

# WIPO



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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

GENEVA

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS**

**Nineteenth Session**

**Geneva, December 14 to 18, 2009**

### ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Annex to this document lists non-governmental organizations, which have requested to be granted observer status in sessions of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), according to SCCR's Rules of Procedure (see document SCCR/1/2, paragraph 10).

2. *The SCCR is invited to approve the representation in sessions of the Committee of the non-governmental organizations referred to in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS REQUESTED  
REPRESENTATION AS OBSERVER IN SESSIONS OF  
THE STANDING COMMITTEE

African Union of the Blind (AFUB)

All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB)

*Asociación Civil Tiflonexos – Biblioteca Tiflobros (Tiflobros),*

Beneficent Technology, Inc. (Benetech)

Canadian Library Association / Association canadienne des bibliothèques (CLA)

Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

Caribbean Council for the Blind-Eye Care Caribbean - [CCB/Eye Care Caribbean]

Centre for Internet and Society (CIS)

*Comité National pour la Promotion Sociale des Aveugles ou Amblyopes (CNPSAA)*

DAISY Forum of India (DFI)

International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet (ICDRI)

*Organização Nacional de Cegos do Brasil (ONCB)*

*Organización Nacional De Ciegos Españoles/National Organization of Spanish Blind Persons (ONCE)*

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

The South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB)

*Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos (ULAC)*

Vision Australia

### African Union of the Blind (AFUB)

The African Union of the Blind (AFUB) which has 50 countries in Africa aspires to strengthen member organizations and create unity of purpose among them, through capacity building and advocacy, in partnership with governments, international agencies and other stakeholders. Its objectives are to encourage and support programmes on the prevention of blindness; advance the well-being of blind and visually impaired people; promote social integration in all fields of life; and create a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of blindness between the member countries.

As an umbrella organization, AFUB works towards protecting and promoting the enjoyment of human rights by blind and partially sighted persons. In this regard AFUB lends support and technical assistance to national member organizations. Practical trainings in leadership, advocacy and lobbying as well as organizational development empower AFUB members to develop and strengthen their own national organizations.

As for its activities the Union has developed a diversified range of programs/projects including capacity building for the membership through leadership training, organizational development and income generation; women and youth empowerment; advocacy on HIV&AIDS, sexual and reproductive health rights; national, regional and international advocacy for policy influence and inclusion in the wider development agenda; information, Education and Communication (IEC); human rights awareness, training and advocacy; education, Braille literacy and low vision; networking and resource mobilization; and institutional development.

In the area of intellectual property, the Union and its members and beneficiaries are interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which could be read and enjoyed by the visually impaired and other reading disabled persons. The organization is interested in the WBU proposed treaty on copyright and the visually impaired, and the outcomes of the Stakeholders' Platform. The Organization is of the view that of all the visually impaired in the world, the visually impaired in Africa are all the more in need of such treaty that facilitate the exchange of books across borders, and provides for a harmonized copyright exception worldwide to enable the visually impaired in Africa to access information and books produced in the developed world at a minimum cost.

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### All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB)

The All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB) that has completed 28 years of its existence aims at pooling its resources together for the development of the visually impaired. AICB is made up of grass-roots and state-level associations/organizations, with over 20 affiliates across the country.

It calls upon all like-minded individuals and organizations within and outside the country to lend a helping hand to the visually impaired. Facilitating access to information and harnessing appropriate technologies for improving the quality of life of the blind people and seeking work-opportunities commensurate with the interests and capabilities of the blind youngsters is another of its challenging tasks.

As for its specific area of activities, the AICB has a special school for blind children in a typically rural environment; runs a resource center with a science lab, a Touch-and-tell museum and a geography room; runs a high-speed state-of-the-art Braille Press; provides free or subsidized textbooks to all blind children in a number of states; has a recording studio-cum-cassette library providing books to college students; publishes four magazines in Braille and on cassettes; produces in Braille for four reputed children's print journals; produces a wide range of reports and general knowledge books on various research projects in Hindi and English; and brings out Braille textbooks in various languages in India. AICB also caters for training and employment through running Braille stenography and computer training courses; has a Crisis Management Unit for helping recently blinded persons to overcome the retarding effects of their visual disability; O.& M., ADL and home management training; and placement of over 250 ex-trainees of stenography courses in various government and private concerns. AICB provides rehabilitation services, and provides financial assistance to blind persons to enable them to start income-generating activities in rural areas; provides pensions to elderly blind persons; and runs a day-care center for the geriatric group of blind persons. Its activities also include programs for prevention of blindness; provides free eye glasses to the poor and the needy and surgeries, runs a hostel for college-going blind girls providing free facilities and reading materials; provides scholarships to blind girls studying at post-graduate level; and provides intensive leadership training and personality building programmes. AICB has Braille equipment banks in many states; judicial activism through an advocacy cell to facilitate redress of grievances of individuals and securing the rights of the blind by filing petitions in various courts; and a wide range of professional conferences and consultations from time to time. AICB was able to serve a total of 134,204 needy persons during 2007-2008.

