



With the support of the
UNESCO Multi-Donor Programme on Freedom of
Expression and Safety of Journalists (MDP)



REPORT

UNESCO-NIALS CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR STATE HIGH COURT JUDGES

THEME:

**CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION, SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS, AND ACCESS
TO INFORMATION FOR STATE HIGH COURT JUDGES IN
NORTHERN NIGERIA**

DATE:

7th TO 9th JUNE 2022

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INTRODUCTION

Established in March 1979, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) is Nigeria's apex Institution for research and advanced studies in Law. In fulfilment of its mandate, the Institute convenes national and international seminars, symposia, conferences, workshops, and lectures on any branch of law and related subjects. The Institute in collaboration with UNESCO organized a three days in-person training to build capacity of State High Court Judges on freedom of expression, safety of journalists and access to information.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

- To expose State High Court Judges to issues regarding freedom of expression and safety of journalists.
- To enlighten the State High Court Judges on the legal parameters of FoE and legitimate restrictions.
- To expose the State High Court Judges to the comparative jurisprudence on FoE in sub-Saharan Africa; the approach of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; European Court on Human Rights.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

It is expected that at the end of the training the participants would:

- To strengthen the understanding of the State High Court Judges on their role to ensure press freedom and the safety of Journalists in Nigeria
- To reinforce the knowledge of the Judges on the legal parameters of FoE and legitimate restrictions.
- To promote the understanding of the Judges on how to effectively use their discretionary powers to promote the international best practices on the safety of journalists and press freedom.
- To promote the inclusion of FOE and safety of journalist in school curriculums at all levels in Nigeria

FACULTY

Host/Co-Host

- Officer in Charge UNESCO Regional Office Abuja
- Professor M.T Ladan, PhD (Director-General NIALS)

Moderator

- Assoc. Prof Osato Eruaga

Facilitators

- Yachat Nuhu
- Izuoma Egeruoh-Adindu
- Basse Aniekan Udo

Resource Persons

- Prof, Dr. Helene Tigroudja**
- Dr. Habila Ardzard**

Rapporteur

- Izuoma Egeruoh-Adindu

TRAINING METHODOLOGY

The training was an in-person training held at Bolton White Hotels, Number, Gwandu Street, Opposite Sahad Stores, Area 11, Garki 2, Abuja. Materials for the training was given to the participants to enable them to have unrestricted access to the materials in future. The training was structured into three namely, presentation by erudite resource persons, question, and answer session and practical or syndicate sessions. There was 30 minutes tea break in between the presentations. The syndicate sessions aimed to provide the participants with the platform to apply learning outcomes to practical case scenarios. The practical sessions covered the topics taught by the resource persons. Throughout the training Yachat Nuhu, Izuoma Egeruoh-Adindu and Bassey Aniekan Udo provided administrative support.

PRE-COURSE MODALITIES

The in person capacity building workshop on freedom of expression, safety of Journalists and Access to information for State High Court Judges commenced on Tuesday 7th and ended on Thursday on 10th of June 2022. The training commenced at 8:30am with on-site registration of participants. The opening ceremony attracted dignitaries such as the Chief Justice of Nigeria, a representative of the Attorney General of the Federation, The Japan Ambassador to Nigeria, the Director-General of NIALS, Learned SAN, Chief Asiwaju Awomolo, 17 State High Court Judges across the various States in the Northern part of Nigeria, The President of National Union of Journalist, Journalist from various media houses, Research Fellows from the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Abuja and Institute of Conflict Studies. Yachat Nuhu a UNESCO representative and coordinator of the event gave an overview of the essence of the workshop.

OPENING REMARKS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICER IN-CHARGE UNESCO REGIONAL OFFICE ABUJA

The representative of the Officer in Charge UNESCO Regional Office Abuja, Ms Anene-maidoh, Magdalene noted that UNESCO is the only UN Agency that allows free flow of information. UNESCO sees media development as a means of enhancing freedom of information. UNESCO works with the media to ensure that freedom of information and the rule of law is achieved. She noted that the Judiciary has a key role to play in the protection of journalists especially as the general elections are fast approaching. The workshop is timely and required as it is the first step to ensure that our judges promote the safety of journalists. She appreciated NIALS for the collaboration and the Judges for taking out time to participate in the workshop.

