

Diplomatic Conference to Conclude a Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities

Marrakech, June 17 to 28, 2013

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

prepared by the Secretariat

1. Since the meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the Diplomatic Conference to Conclude a Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities, when the list of invitees to the Diplomatic Conference was approved (VIP/PM/4 and 6) and expanded (VIP/2/PM/2 and VIP/2/PM/3), the Director General has received requests from each of the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for admission to attend the Diplomatic Conference as observers:

- (i) *Association marocaine pour la réadaptation des déficients visuels (AMARDEV);*
- (ii) Club for People with Special Needs Region of Preveza;
- (iii) Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ict);
- (iv) *Ligue Braille Maroc (LBM);* and
- (v) *Organisation alaouite pour la promotion des aveugles au Maroc (OAPAM).*

2. A short profile of each of the NGOs mentioned in paragraph 1, above – its objectives, structure and membership – appears in the Annex of this document. It is proposed that the NGOs mentioned in paragraph 1 be invited to the Diplomatic Conference as “Observers”.

3. *The Diplomatic Conference is invited to take a decision on the proposal appearing in paragraph 2, above.*

[Annex follows]

Association marocaine pour la réadaptation des déficients visuels (AMARDEV)

Headquarters: The Association was formed in 2000 and has its headquarters in Casablanca, Morocco.

Objectives: AMARDEV encourages training and special education for the visually impaired and focuses on helping their social, professional and cultural integration and reinsertion. The group works for the development and provision of specific technical aids and the integration and development of the visually impaired and helps seek out and disseminate information in the field of low vision.

Structure: AMARDEV's primary governing bodies consist of a General Assembly and an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is headed by a President, a Secretary General, an Assistant Secretary General, and a Treasurer.

Club for People with Special Needs Region of Preveza

Headquarters: The organization was founded in 2000 and has its headquarters in Preveza, Greece.

Objectives: The organization aims to study and solve everyday issues that affect the lives of people with special needs and to promote human and social rights by collective action and solidarity between disabled people and cooperation with regional authorities. The organization also strives to develop social solidarity and create social acceptance of disabled people as well as cultural, social, and athletic activities for members.

Structure: The main governing body is the General Assembly and the main officers are the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ict)

Headquarters: G3ict launched in December 2006 and has its headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia (United States).

Objectives: G3ict aims to partner with the United Nations Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development in seeking inclusive technology solutions for people with disabilities; it also aims to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the field of information and Communication Technologies and to develop a knowledge base and best practices sharing platform in support of the implementation of the new Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in matters of accessible and assistance information and communication technologies.

Structure: The main governing body of the organization is the Board of Directors.

Ligue Braille Maroc (LBM)

Headquarters: The *Ligue Braille Maroc* (LBM) was created in 1998 and has its headquarters in Taza, Morocco.

Objectives: The objectives of the LBM are to make sense of the political positions concerning the visually impaired population in civil society and to work to prevent blindness. It aims to institute stations to teach braille and create accessible braille technology, to fight illiteracy amongst the blind, and to participate with other national organizations to promote fundamental rights and opportunities for citizens with visual disabilities.

Structure: The General Assembly and the Board of Directors are the main governing bodies. The Executive Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary General and Treasurer.

Organisation Alaouite pour la promotion des aveugles au Maroc (OAPAM)

Headquarters: OAPAM, created in 1967, has its headquarters in Rabat, Morocco.

Objectives: OAPAM aims to promote the social and professional integration of blind and short sighted people and to provide appropriate education and training. The organization demonstrates, through its actions, the capacity of an educated blind or a partially sighted person to assume an active role in society.

Structure: The Organization is chaired by her highness Princess Lalla Lamia and consists of regional committees and offices as well as a national Bureau.

[End of Annex and of document]