As for the relationship of AICB with intellectual property matters, AICB is interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which could be read and enjoyed by the visually impaired and other reading disabled persons. AICB is interested in the proposed treaty on copyright and the visually impaired, and shows keen interest in the outcomes of the Stakeholders' Platform.

It has been adjudged the Best NGO in the disability sector for 2006 by the Government of India and presented the corresponding national award by the President of India on December 3, 2006. During the current year the Confederation's Braille printing press was adjudged the best in the country and was awarded a citation and cash award of one hundred thousand Indian Rupees on the occasion of 200th anniversary of Louis Braille in a grand function organized by the Government of India on January 4, 2009. Its Secretary General,

Mr. J L Kaul, is also holding the office of Secretary General, Asian Blind Union continuously since 2000.

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*Asociación Civil Tiflonexos – Biblioteca Tiflolibros (Tiflolibros)*

The *Asociación Civil Tiflonexos – Biblioteca Tiflolibros* (Tiflolibros), which is active in all Latin American countries, with users from Spain and other European countries, is a non-profit civil association, created in 2001 following the development of Tiflolibros, the first internet library for Spanish speaking blind persons. Its mission is to favor the incorporation of people with visual disability with the use and development of new technology. Its main project is Tiflolibros, a book library in computer archives, which can be read by blind people using screen readers. Today the library has more than 30,000 titles and 4,500 users from 46 countries acceding to it.

The main activity of the Tiflolibros Library is storing library of books in the files of the computer by which one could access across Internet. Those who are not able to read conventionally are allowed free access by registering themselves. The library is created by pooling materials from users and institutions that digitize them. The services provided are such as making available of books in audio MP3 and recorded with synthetic voice for those who do not have access to Internet; training, technical support and repair of computer equipments for blind persons; and providing Red MATE i.e., Tiflo educative materials and supports. Its projects seek to assist persons with visual disability in the utilization of technological tools and in accessing reading materials in the network for equal access to education and information.

Tiflolibros and its members and beneficiaries are interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which could be read and enjoyed by visually impaired and other reading disabled persons. The organization is interested in the proposed treaty on copyright and the visually impaired, and the outcomes of the Stakeholders' Platform.

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Beneficent Technology, Inc. (Benetech)

Benetech, a Silicon Valley non-profit organization having global networking with large presence in the USA, India and Colombia, combines the power of the human mind with a deep passion for social improvement. It creates new technology applications that address unmet human needs, building effective solutions for the disability, literacy, human rights and environmental communities. Its specialty is creating software for the social sector where the market will fail to meet the needs of a specific community, typically because of tiny market size. Its Bookshare service is an online library that was created to serve the millions of people who have print disabilities, such as blindness, low vision, a learning disability or mobility impairment.

Its objectives are to ensure that people with print disabilities have access to the same information at the same time as everyone else.

As for its activities, Bookshare provides people with print disabilities legal access to more than 60,000 books and 150 periodicals that can be converted into Braille, large print or synthetic speech. Currently, over 60,000 persons from around the world subscribe to Bookshare, which has agreements with many major publishers and universities who donate their digital books to the collection. The library also grows as its members scan, proofread and upload books of their own to share with other readers. The Bookshare digital rights management system ensures that the copyrighted books are available only to qualified people with disabilities and stay within this community.

As for Benetech's relationship with the intellectual property matters is concerned, its members and beneficiaries are interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which can be read and enjoyed by visually impaired and other reading disabled persons. Benetech is interested in the proposed treaty on copyright and the visually impaired, and is also interested in the outcomes of the Stakeholders' Platform. Benetech is especially interested in extending the benefits of the technology and accessible content it has helped create to people with disabilities in the developing world.

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Canadian Library Association (CLA)/  
*Association canadienne des bibliothèques* (CLA)

The Canadian Library Association/*Association canadienne des bibliothèques* (CLA), which is primarily active in Canada, is the largest broad-based national association representing the interests of academic, public, school, and special libraries, librarians, library trustees, and other library workers. CLA is a non-profit, voluntary organization governed by an elected Executive Council. The association represents approximately 2200 members, both individuals and institutions across Canada.

