



**Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO: Fifty-Fifth Series of Meetings
October 5 to 14 (Geneva, Switzerland)**

AGENDA ITEM 12

**REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS (SCCR)**

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS
AND INSTITUTIONS (IFLA)**

I speak on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions (IFLA), the international body representing over 650,000 library professionals and 1500 libraries in 150 countries.

We wish to thank Member States for engaging with libraries at the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR).

IFLA supports the normative text contained in the consolidated document prepared by the African Group, Brazil, Ecuador, India and Uruguay - SCCR/29/4, and thanks these Member States for their efforts and support for libraries and archives and the researchers, educators, and members of the public who use them.

We value the current framework of the Chair's non-paper, which provides opportunity to discuss specific issues where exceptions and limitations would address cross-border barriers in libraries and archives. We believe that this approach provides opportunities to move forward in a constructive and informed manner.

We have been frustrated by the barriers that some member states present to finding effective international solutions for libraries and their users, who seek improved access to information to improve their lives. At the same time, we appreciate the continued support of member states who recognize the barriers libraries and archives face and strive with us for an international solution that would place all institutions on equal ground.

We believe that norm setting activities at WIPO should be evidence-based and serve the legitimate interests of all stakeholders. At SCCR in 2015, library and archive organizations described real barriers that librarians and archivists who undertake preservation face due to a lack of cross-border minimum standards. We identified characteristics of exceptions and limitations that would lift these barriers. We look forward to continuing this approach.

Library and archive collections in one country often contain materials of unique cultural and historical significance to people in other countries due to national border changes, emigration, shared common languages, or joint research interests. Cross-border issues can only be solved through international solutions.

We hope that continuing discussion of specifics using the Chair's non-paper will lead to informed analysis and a pathway to consensus.

Library and archive organizations are committed to undertaking both national and international efforts to improve access to information, knowledge and culture.

We respectfully request that the Assembly adopts a decision on the future work of SCCR that accords continued commitment to exceptions and limitations for libraries and archives, in the interests of everyone who benefits from a well-functioning copyright system.

We wish you a successful Assembly.

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