature and extent of:

- a) any direct or indirect interest which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Association; and
- b) any duty or any direct or indirect interest which he or she has which conflicts or may conflict with the interests of the Association or his or her duties to the Association.

33 There is no need to declare any interest or duty of which the other Directors are, or ought reasonably to be, already aware.

Participation in decision-making

34 No Director shall attend any meeting or part of a meeting or vote on any resolution providing for or relating to any sum or benefit payable to him or her, his or her own appointment or any payment made or to be made to him or her by the Association.

35 No payment of any sum or benefit shall be made to a Director or member of the Board of Directors except by a resolution by the rest of the Board of Directors that such payment or benefit is expedient in the interests of the Association.

Further and complete information can be found in the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Byelaws as amended to 25 June 2018.

Appendix 3: Volunteer Travel Policy

(Approved 2015)

1. Where a volunteer member of any committee is expected to participate in a meeting of that committee, or a WACC member is required to represent the organisation at any event, WACC will underwrite the costs of participation or representation, to the extent that such costs are not met from other sources.
2. Volunteers are normally expected to arrive no earlier than the day before the start of the meeting or event and to depart no later than the day after its conclusion, although it is recognised that airline schedules may not always facilitate this. A traveller must ensure that the duration of the use of any accommodation provided at WACC's expense is minimised.
3. Where the cost of travel tickets can be reduced by a longer stay (e.g. over a Saturday night), travellers should, where possible, lengthen their stay, provided the cost to WACC of additional accommodation and incidental expenses is less than the reduction in the cost of the travel tickets.
4. Travel tickets may either be purchased by WACC or obtained by the volunteer, subject to the following:

Those who are representing WACC will normally make their own travel arrangements. However, when a group of volunteers are travelling together, or are travelling with WACC staff, it may be appropriate to have WACC make the arrangements.

When a significant portion of the cost of travel is not to be covered by WACC, the traveller should book the travel tickets.

When a traveller can obtain travel tickets for less than the amount for which tickets are available to WACC, the traveller is encouraged to purchase the tickets and then obtain reimbursement from WACC.

When a traveller wishes to make complex travel arrangements in order to facilitate activities that are not directly beneficial to WACC, he or she should book the travel tickets.

If WACC books travel tickets which include travel for which WACC is not financially responsible, it will only do so if the traveller agrees to reimburse promptly any additional costs that may be incurred.

5. Accommodation for WACC-sponsored activities will normally be booked by WACC, while persons travelling to events as representatives of WACC, other than in a group or with WACC staff, will normally make their own accommodation arrangements.
6. In some circumstances it may be of assistance to a traveller for WACC to book and/or pay for accommodation beyond that which falls within WACC's financial responsibility. This will only be done if the traveller agrees to reimburse promptly any additional costs that may be incurred.
7. Volunteers should note, particularly when they are making travel and accommodation arrangements for themselves, that:

- (a) WACC will normally only reimburse for economy class travel. When this class of travel is not available and alternative travel arrangements are not practicable, prior approval from the General Secretary is required to ensure that full reimbursement will be made.
 - (b) When possible, air travel should be booked on a “low-cost carrier.” Direct booking with such a carrier may be less expensive than using a travel agent.
 - (c) Travel reimbursement will be limited to the amount for which WACC could have secured travel tickets for the volunteer to travel to the meeting or event. WACC will inform the traveller of the amount.
 - (d) Accommodation should be selected to limit costs, with hotels usually being no more than 3-star rated or equivalent.
 - (e) Accommodation will normally only be provided at WACC’s expense if the cost of such accommodation is less than the cost of commuting to the meeting or event.
8. In order to facilitate planning and to avoid unnecessary expense, volunteers are expected to co-operate with WACC in making travel arrangements at the earliest opportunity, and to notify WACC promptly if they will be making their own travel arrangements. In order to ensure that costs are controlled:
- (a) When a travel ticket is purchased less than six weeks before the start of a meeting or event, and more than six weeks’ notice of the meeting or event has been given, WACC’s financial responsibility for travel will be limited to the amount for which WACC could have purchased a ticket six weeks in advance of the commencement of the meeting or event. WACC will inform the traveller of the amount.
 - (b) When accommodation arrangements are made less than six weeks before the start of a meeting or event, and more than six weeks’ notice of the meeting or event has been given, WACC’s financial responsibility for accommodation will be limited to the amount for which accommodation could have been booked six weeks in advance of the commencement of the meeting or event.
9. Reimbursement of incidental expenses will be limited to reasonable and necessary expenditures, including but not limited to local travel and meals, made in conjunction with participation in the meeting or attendance at the event. No reimbursement will be made for any costs that are incurred unnecessarily.
10. Travel claims must be supported by evidence of expenditure, usually in the form of a receipt or copy of a ticket. Reimbursement will, other than under exceptional circumstances, be made only to the party who incurred the expense; third-party reimbursement must be approved in advance by the General Secretary.
11. It will often be possible to arrange reimbursement of travel expenses during WACC meetings, provided prior notification is given to WACC of the intention to submit a claim at that time. Otherwise, travel claims must be submitted promptly after the completion of travel.
12. If a traveller finds it necessary to cancel travel tickets or modify a travel itinerary, notification must be given to WACC, to the ticket issuer, and **to the carrier** at the earliest opportunity in order to maximise the available refund and/or minimise additional costs. In particular, this notice must be given **prior** to the scheduled