CLA's mission is to be an advocate and public voice, educator and network. It builds the Canadian library and information community and advances its information professionals. CLA monitors and advocates on key issues at both the national and international levels.

CLA pays a significant role in promoting awareness of the important cultural, educational, social and economic roles that Canada's libraries and information services play. It is actively engaged in the development of policies and positions which inform the government and the broader community on key issues related to the library and information profession in Canada.

It advocates issues of relevance to the library and information profession, including copyright, library funding, access to information, and intellectual freedom. CLA lobbies Members of Parliament and works with federal government departments to raise awareness of the position of the association on various issues, to inform policy, and to contribute to consultations. Specific areas of interest include public policy related to libraries, librarians and library users; funding issues that impact the flow of federal funds to libraries; literacy; and copyright and other intellectual property issues. CLA provides continuing professional development opportunities for its members, mainly through the organization of an annual conference for library and information professionals. The conference uses workshops, sessions and keynote speakers to provide members with new information, and opportunities for collaboration and skills development. CLA develops position statements on these areas of interest. It has five divisions which work specifically to advance the interests of members in the areas of public libraries, school libraries, special libraries, academic libraries, and library trusteeship. Of particular importance are committees related to copyright, intellectual freedom, information policy, and international trade treaties. CLA recognizes professional achievements in the Canadian library community by providing a number of annual awards. CLA's professional units also offer some grants and scholarships to assist members in various areas of professional activities.

CLA is directly engaged in a variety of activities related to intellectual property issues. The CLA Copyright Committee contributes regularly to copyright discussions on a national level. Its committee recently made significant contributions to a national consultation on copyright legislation facilitated by the federal government of Canada. CLA is also working in partnership with other organizations in Canada on issues related to the accessibility of information for individuals with print disabilities. The CLA Task Force on the Initiative for Equitable Library Access is working to help ensure that all Canadians will be able to access the information they need in formats that work best for them. There is great interest throughout the association in the current discussions at the WIPO SCCR regarding limitations and exceptions, both those related to people with visual impairments and other print disabilities, as well as those specific to libraries and archives. CLA is keen to be represented



at the upcoming meeting of the WIPO SCCR meeting as the issues being discussed will have a direct impact on the work of the association and of its members.

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## The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) which is primarily active in Canada is a nationwide, community-based, registered charity committed to research, public education and vision health for all Canadians. CNIB provides the services and support necessary for people to enjoy a good quality of life while living with vision loss.

The primary objectives include the aligning of library service development, programs and technologies with national and global initiatives to facilitate easy access to alternative format library collections worldwide; ensuring library collections and services reflect the changing population mosaic and evolving needs of persons with print disabilities; serving as a key service delivery partner for the public sector (governments) in the delivery of equitable library services through public libraries; promoting copyright legislation which supports our national and cross-border access goals; and advocating with government for equitable library service for persons with print disabilities until the Initiative for Equitable Library Access (IELA) is operational.

As for its activities, CNIB Library has been working to meet the daily informational and reading needs of people with vision loss and other print disabilities since 1906. CNIB Library is Canada's largest producer of alternative format reading materials, with an extensive collection including over 80,000 alternate format titles available on demand. Each year, the CNIB Library circulates approximately two million items, online or postage-free. Its physical formats include Braille, children's print Braille, audio books (DAISY CD format), magazines (DAISY CD and Braille), and described video (VHS and DVD). CNIB's online formats include MP3 (Online Digital Audio (ODA)); e-Text; e-Braille; and e-Music Braille scores. Its music services include Braille scores, Braille books and Audio Music Instruction.

CNIB offers fully integrated digital library services, available 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. It was designed for and in cooperation with our readers, and is compatible with the Screen reading programs/JAWS, Screen magnification/Zoom Text and refreshable Braille displays. The Children's Discovery Portal is a special interface for children ages 6 to 14. It offers a complete access to the CNIB Digital Library, a content which is updated weekly with four themes a year and sessions including: speak out; games; chat; surveys; and homework help.

The CNIB Library Partners Program is a fee-based service for local public, library access to the direct, downloadable service for eligible public library patrons, a refreshable, physical deposit collection and service outreach for people with print disabilities. CNIB's members and beneficiaries are interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which can be read and enjoyed by visually impaired and other reading disabled persons. The organization is professionally interested in the WBU proposed treaty on copyright and the visually impaired as well as the outcomes of the Stakeholders' Platform.