OPENING REMARKS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

The DG of NIALS Professor M.T Ladan, PhD stated that freedom of expression is not absolute in all constitutions of the world and international human rights law. Section 22 of the 1999 Constitution states that attack on journalists is unconstitutional. Our Judges are to strike a balance between freedom of expression and press freedom and national security. It is in this context that NIALS believes in this partnership with UNESCO to achieve the objectives of the

workshop which is to ensure that human rights are protected within the limits set up by the law.

OPENING REMARKS OF THE JAPAN AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA

The Japan ambassador to Nigeria considers freedom of speech and press important to democracy. Japan as a country decided to run this capacity building with UNESCO. The Internet has the advantage of helping spread news across the world and a medium for fake news. There is need to protect journalists and the Judicial actors has a key role to play. The workshop is timely for Nigeria as they intend to hold their general election next year.

GOOD WILL MESSAGE OF THE HONOURABLE ATTORNEY -GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION.

The HAGF through his representative appreciated UNESCO and NIALS for putting the training together at this time the nation is preparing for the general elections. He stated that freedom of expression is vital to promote human right in Nigeria. It is an inherent right and essential pillar of democracy. The constitution of Nigeria provides for the right because of its importance to democracy. However, the right is not absolute, the workshop is important because it provides judicial officers with the opportunity to know the parameters of these rights. Freedom of expression is a concept of democracy. The workshop is important as the general elections are fast approaching. The government of Nigeria seeks to ensure that freedom of expression and safety of Journalists is guaranteed in Nigeria.

GOODWILL MESSAGE OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF INFORMATION

The representative of the Honourable Minister of Information stated that it is gladdening that UNESCO is building the capacity of the Judges and the media. The Minister believes that the capacity building workshop will afford the Judges the opportunity to give fair judgement while sitting on matters of the media. However, it is saddening that Journalist are harassed, even killed on professional capacity. He enjoined the judges to expedite the cases involving journalists. He also stated the need for Judges to appoint someone in the court to breakdown technical terms used during proceedings to avoid misrepresentation of information.

GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM HONOURABLE JUSTICE ATOKI OF ECOWAS COURT OF JUSTICE

The Honourable Judge stated that freedom of expression is a fundamental human right and issues on freedom of expression sits well in the legal arm of ECOWAS. The revised 4(a) of ECOWAS treaty on the protection of human rights a fundamental right that guides people and institutions. Safety of journalists is a catalyst to freedom of expression.

GOODWILL MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NUJ.

The president of the Nigerian Union of Journalist stated that Journalist are endangered species, however no democracy can survive without press freedom. He appreciated UNESCO for organising the workshop. He stated that

the workshop will help create awareness on the plight of journalist in Nigeria. The constant murder and violence melted on journalist in their professional capacity cannot be ignored. He also looks forward to a communique from the workshop.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL STANDARDS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The international and regional standards on freedom of expression was taken by Mr. Mehdi Benchelah via a zoom platform. He stated that the right to freedom of expression is applicable not only to information or ideas that are favourably received or regarded as inoffensive or as a matter of indifference, but also to those that offend, shock, or disturb the state or any sector of the population. He stated that the aim of the workshop is to reinforce the capacity of Judges and lawyers. He stated that UNESCO has trained 23000 Judicial actors. Judges have the key role to play because they have the power to ensure that public institutions release some information. Freedom of expression is both a collective and an enabling right.

Keynote Speech by the Honourable Chief Justice of Nigeria.

The Chief Justice of the Federation Hon. Justice Dr. Ibrahim Tanko Mohammad welcomed the participants to the training. He stated that the workshop is coming at a very important period in Nigeria with the general elections around the corner. The workshop would go a long way in keeping the population informed during the elections. Covering live events, for not only the elections but also important events in the country is at the heart of journalistic work, which is essential to ensure press freedom and the right to information towards achieving a peaceful democratic society. He commended UNESCO and NIALS for putting together the workshop and assured the participants that the Judicial arm of government is willing to provide an environment conducive for freedom of expression, access to information and other fundamental freedoms to thrive.

