

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO: Fifty-Sixth Series of Meetings

October 3 to 11, 2016 (Geneva, Switzerland)

AGENDA ITEM 5

GENERAL STATEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL NGO:

EIFL.NET

Check against delivery

393 words

I am speaking on behalf of Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL), that partners with libraries in 60 developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe.

EIFL is engaged in the work programme of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) where we seek an international instrument to protect the public service mission of libraries and archives.

There are two reasons. First, only international action can set a basic standard for copyright laws across all jurisdictions, especially for digital activities. Second, only international action can enable seamless, cross-border exchange of information to support the work of today's scientists and scholars who work collaboratively across disciplines and borders.

We are grateful to Member States for text-based proposals on limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives in document SCCR/29/4 prepared by the African Group, Brazil, Ecuador, India and Uruguay.

We have valued the opportunity, based on a non-paper prepared by the Chair, to discuss the topics contained in SCCR/29/4 and to present our evidence of how copyright law is failing libraries and their users today.

To move ahead, we ask for constructive engagement from all member states, especially those that are reforming their own copyright laws.

In a digital world that offers new opportunities to expand access to knowledge, copyright laws in every country must be fit for purpose, and must enable lawful access across borders.

We support the holding of regional meetings to review the findings of the excellent updated WIPO study on limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives prepared by Prof. Kenneth Crews. We thank the Secretariat for the study.

We also look forward to new studies on limitations and exceptions for educational activities, and other disabilities.

We congratulate member states on entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. We were especially delighted when Mongolia became the tenth country to join, as the Mongolian Libraries Consortium and the local blind community engaged in successful cooperation with the IP office during the ratification process. EIFL urges every country to join the treaty and we encourage you to engage with libraries to support national implementation.

Finally, we congratulate Ms. Sylvie Forbin on her appointment as Deputy Director General (DDG), Copyright and Creative Industries Sector. EIFL looks forward to working with the new DDG to help advance WIPO's work so that the copyright system benefits everyone.

We wish you a very successful Assembly.