WIPO Member States Recognize Inadequacy of Existing Exceptions at
African Group Regional Seminar in Nairobi

Regional Seminar for the African Group on Libraries, Archives, Museums
and Educational & Research Institutions in the Field of Copyright
Nairobi, 12-13 June 2019

WIPO member states expressed strong agreement on the following five points at
the African Regional Seminar in Nairobi¹:

• Exceptions and limitations in Africa for libraries, archives, museums,
education and research lag far behind the level of exceptions elsewhere in
the world. Copyright laws need to be revised to update and strengthen
exceptions to achieve a proper balance in the copyright system. Where
exceptions exist, they need to be more precise and better framed. The
exceptions are particularly inadequate with respect to digital technology.

• Copyright barriers to preservation of cultural heritage should be
eliminated. Researchers must have access to the preserved culture.

• Copyright law poses a serious barrier to cross border activities that are
essential to preservation, educational, and research.

• Exceptions in this area can and should be implemented in a manner that
does not harm the interests of rightsholders.

• Some groups suggested that a new supranational legal framework was
needed and there was broad agreement that WIPO could provide
importance guidance and direction in this regard.

¹ Based on notes taken by observers in plenary.