IFRRO Statement to WIPO Assemblies of Member States 2016

1. Thank you Mr Chair; We join those who have congratulated you on your election.

2. We also congratulate Ms Sylvie Forbin on the appointment as Deputy Director General responsible for copyright issues, and look forward to working with her on relevant issues.

3. IFRRO is the main global network for the Collective Management Organisations – the RROs - and authors and publishers organisations in the text and image sector.

4. We welcome the entering into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. We trust that it will contribute to enhanced accessibility to published works for people who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled. In this, I would also like to highlight the important work of the Accessible Books Consortium – ABC – in improving and expanding the availability of accessible format copies of works. IFRRO will continue to cooperate with other stakeholders and WIPO in the important work of ABC.

5. In respect of library and education exceptions and limitations, as stated at several SCCR meetings, IFRRO favours an outcome from the SCCR discussions based on three key elements:

(i) the exchange of information and practices;
(ii) the offering of a demand driven WIPO-led technical assistance program, which can be coordinated on regional and sub-regional level by International Governmental Organisations such as ARIPO, OAPI, LAS and CERLALC, to which we will also offer to contribute, as appropriate and required; and thirdly
(iii) the use of the WIPO instrument government cooperation on legislative development. This last element should focus on implementation of already existing exceptions and limitations, as studies presented at SCCR also document that Member States basically have appropriate exceptions and limitations

6. Finally, IFRRO favours adding resale rights to the SCCR agenda

5 October 2016

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