The opening ceremony ended with a group photograph of the dignitaries and the participants at 11:30am.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURSE

DAY 1

Day 1 commenced at 12:10pm.

First Presentation

The first presentation was a case -study on the Scope and the restrictions applicable to freedom of expression and safety of journalists commenced at 12:10pm and this was taken by both Prof. Dr. Helene Tigroudja and Dr Habila Ardzard. The case-study was used to test the knowledge of the participants on the restrictions applicable to freedom of expression and safety of journalists in Nigeria. The session was interactive and ended at 1:00pm with a lunch break.

Second Presentation

The second presentation themed 'ECOWAS Court Jurisprudence And Standards on Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and Safety of Journalists' commenced by 2:00 pm and was taken by Honourable Justice Dupe Atoki Judge Member of the ECOWAS Court of Justice. The resource person stated that Freedom of expression must be enjoyed by all. Member States have the obligation to refrain from restricting the right to freedom of expression. Journalists are protected by international instruments and must not be harassed or intimidated while carrying out their work. ECOWAS Court of Justice remains committed to the discharge of its human rights mandate as a guarantor of the rights of ECOWAS community Citizens and that of other nationals within the territories of Member States of ECOWAS. The presentation was interactive and ended at 3:30pm.

Third Presentation

The third presentation themed 'Freedom of Expression and Protection of safety of Journalists: Nigerian Legislative and Judicial framework' commenced by 3:30pm and was taken by Dr Habila Ardzard. The resource person stated the press is the eye and ears of the public. It exists primarily to educate and inform the public. Its role in nurturing democracy cannot be over emphasized. Through the role of the press, government is held accountable to the people. Nigeria has a plethora of laws that protect freedom of expression and Journalists. However, we cannot conclude that the Nigerian Legal frameworks on FoE and protection of journalists meets international standards, however, the Judiciary has the power to promote freedom of expression and protection of Journalists in Nigeria. The presentation was very interactive and ended at 4:10pm.

The day ended with a wrap-up of the first day and explanation of the work to be prepared for the second day. This activity was carried out by Prof. Dr. Helene Tigroudja and Dr Habila Ardzard.

DAY 2

Day 2 commenced at 9:00 am with a recap of the previous day activities by Prof. Dr. Helene Tigroudja.

Fourth Presentation

The Fourth presentation which was a case-study on judicial poll on judiciary and protection of journalist commenced at 9:15 am and was taken by Prof. Dr. Helene Tigroudja. Topics such as Access to information, internet and Digital Rights were covered under the case -study. The session was very interactive and ended at 10:30am.

Fifth Presentation

The fifth presentation themed 'Violence against Journalists and Access to Justice (with a gender-based perspective) Universal standards commenced by 11:45 am was taken by Ms. Wumi Obadori and Prof. Dr. Hélène Tigroudja. The resource person marshalled out the forms of violence experienced by journalists in their professional capacity. She also stated that gender-based

violence against journalist is on the increase and not being addressed. She also stated that journalists are intimidated, arrested, kidnapped, and even murdered. She also stated how difficult it is to cover court proceedings and appealed to the honourable judges to assist them in making the job of the journalist easy. The presentation was very interactive and the Honourable Judges in their response spoke on the need for journalist to make their presence known when in the court by writing to the chief Judge of the various states when they are in the state or to work with the publicity department of the court. This will reduce the challenges they experience when covering the court. The need to also train Journalist on how to report court proceedings also came up as most of the reports are not in line with how a court proceeding should be reported. The presentation end at 1:00pm.

Sixth Presentation

The Sixth presentation themed 'Open Justice: Legal Parameters and Good practices.' commenced by 2:00pm and taken by Dr Habila Ardzard. The resource person is of the view that freedom to express ideas and critique public institution underpins the growth of democratic society. He stated that media freedom is key to free and democratic society and measures to preserve this freedom must be pursued. The Constitutional provision on open justice in Nigeria is in section 36 (3) and (4) of the CFRN 1999. The resource person stated that in deciding whether to exclude the media and the public from court proceedings, Judicial officers should always bear in mind the role of the media provided for under section 22 CFRN of Nigeria. The presentation was very interactive and ended at 3:10pm.

