

Statement the Republic of Uganda
on behalf of the African Group
59th series of meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO
Agenda item 15: Report on the SCCR.
September 30 – October 9, 2019

Mister Chairman,

Uganda is honored to make this statement on behalf of the African Group.

1. The African Group thanks DDG Forbin for introducing the Report of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) contained in document WO/GA/51/5 Rev. We also thank other members of the Secretariat for sparing no effort in the preparation of the report.
2. In addition, the African Group appreciates the commitment and professionalism exhibited by the Chair (Mr. Daren Tang) and his Vice Chairs in guiding the work of the SCCR.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The African Group wishes to reaffirm its commitment to all ongoing negotiations in the SCCR. We stress the importance and value of all topics on the agenda of the Committee and the need to continue developing a more balanced work program which accommodates the diverse interests of all member States.
4. Turning to the main topics of the Committee's agenda, the proposed international instrument or instruments (in whatever form), on limitations and exceptions (L & Es) for libraries and archives, limitations and exceptions for educational, research institutions, and museums, and for persons with other disabilities, is of utmost importance to the Group.
5. Copyright exceptions and Limitations contribute significantly to the development of a balanced international intellectual property system and to fostering innovation and creativity. Access to knowledge that will result from E&L will contribute to sustainable development and bridging the gaps posed by the digital economy.
6. We are pleased with the progress made by the Committee in recent sessions. The success of the recently adopted Marrakesh VIP Treaty, which has enjoyed rapid accessions by many member states across all regions, is testimony of the great interest of WIPO Membership in this subject. We have a great opportunity to build on this vital success.
7. The Group therefore welcomes the conclusion of all activities undertaken in accordance with the Agreed Action Plans – such as extensive studies in all subjects, the Regional Workshops on L & Es, and looks forward to the international conference on L & Es to be held later this month.

8. We wish to emphasize the need to ensure that all agreed activities under the action plans are all geared towards enabling the committee to determine what action should be taken at the international level on the subject of L & Es as per the 2012 GA decision – that directed the SCCR to work towards the establishment of an appropriate international instrument (in whatever form) on L & Es.
9. We are hopeful that this General Assembly will give appropriate direction to the SCCR to enable the Committee to finalize its work on L & Es in the near future.
10. With regard to the Protection of Broadcasting Organizations, the Group would like to recall that it has always been supportive of the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the proposed treaty for the protection of broadcasting organizations as per the 2007 General Assembly mandate. This commitment has not waived. The Group also welcomes the SCCR Recommendation to the 2019 GA. However, we are concerned that despite over two decades of work, the committee does not seem to be anywhere near the finish line. Unless member states demonstrate political will and flexibility , we fear that negotiations will soon slide into a state of inertia.
11. The Group also recognizes the importance of other issues introduced for inclusion in the Work Program of the Committee. In Particular, we reiterate our strong support for the proposal of Senegal and Congo to include the Artist Resale Royalty Right on the future work program of the Committee.
12. In conclusion, we wish to stress the importance of compliance by various WIPO bodies - with decisions of the 2010 General Assembly regarding the Coordination mechanism. In this regard, we urge the SCCR, to include in its next annual report to the Assemblies a description of its contribution to the implementation of the WIPO Development Agenda recommendations.

Thank you Mr Chairman.