



World Intellectual Property Organization

Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

23rd meeting

Statement by Winston Tabb, Head of Delegation,

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

21 November 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Libraries and archives have been concerned for some time about the need for new international norms to enable us to accomplish our mission of ensuring equitable access to info in this digital age in which knowledge is increasingly borderless.

In 2004, when several GRULAC countries introduced Limitations and Exceptions as an important part of the focus of SCCR's work, IFLA recognised the need for more intentional analysis of the needs of libraries within this framework. In 2005, IFLA held round-table discussions with librarians from over 60 countries to determine their greatest, and most common, needs. These findings were then complemented by the excellent, thorough study commissioned by WIPO from Kenneth Crews. Mr. Crews' report to SCCR just 3 years ago, in November 2008, which was referred to earlier by the representative from Brazil, revealed that approximately 1/3 of the WIPO Member States had either no limitations and exceptions for libraries, or such general and minimal ones as to be of little use.

Extrapolating from the data described by Mr. Crews and the testimony of librarians from diverse countries, IFLA in 2009 developed a set of principles to guide the development of international norms for libraries and archives, tested these principles with another large and geographically diverse group of librarians at our annual congress in 2009, and then commissioned a drafting team to transform those principles into the proposed instrument distributed here today as TLIB

Before asking the Chair of that drafting team, Teresa Hackett, to briefly review the substance of our proposal, I again want to note with gratitude the inclusion of limitations and exceptions for libraries in the draft WIPO treaty proposed by the African Group (SCCR/22/12). We have appreciated our dialog with the African Group on these issues during the past two years; our text is a complement to their proposal, and is intended to further enrich the discussion among Member States of limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives at this SCCR.

Thank you.