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Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (Marrakesh Treaty)

Assembly

Eleventh (11th Ordinary) Session
Geneva, July 7 to 15, 2026

REPORT

adopted by the Assemblies

1. The Assembly was concerned with the following items of the Consolidated Agenda (document A/68/1): 1 to 4, 6, 9(ii), 10, 17, 18, 22 and 23.
2. The reports on the said items, with the exception of item 17, are contained in the General Report (document A/68/10).
3. The report on item 17 is contained in the present document.
4. Mr. Franklin PONKA SEUKAM (Cameroon), Chair of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly, presided over the meeting.

ITEM 17 OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGENDA

MARRAKESH TREATY

5. Discussions were based on document [MVT/A/11/1](#). Reference was made to document [MVT/4/11/INF/1](#).

6. [CHAIR](#): Excellencies, heads of delegations, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to thank the members here for nominating me to lead this work on the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (hereinafter “Marrakesh Treaty”). Allow me to express my deep gratitude to my country and especially towards the Head of State for supporting my candidacy which has led to me being elected. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to the Director General of WIPO for his re-election to lead this Organization for a second term, followed by a renewal of the membership of his team. I would like to take this opportunity as well to welcome the four new Contracting Parties that have acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty since the last Assemblies: Albania, Angola, Cuba and Mozambique. The number of Contracting Parties to the Marrakesh Treaty is, therefore, 104, covering 130 countries. I would like to congratulate and welcome these countries. We will now begin discussion of agenda item 17. We have one document for consideration of the Assembly, document MVT/A/11/1, which is titled Status of the Marrakesh Treaty. I would now like to give the floor to Ms. Sylvie Forbin, Deputy Director General (DDG) of the Copyright and Creative Industries Sector, to present the document.

7. [SECRETARIAT](#): Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, I am honored to open this eleventh ordinary session of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly to discuss this Treaty, which aims to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled. This year’s Assembly has a very special significance. 2026 is an important milestone for this Treaty as on September 30 we will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of its entry into force. Since that date, the number of Contracting Parties to the Treaty has increased more than five-fold. Albania has just acceded to the Treaty and this brings the number to 104, which in fact represents 130 Member States of WIPO, including the member States of the European Union. The most remarkable thing about this number of participating countries is, of course, the ability to offer collections that are both very culturally and linguistically diverse. Our goal is, and remains, that the beneficiaries of this Treaty can access these collections. To this end, you, like us, are sparing no effort to facilitate the implementation of the very specific provisions of this Treaty, and to provide the institutions responsible for implementing this Treaty on the ground, the authorized entities (AEs), with the most effective means to make collections in accessible formats throughout the world available to beneficiaries. In this regard, I would like to encourage all Member States to join us in making our best efforts to meet the promise of the Marrakesh Treaty.

8. [CHAIR](#): As DDG Forbin just reminded us, the Marrakesh Treaty will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of its entry into force in September 2026. To remind ourselves of the work done, we will be hearing different personal experiences about the impact of the Marrakesh Treaty. Before I give the floor to the different delegations, I have the pleasure of inviting several guests to take the floor to share their experiences through a series of messages. The President of the World Blind Union is here in the Assemblies and I will ask him to take the floor first.

9. [WORLD BLIND UNION \(WBU\)](#): Chair and Excellencies, the Marrakesh Treaty ratified by 130 countries so far stands as one of WIPO’s greatest achievements, a landmark instrument that has transformed copyright into a powerful tool for enabling persons who are blind, partially sighted, deaf-blind or otherwise print disabled to access knowledge, education, culture and information on an equal basis. As we look to the next decade, reminding ourselves that the cost of exclusion is higher than the cost of inclusion, the WBU urges all Member States and key

stakeholders, including publishers, libraries and AEs to move beyond ratification and towards full and effective implementation. We urge the Member States that have ratified the Treaty but have yet to fully align their copyright laws to urgently adopt comprehensive legislation to transpose the Treaty provisions into national laws. Member States should also implement the necessary policy frameworks to give practical effect to the legal provisions by promoting the production, availability and cross-border exchange of accessible format works across education, employment, culture and tourism while ensuring adequate budgetary support for AEs, training of specialized teachers and students with print disabilities, awareness-raising and capacity-building of all stakeholders. The success of the Marrakesh Treaty will not be measured by the number of ratifications, but by the number of lives transformed through equal access to published works. Let this Assembly commit to ending the global book famine by ensuring that no person who is blind, deaf-blind or otherwise print disabled is denied timely access to books in the accessible format of their choice, including Braille, during the next phase of the Treaty's implementation.