departure time. WACC will not normally be responsible for the cost of cancelling or modifying tickets unless the change is requested by WACC. Any exception to this must be approved by the General Secretary in consultation with the President.

Appendix 5: A Brief History of WACC

WACC's history spans several decades.

1968 – 1977: WACC held its first Assembly in Oslo in 1968. Two years later in 1971, the WACC secretariat was set up in London, followed four years later with the establishment of a Print Media Development Unit, an Electronic Media Development Unit and a Commission on Communication Education. In 1976, WACC established the Black Press Fund to support anti-apartheid newspapers in South Africa.

1978 – 1987: In 1978, WACC convened a study group to devise a programme to defend the interests of Third World nations to have adequate access to satellites and other technologies. In the same year, WACC participated in the World Administrative Radio Conference where questions of access to the electromagnetic spectrum and satellite parking spaces were addressed. A year later in 1980 the first issue of WACC's Media Development Journal was published. In 1984 "Women in Communication" became a new programme at WACC to promote justice and equality for women through existing communication projects. In 1986, WACC signed a contract with Sage Publications for what became a long-running series of books on "Communication and Human Values".

1988 – 1997: In 1988, WACC republished *Many Voices, One World: Communication and Society Today and Tomorrow* – the "MacBride Report" originally published by UNESCO in 1980. Shortly after, WACC commenced work on its first Study and Action Programme (1991-95), focusing on communication ethics, the right to communicate, women's perspectives, communication education, and communication, culture and social change. In 1994, WACC organised the "Women Empowering Communication" conference together with the feminist networks Isis International and the International Women's Tribune Centre, in Bangkok. The conference led to the Bangkok Declaration, which underlined the need to promote forms of communication that not only challenge the patriarchal nature of media but strive to decentralize and democratize them. In 1995, WACC carried out its first Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), a single day snapshot of gender representation in radio, television and print news. In 1996 WACC convened the Platform for Cooperation on Communication and Democratization, resulting in an agreement on the right to communicate to be recognized and guaranteed as fundamental to securing human rights founded on principles of genuine participation, social justice, plurality and diversity.

1998 – 2007: In 2000, WACC conducted its second Global Media Monitoring Project, generating new data to measure change in gender-related indicators in the world news media. Two years later the secretariat of the Communication Rights in the Information Society (CRIS) Campaign began operations at WACC. CRIS aimed to influence the UN World Summit on the Information Society in the light of a vision of an Information Society grounded in the right to communicate, as a means to enhance human rights and to strengthen the social, economic, and cultural lives of people and communities. In 2003, WACC joined civil society groups lobbying for communication rights at the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva and later in Tunis, an effort that succeeded in putting communication rights on the

agenda of civil society organizations and governments. In 2006, WACC's office moved from London (U.K.) to Toronto.

2008 – 2018: WACC held its fourth international Congress on the theme “Communicating Peace: Building viable communities” in Cape Town. Acknowledging WACC's sustained support for communication projects challenging apartheid, keynote-speaker Archbishop Desmond Tutu noted that communicators are called to be peacemakers and to carry on the struggle for justice, dignity and peace for as long as communities remain divided, unviable and wracked by violence.

In 2013, WACC in collaboration with UNESCO and other partners organised the Global Forum on Media and Gender in Bangkok, an event that aimed at accelerating the implementation of provisions in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action related to gender and media. In 2016, WACC was named General Secretary (interim) of the Global Alliance on Gender and Media (GAMAG), a network established in Bangkok to coordinate the work of media organisations, civil society and academia to advance gender equality in and through the media and ICTs.

In 2018, WACC celebrated its 50th anniversary with a symposium on “Communication Rights Today” in Hamburg. It published two special issues of Media Development: The first issue contains a set of position papers arguing for the centrality of media in gender equality struggles, papers developed in preparation for deliberations at the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women; the second issue explores WACC's role in a digital world. As well, this year the World Summit on the Information Society – International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has named WACC one of its Champions in the category “Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society”.

See also WACC's Timeline: <http://www.waccglobal.org/who-we-are/our-history/timeline>