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Caribbean Council for the Blind-Eye Care Caribbean - [CCB/Eye Care Caribbean]

The Caribbean Council For The Blind-Eye Care Caribbean - [CCB/Eye Care Caribbean] was established on September 24, 1967 as a regional non-profit Organization comprising of Societies/Associations/Councils for the Blind, throughout the mainly English-speaking Caribbean and Haiti. The membership stands at 29 Agencies in some 20 countries in the region. The organization operates primarily in the Caribbean Region, aims to promote effective measures for the preservation of sight and for the education and training, rehabilitation, employment and well-being, and to do all things to facilitate the integration of persons who are blind or visually impaired in the societies of the countries and territories of its Member Agencies/Organizations. The Council aspires to prevent blindness and visual impairment; while creating opportunities for persons whose sight cannot be restored, with adopting the goal of adhering to the objectives of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight; Education for all Children with Visual Impairment (EFA-VI); and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The principal objectives are to prevent avoidable blindness and visual impairments; help the blind or visually impaired have their sight restored; advocate for universal access to inclusive education by children who are blind or visually impaired; lobby for universal access to counseling and adjustment to blindness services by all persons who are blind and require such services; promote the rights of persons who are blind or visually impaired to training, employment, unemployment or pension benefits and inclusive recreational activities; strive for continuous improvement in the institutional capabilities of its members; utilize all available media systems to advance public awareness and material support for those objectives; work towards the acquisition of financial and other resources to support its work; promote the advancement of social investment practices.

As for its activities, CCB-Eye Care Caribbean joined hands with several international organizations to launch several activities across the Caribbean. Some of the salient activities include the launch of V2020: The Right to Sight Initiative in the Caribbean; training of teachers, senior nurses, doctors and senior administrators in planning and managing community eye health programs”; implementing cataract surgical programs; establishing and maintaining a regional maintenance service for out-patient’ department and surgical equipment across the region; launching training course for refractionists to work in the eye units in government hospitals; training of persons who are blind; establishing regional training labs for the blind; equipping Eye Units Government Hospitals; providing patients with prescription glasses at cost; initiating a Regional Training Program for Refractionists; funding scholarship to train doctors abroad in ophthalmology; conducting studies on glaucoma knowledge, attitudes and practices; implementing cognitive and visual assessment of school-going children who are visually impaired; and the drafting of a basic layout for new national plans to prevent Avoidable Blindness.

CCB/Eye Care Caribbean is professionally interested in the WBU proposed treaty on copyright and the visually impaired as well as in the outcomes of the Stakeholders’ Platform. The organization is interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which can be utilized for educational, vocational, employment or entertainment by persons who are visually impaired or reading disabled.

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Centre for Internet and Society (CIS)

The Centre for Internet and Society aims to become a reference point for decision-makers and policy makers from government, corporate, academic and civil society organizations involved in Internet-related policies, research and practices. It also aspires to become a leading research centre representing the perspective of the Global South on emerging issues around Internet and society. It further advocates the use of free and open source software and the adherence to open web accessibility standards on all public digital infrastructures such as e-government sites and services so as to enable equal and perpetual access to all sections of society, including disabled, aged, illiterate and neo-literate populations. The Centre commissions high quality independent research projects on Internet-related practices and policy formulation, and promotes the advancement and the usage of Internet among knowledge professionals and society in general. It further aims to protect the public by spreading awareness about unscrupulous practices prevalent on the Internet. CIS conducts research as well as advocacy on a range of issues concerned with the field of Internet and society, especially from a developing world perspective, and organizes research conferences.

The main areas of its advocacy work are accessibility, IPR reform, Internet governance and cyber laws. CIS has collaborated with an organization called Inclusive Planet to develop Bookbole.in, a comprehensive e-book portal for the disabled in India. It has also worked with the National Informatics Centre to help them put in place a web accessibility policy, and is currently working with the central government to develop a National Policy on Electronic Accessibility. CIS has led the translation of the W3C's WCAG guidelines into Hindi, and also conducts regular workshops to educate web developers about web accessibility. It is currently spearheading a nation-wide 'Right to Read' campaign, which argues for changes in copyright law to accommodate limitations and exceptions for disabled people. CIS is also part of the Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disabilities at the Internet Governance Forum.

As part of the Non-Commercial Users' Constituency at ICANN's GNSO, CIS has been working at projecting a developing world perspective as a concern of global Internet governance. CIS has been conducting research on the implications of recent amendments to India's Information Technology Act, which is the primary statute regulating Internet usage in India.

