Dear [XXX],

On [29-30 April/12-13 June/4-5 July], the World Intellectual Property Organisation is holding a seminar in [Singapore/Nairobi/Santo Domingo] on limitations and exceptions to copyright for libraries, archives, museums and education and research institutions.

This is a unique opportunity to build the momentum towards a modern and balanced international legal framework for libraries.

Libraries have a unique role in accelerating development by preserving, and giving people the possibility to access and use information. This helps achieve progress in all of the SDGs. Many of the world’s most successful, and most innovative countries have a complete set of flexible exceptions and limitations, seeing their value as means of supporting long-term growth and equity.

However, without the right rules, or the possibility to collaborate globally, libraries cannot achieve this potential.

The seminar in [Singapore/Nairobi/Santo Domingo] offers a chance to change this by underlining what libraries need to be able to do carry out their missions, and by stating clearly that international legal action is needed.

Too many countries lack rules that allow libraries to carry out vital preservation work and to support research and education. Even where these exist, they may not be adapted for the digital age. WIPO can help by offering guidance and incentives to pass updated copyright laws.

In turn, international action is the only way to ensure that libraries can work across borders, for example to give access to materials held in other countries, or to carry out preservation projects. A legal instrument would also provide more certainty to governments looking to ensure that there are no unnecessary or harmful controls on how books and other materials are used.

Any international action would respect national preferences as far as possible, and comply with international obligations to cause no unreasonable harm to the interests of rightholders. There is an important precedent for this in the hugely successful Marrakesh Treaty

We therefore hope that you or your representative will be able to underline the importance of libraries, and the need for international action. 21st century education, research and culture require 21st century law.

Yours faithfully,