10. [CHAIR](#): Thank you very much to the President of the WBU. We will now watch a number of videos from the following actors: Dr. Praveena Sukhraj from South Africa, main Representative for the International Council for the Education of People with Visual Impairments (ICEVI) , Mr. Pablo Lecuona from Argentina, founder and director for Tiflolibros, Ms. Aria Indrawati from Indonesia, from the Mitra Netra Foundation, Ms. Gertrude Oforiwa from Ghana, member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and Mr. Mark Riccobono from the United States of America and President of the National Federation of the Blind in the United States.

11. [INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION OF PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT \(ICEVI\)](#): Greetings from Pretoria, South Africa. I am Dr. Praveena Sukhraj-Ely, principal officer of ICEVI, and one of the co-chairs of the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC). As a blind person, I read using the means of Braille and other accessible formats. As we commemorate and celebrate the tenth anniversary of the coming into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, ICEVI extends its congratulations to all countries that have ratified and acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty, and that are implementing its provisions. Access to books and access to education are inseparable and, therefore, ICEVI urges all States to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty expeditiously. This will allow for all partially sighted, blind and deaf-blind persons in those countries to have access to inclusive, equitable, quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

12. I am Pablo Lecuona, founder and director of Tiflolibros, the first Spanish language digital library for persons with visual impairment. I was part of the process that led to the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty and today, ten years later, I can share concrete results. Thanks to the ABC's platform for exchange, more than 75,000 works in Spanish and other languages are being distributed to users in Argentina, and thanks to different agreements with a number of entities such as the U.S. Library of Congress, the Braille Foundation of Uruguay and Guatemala, more than 2,500 audiobooks are reaching users from the 12 Latin American countries that have already implemented the Marrakesh Treaty. We still need more countries to implement the Treaty, so that the books become available to all those who need them.

13. I am Aria Indrawati from the Mitra Netra Foundation, a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Indonesia. Since 1991, the Foundation has been developing systems to produce and distribute accessible books for people with visual disability in Indonesia. This service has been contributing to the development of inclusive education in the country. In 2023, Mitra Netra obtained a license from the relevant ministry to be recognized as an AE under the Marrakesh Treaty. The license gives Mitra Netra the authority needed to assure the public, the publishers and other stakeholders that its service facilitating access to books for persons with visual disabilities is lawful and supported by the State.

14. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame from Ghana, a member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Ten years down the line, we have some books in accessible format and Ghanaians have access to functional audio libraries, a fitting recognition of the Marrakesh Treaty. Some publishers are making their titles available in accessible format on request. We, however, have a long way to go with regard to widespread access. Recognizing advancement in technology and efficiencies that this can bring, particularly with the use of artificial intelligence (AI), I call on Member States to ensure that all books, particularly textbooks, are available in accessible format at the same time that printed copies are released on the market. This is not a waiver. It is a right of all persons who are blind, partially sighted and print disabled.
15. I am Mark Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind of the United States. The Marrakesh Treaty implementation is built on two significant principles. Blind people have talent and value to contribute, and international cooperation gives us global strength in eliminating the barriers to realizing that talent. By expanding access to knowledge, we are not simply sharing books. We are inviting all people, in this case blind people, to innovate, work, lead, and strengthen communities around the world.
16. [CHAIR](#): I would like to thank all the speakers for their inspiring words.
17. [ALBANIA](#): I have the honor to deliver this statement in my national capacity at this time. Albania has formally joined the Marrakesh Treaty by depositing its instrument of accession with the WIPO at its headquarters in Geneva. This accession will ensure that persons with visual impairments or print disabilities gain access to educational materials by enabling persons with disabilities to participate more actively in Albania's social and cultural life. The implementation of the Treaty will promote public discourse on the rights of persons with disabilities and reinforce Albania's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by strengthening its broader human rights international legal framework.
18. [EL SALVADOR](#): Chair, the Delegation of El Salvador has the honor to take the floor on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC). GRULAC would like to recognize the importance of the Marrakesh Treaty as a fundamental tool to promote inclusive access to knowledge and culture, as it facilitates the cross-border exchange of works in accessible formats for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. We would also like to highlight its contribution to narrowing the gap in access to information by strengthening the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in the areas of education, innovation and cultural life. GRULAC would like to underscore the importance of the effective implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, including through the strengthening of capacities of AEs, as well as the promotion of cooperation amongst the Member States to ensure its full operability. We reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of inclusive and balanced intellectual property (IP) systems that guarantee the adequate protection of copyright, while safeguarding access to knowledge and culture. We would like to also encourage international cooperation and exchange of works in accessible formats as essential areas to maximize the impact of the Marrakesh Treaty and improve its benefits at a global level.
19. [CHINA](#): Since ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty in 2022, China has actively promoted its effective implementation. In the same year, the National Copyright Administration of China (NCAC) issued the Interim Provisions on the Provision of Works in Accessible Formats for Persons with Print Disabilities, and established a notification-based filing mechanism for AEs providing accessible format copies. The NCAC has also guided the China Braille Press and the China Braille Library in joining the ABC Global Book Service, and in facilitating the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies. These efforts have enabled persons with print disabilities in China to access a broader range of published works while also making a rich collection of Chinese-language books available to persons with print disabilities around the world. Between 2023 and 2025, a total of 93 domestic AEs, including the China Braille Library and the China