CIS is fully committed to issues of Intellectual Property Rights. Digital technologies and the Internet had precipitated the need for a re-look at intellectual property rights, especially copyright. CIS also seeks to promote various practices which ensure free access and use of IP under open licenses, such as the free, libre and open source software, open content, open access, open educational resources, and open standards. CIS looks into copyright and related rights (including broadcast rights) issues as well as traditional knowledge, insofar as any of these affect consumers, especially those of developing countries, and pertain to the field of Internet and society. Hence issues such as access to knowledge, the treaty for the blind and the print disabled, limitations and exceptions, the broadcasters' treaty, are of interest to CIS.

As for specific activities, CIS is currently conducting an India-wide campaign, entitled 'Right to Read' with a number of partner organizations for amendment in the Copyright Act in India to allow for an exception for making copyrighted works available for disabled people.

In the past CIS conducted a signature campaign to support the World Blind Union's proposal at WIPO on limitations and exceptions for the blind and print disabled. CIS provided input to the Indian Government on the WIPO broadcast treaty. It is currently engaged in studying free access to law in four nations as part of a larger global study, with addressing the issue of whether copyright law curtails such access. CIS takes part in negotiating the text relating to software in the Paris Accord II, which seeks to establish a set of common principles regarding access to information and fair creative remuneration. It is also currently conducting research on the interactions between competition law, consumer law, and free/open source software. CIS had conducted the Indian copyright law survey for the IP Watch List 2009 brought out by Consumers International, and has organized many events on open access to scholarly literature, with co-sponsors including the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Academy of Sciences. As part of its work on open content, CIS has hosted a lecture by Jimmy Wales, the co-founder of Wikipedia, and had provided support for the Wikimedia Foundation's India chapter. CIS has organized a National Meeting on Software Patents, in response to the draft patent manual which seemed to legitimize software patents. It is also part of the Internet Governance Forum's Dynamic Coalition on Open Standards, and had contributed a report on open standards to the Global Information Society Watch 2008.

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*Comité National pour la Promotion Sociale des Aveugles ou Amblyopes (CNPSAA)*

CNPSAA which is primarily active in France is the confederation of the main visually impaired associations in France. It represents the blind and visually impaired people before public authorities. Within CNPSAA there are various commissions that are active in supporting the visually impaired persons on major issues such as employment, new technologies, culture and social rights.

As far as its activities are concerned, the Cultural commission of CNSPA gathers a dozen of organizations or bodies that support visually impaired person's access to culture. It operates in three main areas of audio-description to promote accessibility of audio description on broadcasting channels; the "cecogram" that allows the visually impaired people to continue to benefit from the postal official paid to send through the post Braille material or audio documents; and the copyright in relation to the implementation of the exception and access to the file source as defined by the legislation of 1 August 2006.

As for its involvement in the intellectual property matters, the Cultural Commission of CNPSAA has been cooperating since 2003 with the French Government and members of the Parliament for the drafting of the August 1, 2006 legislation on copyright which provides for an exception for the benefit of handicapped associations. CNPSAA remains fully committed to the implementation of this exception in France. It is actually the CNPSAA that chairs the Commission composed of representatives of rights holder's organizations and representative of associations which consider the requests to benefit from the exception. The CNPSAA supports the proposal of Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay on the limitations and exceptions and the treaty proposed by the World Blind Union (WBU).

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### DAISY Forum of India (DFI)

The DAISY Forum of India with a network of 72 organizations from all parts of India aims to seek provision in copyright law for exemption for production of accessible material; using appropriate technologies to enhance production and distribution; adaptation of common formats and procedures so that sharing and exchange program could become really available in such organizations; developing skills amongst the staff of the organizations; collaborating with international agencies and organizations; ensuring availability of Braille, large print, and talking books at affordable cost to persons with blindness or low vision in all parts of the country and in all Indian languages; developing content preparation strategies and task distribution among forum members for production; ensuring availability of DAISY players at affordable cost to all users; and creating network with as many like-minded organizations as possible.

The DAISY Forum of India is involved in production or distribution of books in accessible format such as Braille or talking book to persons with blindness or low vision. Its network includes special need cells of the university libraries. Its Special Committee on Publisher Relationship and Copyrights has been actively contacting publishers and publisher forums to get their support in the policy issues and provides permissions for international distribution of accessible format versions of their books. The network has built collaboration tools such as a combine catalogue, book exchange mechanism among all member organizations, language focal points for accessible format books, implementation of joint projects or establishing infrastructure for production and distribution of accessible format books, etc. BookShare India is also one of the member organizations of the DAISY Forum of India which provides a well-protected online library of electronic books for persons with blindness or low vision.

As for the involvement of DFI in the areas of intellectual property rights, its members and beneficiaries are interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which could be read and enjoyed by visually impaired and other reading disabled persons. The organization is professionally interested in the treaty on the visually impaired formerly proposed by Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay. It also takes keen interest in the outcomes of the Stakeholders' Platform.