The wrap -up of the presentations for the day was taken by Prof. Dr. Hélène Tigroudja 3:10 to 4:00pm.

DAY 3

Day 3 commenced at 9:00 am with a recap of Day 2 activities by Professor Prof. Dr. Helene Tigroudja.

Seventh Presentation

The seventh presentation was a presentation of recommendations by the 5 groups earlier grouped by Professor Prof. Dr. Helene Tigroudja. This session commenced by 9:20 am and was moderated by Professor Prof. Dr. Helene Tigroudja and Dr Ardzard. The triple -test methodology to assess a restriction to freedom of speech: universal and regional standards was taken by both resource person.

A moot session was taken after the triple -test methodology and the outcome of the moot session was also presented and issues arising thereafter explained by both resource persons.

The next activity was the recap of the workshop and presentation of communique of the workshop read out by Dr. Habila Ardzard and the participants adopted the communique. Yachat Nuhu of UNESCO evaluated the workshop, and some observations were made. Some of the observations

made include;the need to train the legislative arm of government, security agencies and the journalists. The participants appreciated UNESCO and NIALS for putting together the training especially as the general elections are approaching.

It is worthy to note that certificates were awarded at the end of the training and a total of 17 Judges from state high courts cross the various States in Northern Nigeria attended the training. Also 9 persons from the Academia, 5 Research Fellows from the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Abuja and 4 persons from the Institute of Conflict Studies attended the training.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Officer in Charge UNESCO regional office Abuja, Mr. Mamadou Lamine Sow gave a vote of thanks for UNESCO while Associate Professor Ibe Ifeakandu a representative of the Director-general of NIALS gave the closing remarks/ vote of thanks for NIALS and the workshop ended at 4:15pm.



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REPORT

UNESCO-NIALS CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR STATE HIGH COURT JUDGES

THEME:

**CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, SAFETY OF
JOURNALISTS, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION
FOR STATE HIGH COURT JUDGES IN
SOUTHERN NIGERIA**

DATE:

14th TO 16th JUNE 2022

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INTRODUCTION

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OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

- i. To expose State High Court Judges to issues regarding freedom of expression and safety of journalists.
- ii. To enlighten the State High Court Judges on the legal parameters of FoE and legitimate restrictions.
- iii. To expose the State High Court Judges to the comparative jurisprudence on FoE in sub-Saharan Africa; the approach of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; European Court on Human Rights.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

It is expected that at the end of the training the participants would:

- i. To strengthen the understanding of the State High Court Judges on their role to ensure press freedom and the safety of Journalists in Nigeria
- ii. To reinforce the knowledge of the Judges on the legal parameters of FoE and legitimate restrictions.
- iii. To promote the understanding of the Judges on how to effectively use their discretionary powers to promote the international best practices on the safety of journalists and press freedom.
- iv. To promote the inclusion of FOE and safety of journalist in school curriculums at all level in Nigeria

FACULTY

Host/Co-Host

- i. Officer in Charge UNESCO Regional Office Abuja
- ii. Professor M.T Ladan, PhD (Director-General NIALS)

Facilitators

- i. Yachat Nuhu
- ii. Izuoma Egeruoh-Adindu

Resource Persons

- i. **Professor Joan Barata**
- ii. **Dr. Habila Ardzard**

Rapporteur

- i. Izuoma Egeruoh-Adindu

IT Administrator

- i. Bassey Aniekan Udo

TRAINING METHODOLOGY

The training was an in-person training held at Dover Hotels Lekki Phase 1 Lagos. Materials for the training was mailed to the participants to enable them have unrestricted access to the materials in future. The training was structured into three namely, presentation by erudite resource persons, question, and answer session and practical or syndicate sessions. There was 30 minutes tea break in between the presentations. The syndicate sessions aimed to provide the participants with the platform to apply learning outcomes to practical case scenarios. The practical sessions covered the topics taught by the resource persons. Throughout the training Yachat Nuhu, Izuoma Egeruoh-Adindu and Bassey Aniekan Udo provided administrative support.

