



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

Item 14: Report on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights

26 September 2018 [Submitted by e-mail]

I am speaking on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, representing 2.3 million libraries around the world.

I want first to express our condolences to the people of Vietnam on the passing of President Tran Dai Quang.

As the Director General underlined on Monday, knowledge has never been more important.

Yet as the importance of knowledge grows, so to does that of rights of access and use. Without them, knowledge risks deepening, not narrowing, the development divide. Business as usual cannot be an option.

There is also a political mandate.

Yesterday was the 3rd anniversary of the SDGs. In almost 20 targets, across the Goals, governments have recognised the importance of possibilities to access and use information.

And ahead of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, we should reflect on how to deliver the human rights of access to information, to education, to participate in cultural life, and to benefit from scientific progress.

Mr Chair, delegates, exceptions and limitations for libraries, archives, museums, education and research, and people with other disabilities, allowing cross-border collaboration, are not a zero-sum game.

They are a complement to fair and well-functioning market mechanisms today. They are an investment in the readers, the creators, the innovators, the consumers of tomorrow.

WIPO can make a difference. Thanks to the Secretariat, the Chair, and delegates, we have Action Plans that offer a welcome chance to look at what is needed on the ground. We look forward to the results, and ongoing, meaningful discussion in Committee, including around the Argentine proposal, with a view to delivering on the mandate given by this Assembly.

We should also signal our concern with recent developments on the broadcasting treaty. With a potentially unlimited term of protection, and without meaningful exceptions and limitations, and we risk seeing serious damage to the education, research and cultural promotion activities of libraries and archives.

Thank you.