

NGO: Electronic Information for Libraries
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Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO: Fifty-Fourth Series of Meetings

September 22 to September 30, 2014 (Geneva, Switzerland)

AGENDA ITEM 5

GENERAL STATEMENT

SUPERCEDES PREVIOUS STATEMENT

313 words

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I am speaking on behalf of Electronic Information for Libraries, that partners with library consortia in more than 60 developing and transition economy countries, and IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations, that represents library and information professionals in more than 150 countries.

We will focus our statement on the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR).

We thank Member States for engaging with libraries at SCCR, in particular for the proposals on key topics that affect core services, such as preservation of national cultural heritage.

We believe that norm setting activities at WIPO should be problem-related and evidence-based. This is why librarians and archivists from organizations spanning Africa, Australia, Canada, Europe, Latin America, and the United States came to SCCR sessions this year to present dozens of real situations describing legal obstacles faced by them doing their work in support of access to knowledge and education.

In particular, these concrete examples illustrated a clear cross-border dimension, because library and archive collections in one country often contain materials of cultural and historical significance to people in other countries.

Mme

~~Mr. Chairman~~, we believe in the value of the multilateral system that can deliver for people everywhere, regardless of economic circumstance or stage of development. That can support institutions, such as libraries and archives serving the public interest. That can insulate from pressures that may otherwise occur in bilateral circumstances, as raised yesterday by the distinguished delegate of India.

To conclude, we respectfully request that the Assembly adopts a decision on the future work of SCCR that accords equal commitment to all the topics on the agenda, that includes limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, education and persons with other disabilities, in line with the mandate of the General Assembly to mainstream Development Agenda recommendations into the work of relevant WIPO bodies.

Thank you for your attention.