Braille Press successfully completed notification-based filings with the NCAC in accordance with the law. Between 2023 and 2026, China has hosted the Forum on the Protection of Reading Rights for four consecutive years as part of the National Conference on Reading, aiming to promote, safeguard, and raise public awareness of the right to accessible reading for persons with disabilities. China looks forward to seeing more WIPO Member States ratify or accede to the Marrakesh Treaty. China will continue to strengthen cooperation and exchanges with WIPO and its Member States to advance the effective implementation of the Treaty and make greater contributions to enriching the cultural and intellectual lives of persons with print disabilities worldwide.

20. [CAMEROON](#): The Delegation of Cameroon would first like to congratulate you, Chair, and your Vice-Chairs on your election. My Delegation would also like to commend the remarkable way in which you are leading our work, Chair, as well as all the efforts made by the Secretariat to perfectly ensure the smooth organization of these Assemblies. Cameroon is working tirelessly to facilitate access to works in accessible format for the attention of the categories of vulnerable people on our territory. The Government also gives particular attention, and takes into consideration asylum seekers and refugees who live in the national territory as well. In this regard, the Government has recently put in place a number of measures that have the aim of helping to reinforce the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty in Cameroon. This is particularly the case of the text setting forth the requirements for obtaining a license and the procedures for practicing the profession of book and textbook publisher. The text establishes an exception to IP regarding the publishing of school textbooks accessible to persons who are visually impaired. Work is being carried out to have the full transposition of the different provisions of the Treaty in our legal framework as well as raising awareness among all stakeholders involved in the implementation of this legal instrument in Cameroon. To align with the obligations set by the Marrakesh Treaty, the Government has selected and transmitted to the Organization a number of public and private entities that may be able to receive training and technical assistance. My Delegation would like to thank WIPO and the Secretariat of the ABC, in particular for the training and technical assistance that will allow these actors to benefit from better access to the areas of translation and transcription in accessible formats and as well to join the ABC. As the DDG has said, I would like to recall the celebration in September of the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. In this regard, my Delegation would like to suggest the Organization of a regional conference in the upcoming months, with the objective of reviewing implementation of this international legal instrument and future implementation prospects. Cameroon remains available to bring its modest contribution to the implementation of this Treaty in different domains.

21. [AUSTRALIA](#): Australia welcomes the increase in ratifications and accessions to the Marrakesh Treaty and thanks the Secretariat for its work in promoting the Treaty. Australia encourages all Member States to ratify and implement this important Treaty so that all people can fully realize its benefits, particularly in the cross-border exchange of accessible format books.

22. [GUATEMALA](#): We congratulate you on your election as Chair and we align ourselves with the GRULAC statement. Our Delegation would like to thank the secretariat of the Organization for the presentation of the report on the status of the Marrakesh Treaty. We recognize the important work that WIPO carries out through the ABC Consortium to implement the objectives of the Marrakesh Treaty. On the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty, we reaffirm our commitment for the elimination of all barriers that visually impaired, blind and otherwise disabled persons face when accessing published works. In this context, we rejoice to inform you that Guatemala, through the AE, the Committee for the Blind and Deaf in Guatemala, and with the support of the ABC Consortium, is currently carrying out a number of activities to strengthen the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, and enlarge the availability of accessible works in order to ensure that the beneficiaries have access to educational, cultural and information materials in an effective way. Finally, we would like to encourage WIPO and the

ABC Consortium to continue bringing technical assistance to Member States as well as the AEs, and we also reiterate our availability to continue collaborating to make sure that the benefits of the Marrakesh Treaty reach, most concretely, all persons who face difficulties accessing printed texts.

