



**«Community Media for Sustainable Development»
Marrakech, Morocco
21 November 2004**

The World Association of Community radio broadcasters will be organizing a round table on “Community Media for Sustainable Development” on 21 November 2004 in Marrakech, Morocco.

The aim of the Marrakech Roundtable, which will be held in November 2004, is to foster an open dialogue among donors and facilitators of community media on the contribution of the sector to the Millennium Declaration.

It will bring together key stakeholders in the communications and development sectors. The Organizations invited to participate will include bilateral agencies from the United Kingdom (DFID), Canada (CIDA), Denmark (DANIDA), Sweden (SIDA), Switzerland (SIDC), France (Ministère des Affaires étrangères) Norway, Netherlands, Finland, Germany, Italy and Spain. Some Foundations will also be approached (Friedrich Ebert, Ford, Open Society and EED among others). Multilateral organizations such as the World Bank where AMARC is already part of the Consulting Body on Communications, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP will also be invited to play a role as key stakeholders.

It is also key that local civil society develop productive partnerships with the community radio sector and in this regard, it is anticipated that there will be a number of media concerned NGOs, such as PANOS, One World and FEMNET.

The purpose of the roundtable is to explore strategies for support to the sector to enhance impact on the achievement and monitoring of MDGs; to exchange experiences and compare models, approaches and contexts; to identify needs and recommend measures to meet these needs for successful implementation; to review the AMARC Community Radio Development Fund for Africa for its potential contribution to the debate and that can serve as a rallying point for all partners and stakeholders including donors.

The findings of the Marrakech Roundtable can be expected to provide the impetus for a new international co-operative effort to empower and network disadvantaged communities through the integrated use of a common development fund project.

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