PRE-COURSE MODALITIES

The in person capacity building workshop on freedom of expression, safety of Journalists and Access to information for State High Court Judges commenced on Tuesday 14th and ended on Thursday on 16th June 2022. The training commenced at 9:00am with on-site registration of participants. Yachat Nuhu welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the objectives of the training. The Director –General Professor M.T Ladan PhD represented by the Director of Research Prof Animi Sylvanus -Pepple gave the opening remarks. Dr Umaru Gwandu the Special Assistant to the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation read the HAGF’s speech and welcomed the participants. The opening section ended with group photograph with the participants and the dignitaries.

OPENING REMARKS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICER IN-CHARGE UNESCO REGIONAL OFFICE ABUJA

The representative of the Officer in Charge UNESCO Regional Office Abuja noted that the Judiciary plays an essential role in the protection of freedom of expression, access to information and ensuring the safety of journalists. She stated that as the general elections are fast approaching, the workshop is designed to strengthen the rule of law and human rights in Nigeria by reinforcing the knowledge and capacities of the Judges on International best practices on Freedom of expression, access to information and safety of Journalists.

OPENING REMARKS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

The DG of NIALS Professor M.T Ladan, PhD through his representative Prof Animi Sylvanus-Pepple the Director of Research stated the workshop is geared towards enhancing Judges knowledge of international and regional standards on freedom of expression; attendant restrictions applicable to freedom of expression of journalists. He stated that the workshop is designed to include case studies and presentations which will elicit discussions and enhance judges understanding of fundamental issues that are pertinent to the development of the Nigerian Judicial system. He stated that he is delighted that the Institute in collaboration with UNESCO has provided a veritable platform for the robust discussions and he encouraged all the participants to participate actively at the workshop.

OPENING REMARKS OF THE HONOURABLE ATTORNEY -GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION.

The HAGF through his Special Assistant Media appreciated UNESCO and NIALS for putting the training together in both Abuja and Lagos . He stated that the government of Nigeria pledges to

support the initiative towards ensuring that freedom of expression and safety of Journalists is adhered to in Nigeria. He called upon the participants to participate actively in the capacity building workshop as the office of the HAGF awaits recommendations from the workshop to enhance the making of people oriented policies in the country.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURSE

DAY 1

Day 1 commenced at 10:30am.

First Presentation

The first presentation themed ‘Strengthening the Role of Judicial Actos in Africa on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists’ commenced by 10:30am and was taken by Professor Joan Barata. The resource person stated that the goal of the training is to reinforce capacities and knowledge of Judges, prosecutors and lawyers and other actors of judicial systems on international and regional standards on freedom of expression. He stated that is essential to build strong partnerships with regional human rights courts and local network of judicial actors. The presentation was interactive ended at 11:30am with introductory exercise on the notion of freedom of expression.

Second Presentation

The Second presentation themed ‘International and regional Standards on Freedom of expression and Freedom of Information: First Overview’ commenced by 11:30am and was taken by Professor Professor Joan Barata. He stated that the right to freedom of expression is applicable not only to information or ideas that are favourably received or regarded as inoffensive or as a matter of indifference, but also to those that offend, shock or disturb the state or any sector of the population. The presentation was interactive and ended at 1:00pm.

Third Presentation

The third presentation themed ‘ECOWAS Court Jurisprudence And Standards on Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and Safety of Journalists’ commenced by 1:00 pm and was taken by Honourable Justice Dupe Atoki Judge Member of the ECOWAS Court of Justice. The resource person stated that Freedom of expression must be enjoyed by all. Member States have the obligation to refrain from restricting the right to freedom of expression. Journalists are protected by international instruments and must not be harassed or intimidated while carrying out their work. ECOWAS Court of Justice remains committed to the discharge of its human rights mandate as a guarantor of the rights of ECOWAS community Citizens and that of other nationals within the territories of Member States of ECOWAS. The presentation was interactive and ended at 2:30pm with lunch.

Fourth Presentation

The fourth presentation themed ‘Freedom of Expression and Protection of safety of Journalists: Nigerian Legislative and Judicial framework’ commenced by 3:30pm and was taken by Dr Habila Ardzard. The resource person stated the press is the eye and ears of the public. It exists primarily to educate and inform the public. Its role in nurturing democracy cannot be over emphasized. Through the role of the press, government is held accountable to the people. Nigeria has a plethora of laws that protect freedom of expression and Journalists. However, we cannot conclude that the Nigerian Legal frameworks on FoE and protection of journalists meets international standards,

however, the Judiciary has the power to promote freedom of expression and protection of Journalists in Nigeria. The presentation was very interactive and ended at 4:00pm.

