



ITEM 5 – General Statements

Statement Delivered by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), 4 October 2016 [CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY]

I am speaking on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. IFLA represents all types of libraries – hundreds of thousands worldwide – and their users.

Tout d’abord, je voulais profiter de l’occasion pour souhaiter le bienvenu à Mme Forbin en tant que Directeur-Général Adjoint. Nous nous réjouissons d’une collaboration fructueuse à l’avenir, afin de bâtir un régime de droit d’auteur durable et équilibré.

Libraries have long represented a balancing point in the copyright system. They contribute around \$30bn annually to creators and rightholders through buying books, journals and other works.

Making use of exceptions and limitations to copyright, they then allow citizens from all backgrounds to read, to be inspired, and to come up with new ideas.

This access to knowledge, as many respected delegates have already underlined, is key to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.

Libraries have long proven themselves in this balancing role, at least where legislation permits.

However, as the excellent study by Professor Crews has shown, this is far from the case in every country. On current trends, it could be years, even centuries before all the world’s libraries are able to do the best by their communities.

Meanwhile, thanks to technology, the possibilities for accessing knowledge, as well as citizens’ expectations, have changed forever.

Demand for international collaboration in research is growing.

But at the same time, the use of digital means to deliver knowledge has also opened up new possibilities to limit citizens’ freedom to read, learn, and create new value.

For libraries to respond to these developments, they need a full set of limitations and exceptions to copyright in all countries.

This will empower them to continue to play their essential balancing role, with dividends for culture, creativity, innovation and development.

Such a solution will enable cross-border flows of knowledge, and so truly global research collaboration.

Such a solution is also possible. Member States have already shown this by signing the Treaty of Marrakesh.

We applaud the 22 countries which have already ratified the Treaty, and urge all others to move quickly towards ratification, in a way that maximises access to knowledge.

Members are already showing the way outside of WIPO. The text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership incorporates language favouring balanced copyright. Meanwhile, the European Commission has proposed mandatory cross-border exceptions, recognising their importance in ensuring a balanced copyright system.

An ambitious solution in SCCR will not break copyright. It will rather return it to the balance that best promotes welfare around the world. We trust that members will continue to work towards this goal.