



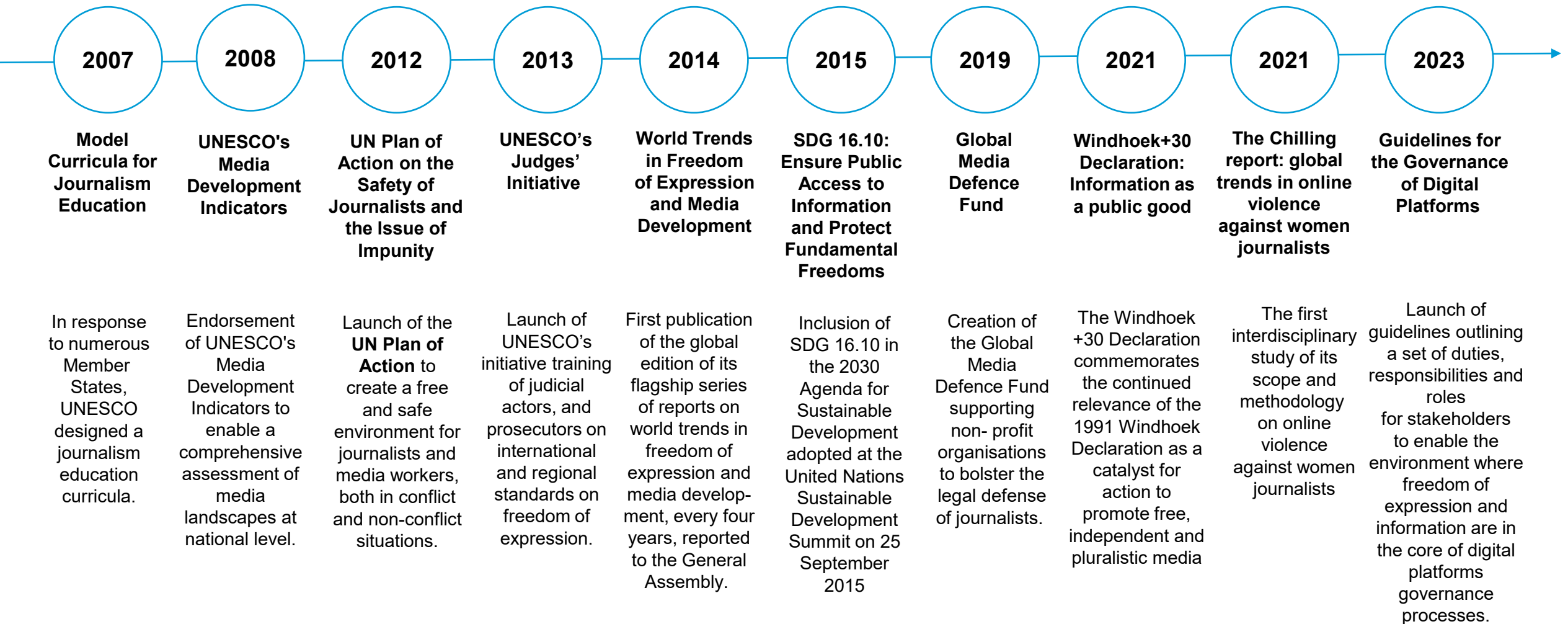
WSIS+20 Review Action Lines Milestones, Challenges and Emerging Trends beyond 2025

C9 Media

The Evolution of Context

- Positive trend with increased overall multilateral and global engagement and legislation (eg. SDG 16.10; multiple UN Resolutions). Although, the adoption or amendment of laws and regulations at national level threatening freedom of expression and press freedom continue.
- Declining trend in the killing of journalists, with however an increase in detentions and new types of attacks of journalists online, particularly against women journalists, and through misuse of legal systems, and remaining impunity for crimes against journalists.
- Increased access to information through a big increase in Access to Information Laws, access increased through digital content, whilst new pressures have emerged for local and national media, with a huge growth of disinformation and misinformation
- News media's traditional business model is at a breaking point. Growing numbers of media outlets have been forced to cut down on staff or close their doors permanently, with a loss of revenue to digital giants.

Key Milestones: 20 years of Achievements



Challenges in implementing the Action Line

- **Challenge 1:** The original challenges of threats to journalists' safety and legislation put in place which runs counter to International Standards on Freedom of Expression remain and are in some cases intensified.
- **Challenge 2:** The viability of journalism and the news media is being challenged through governmental activity, generational change, and loss of revenue to digital giants.
- **Challenge 3:** The emergence of digital news and artificial intelligence have created new pressures to local and national media and challenges on many of the elements falling under Action Line C9.

Trends and Opportunities Beyond 2025

- Broader access to information through digital content while more limited access to news media.
- Freedom of expression can be expanded by improved regulation and governance and support to public interest media.
- Technological development and plurality of voices gives access to public space to previously marginalized communities.
- Traditional business model of media facing significant risks and even existential challenges, which' impact has not been addressed or accounted for in many countries.
- The opportunities are linked to the development of the digital ecosystem where principles of information as a public good and the promotion of freedom of expression are central while countering hate speech and disinformation which are polluting the information space affecting which information is accessible by the public.