



international
publishers
association

INternational
Sustainable
Publishing and
Industry
REsilience

[InSPIRE] Charter

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread globally, publishing ecosystems pulled together to support the communities they serve. Publishers helped millions of children move to home schooling, published critical research to fast-track vaccine development, and lobbied governments for relief to continue meeting the needs of readers in lockdown. Doing so reduced disruption to the livelihoods of millions of authors, illustrators, printers, distributors, publishers, translators and booksellers.



Despite the industry's inherent resilience, the pandemic exposed vulnerabilities that, if unaddressed, will negatively impact global publishing long into the future. The acceleration of digital transformation, in particular, has led to an uneven recovery. The adoption of emerging technologies, the shift to online learning, and increased demand for digital formats have posed particular challenges for publishing ecosystem stakeholders in emerging and frontier markets with less developed digital economies or heavy reliance on institutional sales, as well as more developed markets with unequal access to online learning. Evolving competitive realities have also revealed digital skills gaps in some markets and put operational sustainability and resilience atop the industry agenda.



Solidarity brought many national publishing ecosystems together during the pandemic. To reinforce these alliances after the pandemic for a more sustainable and resilient global publishing industry, we assert that:

- | Publishing is an essential industry that is crucial for global and national socioeconomic development and cross-cultural understanding;
- | Publishing contributes meaningfully to achieving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals; it helps deliver high quality education for all, creates employment, sparks entrepreneurship, and promotes the inclusion of underrepresented communities;
- | Education and literacy are foundations for lifelong learning and are critical to empowering people;
- | Copyright enables the expression, development and global diffusion of diverse knowledge and ideas;
- | Freedom to publish is a prerequisite for diversity, creativity, prosperity, tolerance, and progress;
- | Copyright and freedom to publish are mutually reinforcing fundamental rights that are essential to the practice and preservation of political culture, education, scholarship, and socioeconomic development



Recognizing the need for ongoing solidarity to enhance the sustainability and resilience of global publishing, we, the undersigned, resolve to collaborate on:

- 01 | **Asserting** the value of publishing to policymakers as an essential industry. Publishing should be recognized for its vital role in educating and uplifting future generations, spreading transformative scientific research, promoting critical thinking, and opening new worlds to all;
- 02 | **Advocating** for publishing-specific government stimulus programs to build a more sustainable and resilient global publishing industry that continuously adapts to changing consumer and competitive dynamics;
- 03 | **Fostering** dialogue between publishing ecosystem stakeholders to build resilience, expand partnerships, mitigate risks from global supply chain disruptions, and minimize the environmental impacts of the publishing supply chain;
- 04 | **Demonstrating** the damaging effects of piracy, and advocating for the development, protection, and enforcement of fit-for-purpose copyright frameworks that guarantee fair competition and protect the rights of publishers and content creators;
- 05 | **Identifying** common ground between publishing stakeholders, rights organizations, and governments to fight censorship and promote freedom to publish;
- 06 | **Closing** emerging workforce skills gaps through capacity building, mentorship, and partnerships;
- 07 | **Exploring** partnerships and programs that emphasize the role of publishing in promoting access to knowledge, continuity of education and lifelong learning for all children and young people, with equal opportunities for girls and boys;
- 08 | **Empowering** underrepresented voices to ensure diversity and inclusion in the publishing ecosystem;
- 09 | **Supporting** indigenous language publishing through targeted initiatives and partnerships;
- 10 | **Highlighting** the role of small and medium-sized independent publishers and booksellers, which make up the vast majority of the publishing industry globally, in ensuring bibliodiversity and supporting measures needed to future proof their businesses.

[InSPIRe] Charter

Signature:

Name:

Designation:

Organization:


Date:

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