23. [MEXICO](#): The Mexican Delegation takes good note of the Report on the Status of the Marrakesh Treaty. We join the global commemoration of the tenth anniversary of its entry into force, an event that has transformed the architecture of copyright. For Mexico, the adoption and implementation of this Treaty represent a fundamental step towards a more accessible and inclusive culture. Building a world without barriers means guaranteeing that reading, knowledge and culture truly reach all persons on an equal footing. This instrument is an important tool to promote the right to information, and to bring down discrimination demonstrating that IP can be a direct catalyst for human development. At national level, Mexico continues to make progress in translating the Marrakesh principles into concrete reality. Last year, for example, the National Copyright Institute released its new rules on the facilitation of cooperation and functioning of the AEs in Mexico. These rules bring a clear and safe framework for NGOs and governmental institutions to be able to produce material in accessible formats, and to encourage the transborder exchange of these works to the benefit of the users, while fully respecting the copyright of the creators. We encourage WIPO to continue promoting capacity-building for the implementation of the Treaty in all regions of the world, such as the ABC Consortium. On our behalf, Mexico will continue strengthening public policies that give visibility to the groups historically excluded from this area and consolidate a society where access to knowledge is truly universal.

24. [JAPAN](#): The Delegation of Japan would first like to welcome the fact that the number of Contracting Parties to the Marrakesh Treaty has been steadily increasing. We recognize that this Treaty is important to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled with due consideration to the balance between the interests of right holders and the public interest. We have been steadily working with relevant domestic agencies to implement the Marrakesh Treaty. In Japan, the Marrakesh Treaty entered into force on January 1, 2019. Since then, the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies of published works between AEs of Japan and those of other Contracting Parties has been increasing. Therefore, we hope that more countries will accede to this Treaty, and that the cross-border exchange network of this Treaty will expand.

25. [INDONESIA](#): Indonesia welcomes the reports contained in documents MVT/A/11/1 and MVT/A/11/INF/1 and appreciates the continuous effort of the Secretariat and the ABC in advancing the humanitarian objective of the Marrakesh Treaty. As a Contracting Party to the Marrakesh Treaty, Indonesia is encouraged by the continued growth in the treaty membership and by the progress achieved in expanding access to published work for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. Indonesia particularly appreciates the work of the ABC in strengthening the global exchange of accessible format books, supporting capacity building in developing countries and promoting accessible publishing. We also welcome ongoing efforts to harness emerging technologies, including AI, to improve the production of accessible books while ensuring full respect for copyright and appropriate safeguards. Indonesia is pleased that the Mitra Netra Foundation continues to participate in the ABC training and technical assistance program. We believe that such cooperation contributes meaningfully to strengthening national capacity and expanding access to educational materials for persons with print disabilities. Indonesia remains committed to working closely with WIPO, the ABC and fellow Member States to promote inclusive access to knowledge, education and culture, consistent with the objectives of the Marrakesh Treaty and the Sustainable Development Goals. Indonesia, therefore, takes note of the report and looks forward to continuing the implementation of this important initiative for the benefit of persons with print disabilities worldwide.

26. [KAZAKHSTAN](#): The Republic of Kazakhstan thanks the WIPO Secretariat for the report on the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty. Kazakhstan regards the Marrakesh Treaty as one of the most important international humanitarian treaties in the copyright field, as it contributes to expanding access to education, knowledge and cultural values for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. Particular importance is attached to the practical implementation of the Treaty's provisions aimed at promoting the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies, strengthening cooperation among AEs and expanding the collection of accessible books. We highly appreciate the work of WIPO and the ABC, which makes a significant contribution to achieving the objectives of the Marrakesh Treaty, promoting international cooperation and expanding opportunities for persons with visual impairments around the world. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty. Kazakhstan welcomes the organization of a commemorative event during the WIPO Assemblies, and is ready to consider the possibility of participating in the event dedicated to this important milestone. The Republic of Kazakhstan reaffirms its readiness to continue actively participating in the work of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly, and to support WIPO's initiatives aimed at ensuring equal access to knowledge, education and information.

27. [NIGER](#): We would like to congratulate the Chair on his nomination for this post. The Niger has the honor and great pleasure of informing this Assembly that we have ratified the Marrakesh Treaty, and that the instrument of accession is currently being prepared so that we can formally deposit it with the Director General of WIPO. The Marrakesh Treaty is an important treaty for our Delegation because of its humanitarian aspect, and what it does for social development. We would like to invite the Secretariat to count on the Niger as a future Contracting Party to the Treaty. We very much hope to receive technical assistance from you for the efficient and effective implementation of the Treaty.

