

# The Publishers Circle

## Charter

The Publishers Circle contributes to a viable, globally connected and efficient national book publishing industry in developing countries. This initiative launched by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) promotes the transfer of knowledge, building skills and raising professional standards on the basis of a sound legal framework.

The role of publishing in social, economic and cultural development is a matter of significant national importance. The Publishers Circle is built on public-private partnerships and market interactions through informal multi-stakeholder platforms. It also supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Publishers Circle is an open-ended, voluntary, free of charge and transparent structure, based on expressed interest by the signatories. Participants in the Circle may include, but are not limited to publishers, authors, government and non-profit institutions, international organizations, financial and development institutions.

The signatories of this Charter engage to respect the following commitments:

### WIPO

1. Organizes a forum for exchange of ideas, projects and contacts;
2. Raises awareness on the importance of copyright for sustainable and efficient publishing;
3. Provides legislative advice and capacity-building;
4. Acts as a focal point for publishers, authors, government and non-profit institutions, international organizations, financial and development institutions.

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### International Stakeholders

1. Assist in building up local publishing infrastructure;
2. Engage in developing optimal innovative licensing solutions and cooperation schemes with local publishers through partnerships, mentorship, twinning and other modalities;
3. Support the exchange of best practices, training and professional exchanges as well as co-publishing and co-distribution agreements, joint ventures and other collaborative projects;
4. Facilitate participation of publishers from developing countries in e-commerce and assist in overcoming obstacles for international exchanges;
5. Assist in establishing frameworks for data collection on book publishing.

### Local Stakeholders

#### Public

1. Contribute to a balanced, business friendly legal framework providing a conducive environment for the production and commercialization of works;
2. Establish efficient rights management mechanisms and support the functioning of remuneration schemes;
3. Facilitate the implementation of the initiative through policy and administrative measures;
4. Undertake efforts to efficiently combat piracy while ensuring a balance between creators and users interests;
5. Foster South-South cooperation to streamline regional synergies and realize efficiencies of scale.

#### Private

1. Support the development of national content and educational material;
2. Organize the local publishing sector to enable efficient participation in the market;
3. Uphold highest professional standards to ensure smooth operation of the markets;
4. Engage in public-private partnerships and participate in joint ventures and other collaborative projects;
5. Develop publishing in accessible formats and build capacity among publishers in this area.

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## Signatory

Name and title of person signing on behalf of the signatory:

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Signature:

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Date:

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Contact email:

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