As for specific activities, DFI is involved in the preparation of a combined catalogue of all member organizations of DAISY Forum of India, and conducts training for production of Braille and talking books. It builds system and mechanism for exchange of titles among member organizations of the DAISY Forum of India, and creates network with public libraries and university libraries for making accessible books available to persons with print disabilities. It also generates resources for the production and distribution of books in accessible formats. DFI participates in development of government policies on copyright and other related matters of publisher relations and production and availability of books in formats which persons with print disabilities can read themselves.

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### International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet (ICDRI)

The International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet (ICDRI) is an organization which was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organization based in the United States of America and is currently active in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, England, India, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, Zambia and the United States.

ICDRI is operated by people with disabilities and benefits from the expertise of an International Advisory Board, and embraces a cross-disability perspective, in order to include the entire community of people with disabilities. It is also a neutral research institute that maintains independence and control over its strategic planning, business work plan and budget. ICDRI is committed to be on the cutting edge of global disability law, policy and electronic and information technology, and seeks to enable replication of best practices and to enable other organizations to address disability issues; and it operates within a framework of collaboration with local, national and international organizations in the exchange of information and cultural perspectives.

It has a vision for the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. As an internationally recognized public policy center organized by and for people with disabilities, ICDRI seeks to increase opportunities for people with disabilities by identifying barriers to participation in society and promoting best practices and universal design for the global community.

ICDRI's mission includes the collection of a knowledge base of quality disability resources and best practices for accessibility and to provide education, outreach and training based on these core resources.

Its salient activities includes assisting entities world-wide in their compliance with disability rights laws that impact digital information with a focus on cross-disability solutions, and addresses at international conferences and writes on equal access for persons with disabilities. ICDRI provides training, education, public policy and legislative assistance on best practices and the accessible design of information and communications technology (ICT). Its clients include universities, businesses, governments and the ICT industry. ICDRI also provides assistance to legislative bodies on the drafting of equal access legislation. ICDRI served as the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee accessibility expert during the drafting of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As for the intellectual property area is concerned, ICDRI shows interest in the WBU proposed treaty on copyright for the visually impaired as well as the outcomes of the Stakeholders' Platform. It has been following the WIPO Vision IP effort. Its members and beneficiaries are also interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which can be read and enjoyed by visually impaired persons.

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*Organização Nacional de Cegos do Brasil (ONCB)*

The *Organização Nacional de Cegos do Brasil* (ONCB), which is primarily active in Brazil, aims to initiate actions of equality of opportunities and full participation, with the aim of achieving the Brazilian blind people integral development. It also aspires to strengthen the self-confidence of blind people and improve their self-esteem to impulse the development of their personality in order for them to become protagonist of their community. The organisation endeavours to establish the respect and defence of blind people's human rights, and promote the scientific and technological research with the purpose of improving the social, cultural and economic level of Brazilian blind people.

The activities of ONCB are based on the strengthening of the Brazilian blind movement. It promotes the rights of the blind people and people with low vision by organising trainings, congresses, meetings, and other activities. The Brazilian blind people are represented by ONCB in different state committees, judicial affairs and issues where the Brazilian blind people are involved.

As for the intellectual property area is concerned, ONCB shows interest in the WBU proposed treaty on copyright for the visually impaired as well as the outcomes of the Stakeholders' Platform. It has been following the WIPO vision IP effort. Its members and beneficiaries are also interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which can be read and enjoyed by visually impaired persons.

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*Organización Nacional De Ciegos Españoles (ONCE)/*  
National Organization of Spanish Blind Persons (ONCE)

*Organización Nacional De Ciegos Españoles/The National Organization of Spanish Blind Persons (ONCE)*, based in Spain, is a non-profit, self-sustained public law corporation of a social nature that provides services for blind and visually impaired persons in Spain since 1938. Its services cover all possible needs that persons with visual disability may have such as rehabilitation, access to information, library services, use of technologies, etc, and has modernized and expanded its activities over the past two decades. ONCE is today an international reference in the provision of social services for blind and visually impaired persons to have access to equal rights.

ONCE was an active part of the European Blind Union's efforts to have an exception for print disabled persons included in the text of the European Directive 2001/29/EC on the harmonization of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society. ONCE played an active part in the subsequent transposition of this Directive into the Spanish law, making sure that the optional exception became part of its legislation. ONCE has a Technical Office for European Affairs that undertakes a proactive role regarding the framework of new developments within the European institutions, working with the Spanish Committee of Representatives of People with Disabilities (CERMI) as well as with the European Blind Union (EBU) and the European Disability Forum (EDF). Today ONCE works with more than thirty organizations and international groups. As an active member of the World Blind Union (WBU), ONCE has today become the voice of the blind worldwide. ONCE is also co-financing the launch and functioning of the new WBU Office, based in Toronto, Canada. Since the mid-80s, a representative of ONCE has been working as the WBU Secretary General, financing all its duties, ranging from administration and representation, to those necessary for internal and external communication and publications.

