



**ITEM 11 – Report on the Activities of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights
Statement Delivered by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)**

5 October 2016

[CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY]

As underlined yesterday, libraries and archives and museums play a vital balancing role in the copyright system. They pay tens of billions of dollars each year to rightsholders while ensuring that reading and research is not the preserve of the rich.

IFLA has engaged in discussions in SCCR for many years now. During this time, and in particular over the past few hours, Members have offered inspiring examples of the role our institutions play in achieving educational, economic, and broader development goals.

IFLA in turn has provided dozens of examples of the obstacles that libraries and their users face due to inadequate copyright rules, preventing them from realising their potential.

We have seen how libraries in too many countries lack the most basic laws necessary to serve their communities.

We have noted the increasing gap between the expectations of digital-savvy readers, researchers and innovators, and what libraries can legally provide. In parallel, we have seen the rise of sites with infringing content which meet a demand for knowledge that libraries are often unable to satisfy.

And we have underlined that licensing alone is a non-solution.

SCCR can act. The African Group and GRULAC have already laid the foundations of an international legal instrument.

For libraries to continue to play their balancing role in the copyright system, such an instrument is necessary.

There can be no more effective driver of national reforms where these are needed.

And by agreeing on limitations and exceptions with cross-border effect, WIPO would come into its own, offering an antidote to the complexity highlighted by the Director General in his opening remarks.

For inspiration, we could look to the EU, which has recently proposed mandatory, cross-border exceptions.

To realise this, SCCR must structure its agenda fairly. Work on broadcasting should neither take up a disproportionate share of time, nor introduce new complexities that harm welfare.

Work on education, persons with other disabilities, and copyright in a digital environment is welcome, with topics dealt with in order of maturity. Meanwhile, we have welcomed proposals by members to learn more about the challenges libraries and archives face at a regional level.

To be sustainable, effective, and legitimate, copyright must work in a way that maximises social and economic welfare, today and tomorrow. Neither the privatisation of knowledge, nor widespread infringement will achieve this. But if SCCR provides the right tools, libraries and archives can.