The day ended with a wrap-up of the first day and explanation of the work to be prepared for the second day. This activity was carried out by Professor Joan Barata and Dr. Habila Ardzard.

DAY 2

Day 2 commenced at 9:00 am with a recap of the previous day activities by Professor Joan and Dr Habila Ardzard.

Fifth Presentation

The fifth presentation themed ‘Criminal Law and freedom of Expression: defamation and SLAPPs, Public Health (in light of COVID experience and national security’ commenced by 9:30am and was taken by Professor Joan Barata. The resource person stated that criminal defamation laws are inherently harsh and have a disproportionate chilling effect on free expression, especially when allowing for imprisonment disproportionate or excessive civil tort liability compensations paralyze journalistic investigations and generates an atmosphere of intimidation. The presentation was interactive and ended with a group activity. The presentation ended at 10:30am.

Sixth Presentation

The Sixth presentation themed ‘Press Freedom and Safety of Journalist commenced by 11:45am and was taken by Mrs Morenike Taire. The resource person stated that attacks on press freedom are not just attacks on individual journalists’ rights but on the society’s rights to know the truth. She stated that there is no societal freedom without press freedom and that Nigeria is an unsafe place to practice journalism. She recommended the need for special courts for press matters and witness protection programs. The presentation was very interactive and ended at 1:00 pm.

Seventh Presentation

The Seventh presentation themed ‘Open Justice: Legal Parameters and Good practices.’ commenced by 1:00pm and taken by Dr Habila Ardzard. The resource person is of the view that freedom to express ideas and critique public institution underpins the growth of democratic society. He stated that media freedom is key to free and democratic society and measures to preserve this freedom must be pursued. The Constitutional provision on open justice in Nigeria is in section 36 (3) and (4) of the CFRN 1999. The resource person stated that in deciding whether to exclude the media and the public from court proceedings, Judicial officers should always bear in mind the role of the media provided for under section 22 CFRN of Nigeria. The presentation was very interactive and ended at 2:10pm with lunch.

Eight Presentation

The Eight presentation themed ‘Criminal Law and freedom of expression: Defamation and SLAPPs, Public Health (in Light of COVID experience) and national security’ commenced by 3:00pm and taken by Professor Joan Barata and Dr Habila Ardzard. Professor Joan emphasized on the fact that defamatory laws are inherently harsh and have a disproportionate chilling effect on free expression, especially when allowing for imprisonment Disproportionate or excessive civil tort liability compensations paralyze journalistic investigations and generates an atmosphere of intimidation. The presentation was interactive and ended with group preparation of proposed cases and discussion in plenary at 4:30pm.

DAY 3

Day 3 commenced at 9:00 am with a recap of Day 2 activities by Professor Joan Barata.

Nineth Presentation

The ninth presentation was a group preparation of proposed cases and discussion in the plenary, and this was done by all participants to check the extent of their participation in the training. The first presentation ended at 10:30pm.

Tenth Presentation

The Tenth presentation themed “Access to information, Media Regulation, Freedom of Expression on the Internet” commenced by 11:00am and was taken by Prof. Joan Barata. The resource person stated that the positive obligation of public (and some private) bodies is to provide, publish and disseminate information. All persons have the right to ask public officials for information about what they are doing and any document they hold and have the right to receive answers. The Tenth presentation ended with 11:30 am with a tea break.

The next activity was the final exercise preparation and presentation of a court decision on matters discussed during the training. The communique of the workshop read out by Dr. Habila Ardzard and they participants adopted the communique. Yachat Nuhu of UNESCO evaluated the workshop and got positive feedback from the participants.

CLOSING REMARKS

The representative of the Officer in Charge UNESCO regional office Abuja, Yachat Nuhu gave the closing remark for UNESCO while the representative of the DG of NIALS, Izuoma Egeruoh-Adindu gave the closing remarks for NIALS. The workshop ended at 2:46pm with lunch.