The goal of ONCE is aimed at achieving two important objectives: the self-reliance and full social integration of its members.

ONCE's activities include consolidation of ancillary services in support of direct attention in the educational resource centers; intensification of the use of tools linked to Internet with special emphasis on the employment; guaranteeing access to didactic resources and especially to technological tools used in the classroom; designing products, goods and services, especially with regard to the accessibility of buildings, transport, cultural heritage, nature and leisure areas and digital terrestrial television; adaptation of books and other documents to digital formats; dissemination of information and communication technology amongst persons with visual disabilities through the provision of training, counseling and technical support; promoting knowledge of Braille as a literacy system and dissemination of the same; and promoting Braille marking on consumer product packaging, especially on medicines and others of special relevance.

In the context of intellectual property, ONCE tries to be of influence to any agreement, treaty or guideline which may affect the right of access to information of persons with print disability. As the sole producer of documents in alternative materials in Spain, ONCE acknowledges the importance of an inclusive copyright legislation, both at national and international levels, that grants like-minded institutions the right to produce and distribute such materials with the same freedom and flexibility as other library and cultural services acquire, and distribute the documents that are available for those without a print disability.

Since 2003, ONCE has actively followed initiatives undertaken by WIPO in strengthening the position of persons with disability against restrictions imposed by copyright laws throughout the world. ONCE's interest in WIPO's activities kept growing over time, and gained new momentum with the introduction of a proposed treaty for the visually impaired.

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Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), primarily based in the United Kingdom is the United Kingdom's leading charity offering information, support and advice to over two million people with sight loss. Its pioneering work helps anyone with a sight problem – not just with Braille and talking books, but with imaginative and practical solutions to everyday challenges.

As for its activities, the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) campaigns to eliminate avoidable sight loss and support research into the causes and latest treatments of eye conditions. RNIB is a membership organization for the blind and partially sighted people and their families and careers. RNIB provides accessible format books for blind and partially sighted people. Talking books, which offer over 16,000 audio books, are paid for by annual subscription and delivered to the door of its members. RNIB produces audio, Braille and large print editions of titles originally published in standard print, which includes fiction and non-fiction books, Braille music manuscripts and accessible maps. Its National Library Service is the largest specialist library in the United Kingdom with titles available for readers with sight loss to borrow. Its talking book service for audio book titles is available on loan. It has a wide range of DAISY talking books, DAISY players and other reading resources for sale from its online shop. Its BookStream book club allows people to listen to talking book titles via their computer.

As for the interest in intellectual property, the RNIB claims being instrumental in obtaining the United Kingdom's copyright exception for print disabled people. It is a member of the World Blind Union delegations which attend WIPO, as well as member of the United Kingdom Publishers' Association. Its national library service is closely involved in United Kingdom copyright matters.

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### The South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB)

The South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB), which operates primarily in South Africa, is a non-profit organization established in Cape Town in 1929 as an umbrella organisation encompassing ninety-nine organizations for the blind people across all nine provinces in South Africa. These member organizations share Council's goal of providing services to visually impaired people across South Africa. The Council's vision is to facilitate a network of organizations that collaborate towards securing the full participation and inclusion of blind and partially sighted people in all aspects of a diverse South African society.

The Council is committed to fostering and promoting conditions to enable all blind and partially sighted people of all ages to live dignified, productive and meaningful lives. It consults with relevant institutions and individuals in government, public and private sectors, on matters relating to policy and legislation pertinent to the interests of blind and partially sighted persons. It also develops and maintains standards for services offered to blind and partially sighted people. The Council promotes the education, learning and skills development, and opportunities for employment of blind and partially sighted people, and helps organizations for and of the blind to deliver effective and relevant services to blind and partially-sighted people and their families or other interested stakeholders. Apart from that the Council also gathers, disseminates and manages information on matters concerning blindness and related services to and on behalf of blind and partially sighted people. It moreover initiates, develops and implements projects that benefit blind and partially sighted people of all ages. The council promotes and engages in relevant research and produces and promotes the accessibility of information and assistive devices and related technologies to blind and partially sighted people. The Council further cooperates with and exchanges information, advice and assistance with related organizations and agencies across the globe. It promotes knowledge of the skills, capacities and abilities of the blind and partially sighted people; and ensures that blind and partially sighted people of all ages enjoy all rights promised by the Constitution of South Africa.

SANCB has four main divisions to run its activities. The Access Division runs a Resource Centre which sells, installs and provides training and support for various assistive devices and access technologies; provides a low vision service; delivers awareness and sensitisation presentations; provides a resource library that provides information relevant to eye care and visual impairment; and produces accessible publications including *Imfama* magazine and *I-Opener* newsletter in print, audio, DAISY and electronic formats. The Education and Braille Support Services Division offers Braille training; promotes access to Braille; provides Braille printing on a small scale; provides information and assistance to visually impaired learners and students to register for metric or tertiary studies and also dispatches bursary forms in this regard; lobbies the government for funding for education related projects; involves itself in the establishment and upgrading of Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres across all provinces; and supports and provides various ABET and ECD centres and schools with resources, material, training and advice. The Eye Care Services Division addresses and attempts to eliminate avoidable blindness by conducting mobile tours which provide eye screenings, cataract surgery, refraction services and low vision services to people living in under serviced or rural areas across all provinces. The Skills Development Division develops Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programmes in South Africa which encourage the development of self-help groups; offers community based life skills training programmes; provides CBR

field worker training and entrepreneurial development to enable the employment of visually impaired people; engages in the development of sport and recreation for visually impaired people at school and in their communities; offers computer literacy and contact centre courses through Optima College; and runs a job placement programme which promotes the abilities of visually impaired people to potential employers and assists with placement services through linking job seekers and employers.

As for the intellectual property area is concerned, the organization shows interest in the WBU proposed treaty on copyright for the visually impaired as well as the outcomes of the Stakeholders' Platform. Its members and beneficiaries are also interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which can be read and enjoyed by visually impaired persons.

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*Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos (ULAC)*

The *Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos* (ULAC) works to unify the movement of the blind people in the countries of the region, and stimulates the birth and development of national organizations for blind people. It promotes, in coordination with other organizations, actions to prevent blindness, and seeks to provide the blind people of Latin America equal opportunities and full participation in the development. ULAC also aims to strengthen the self-confidence and improve the self esteem of the blind people. It encourages the Latin American countries to implement regulations that eliminate discrimination and contribute to equal opportunities and social integration of the blind people, and also struggles for the respect and defence of human rights of the blind people. ULAC promotes the scientific and technological research with the purpose of improving the social, cultural and economic conditions of the blind.

ULAC promotes the rights of blind people and those with low vision through organising training, congresses, meetings, and other activities. Together with *Centro Regional para el Formento del Libro en América Latina y el Caribe* (CERLALC), it is currently undertaking a revision of the production of books with accessible aids for people with visual disabilities. ULAC is also working with the Daisy Consortium to achieve the introduction of the spoken book format in countries which still do not have this technology. As part of the Ibero-American Braille Council and World Braille Council, ULAC works in the unification of symbolism Braille to contribute to the book exchange system between different countries. ULAC is also part of the EFA-VI campaign implemented in Latin America jointly with ICEVI. ULAC is also the regional organization of the World Blind Union for Latin America and therefore it is involved with the initiatives that the WBU carries out.

Its members and beneficiaries are interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which can be read and enjoyed by visually impaired and other reading disabled persons. ULAC is interested in the proposed treaty on copyright and the visually impaired as well as the outcome of the Stakeholders' Platform.

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## Vision Australia

Vision Australia is the leading provider of blindness and low vision services in Australia. It works in partnership with Australians who are blind or have low vision to help achieve the possibilities they choose in life.

It hopes that in the future people who are blind or have low vision will have access to and fully participate in every part they choose and encouraging community to recognize the capabilities of people who are blind or have low vision

Vision Australia has a range of services which are tailored to a person's level of vision and include children's services; low vision clinics and adaptive technology; employment services; training courses in Braille and adaptive technology; seeing eye dogs and mobility training such as cane services; library and alternative format services; the creation and delivery of alternative format materials for people with a print disability; radio for the print handicapped which reads major and community newspapers and other timely information such as magazines; advocacy and community education, ensuring that the rights of the visually impaired are advocated at the highest levels within Australia's governments plus developing community programs that raise awareness of the issues and barriers facing people with a vision impairment.

Vision Australia shows interest in the WBU proposed treaty on copyright for the visually impaired as well as the outcomes of the Stakeholders' Platform. It has been following the WIPO Vision IP effort. Its members and beneficiaries are also interested in the availability of published works in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print and audio, which can be read and enjoyed by visually impaired persons.

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