28. [ANGOLA](#): Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, the Delegation of the Republic of Angola would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of this important document on the Status of the Marrakesh Treaty. Taking good note of the progress that has been made in its implementation and promotion in the last decade, this tenth anniversary of the entry into force is a very important landmark to reaffirm its role as one of the most important international tools for the promotion of inclusion, equality of opportunities and access to knowledge for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. For Angola, the Marrakesh Treaty is a very important milestone in the strengthening of copyright with a humanitarian dimension, as it permits the production, adaptation, and transborder exchange of works in accessible formats such as Braille, audio books, or large print. In this way, we promote full participation of everyone in the cultural and educational life. Chair, we would like to take this opportunity to point out that Angola has deposited its instrument of accession to the Treaty on December 15, 2025, and it entered into force on March 15, 2026. This step demonstrates the firm commitment of the Angolan Government to implementing international standards, together with the promotion of social inclusion. The Delegation of Angola would like to thank WIPO for all the efforts in the implementation and promotion of the Treaty of Marrakesh as well as reaffirming our commitment to the objectives of this very important international tool.

29. [BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA](#): Chair, distinguished delegates, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela would like to align itself with the statement made by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC. We also recognize, and are thankful for, the work carried out by the Assembly, by the Chair and the Secretariat. The Autonomous Service of Intellectual Property in Venezuela would like to congratulate and commend the work that has been done with the ABC Consortium which has allowed us to consolidate the first AE in our country. We reaffirm as such the firm commitment of Venezuela for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty, and we will continue to create spaces for inclusion. This experience reaffirms our conviction that an IP system that is modern and accessible is fundamental to strengthening our society.

30. [JAMAICA](#): Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Delegation of El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC and is pleased to join other Member States in commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Marrakesh Treaty, which we view as an important milestone in advancing access to knowledge and information for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. Jamaica had the privilege of participating in the negotiations which led to the adoption of the Treaty in Marrakesh, and has remained committed to its implementation since becoming a party. Over the past decade, the Treaty has demonstrated its practical value by expanding access to published works for both adults and children, thereby promoting greater inclusion, education and lifelong learning. The benefits of the Treaty are already evident, and Jamaica looks forward to continuing to realize its full potential. We remain committed to supporting its effective implementation and recognize its meaningful contribution to improving the lives and opportunities of the Jamaican people.

31. [SAMOA](#): Samoa is pleased to take the floor to express its strong support for the objectives and ongoing work of the Marrakesh Treaty. Although Samoa has not yet acceded to the Treaty, we are actively progressing toward accession and undertaking the necessary national consultations to ensure that our institutions are fully prepared for implementation. Samoa wishes to acknowledge Ms. Monica Halil Lövblad and the ABC team for their sustained and practical cooperation with our national stakeholders. The collaboration between ABC, the Samoa Blind Persons Association, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Registry of Companies and Intellectual Properties has been central in strengthening Samoa's capacity to produce accessible format educational materials for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. Through this partnership, Samoa has gained valuable technical guidance, training and hands-on support that have enabled us to advance the conversion of school textbooks and improve access to learning resources. These tangible outcomes have been instrumental in our current efforts to convince the Government to accede to the Marrakesh Treaty as they clearly demonstrate the practical benefits of joining the global community in addressing the persistent book famine faced by persons with print disabilities. Samoa also recognizes the significance of this year's Assemblies marking the tenth anniversary of the Treaty's entry into force. We commend WIPO for its continued promotion and implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty across regions including the right to read initiatives supported by the WIPO Australia Funds-in-Trust. These regional engagements have provided valuable insights for Pacific Island Countries including Samoa, as we work to strengthen our national accessibility frameworks and prepare for future accession. Mr. Chair, Samoa reaffirms its commitment to advancing inclusive education, improving access to information and ensuring that all Samoans, regardless of disability, can participate fully in cultural, educational, economic and social life. We extend our sincere appreciation to WIPO and ABC for their continued partnership and look forward to deepening this cooperation as Samoa moves toward accession and eventual implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty.

32. [TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO](#): Trinidad and Tobago supports the continuing work of the Marrakesh Assembly in ensuring that the Treaty is not only reflected in legislation, but fully operationalized for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired and otherwise print disabled. For Trinidad and Tobago, Marrakesh implementation is a practical access to knowledge issue. Trinidad and Tobago was pleased to host with WIPO and the local AE, the National Library and Information System Authority, a regional workshop entitled "Enabling Access: Unlocking the Potential of the Marrakesh Treaty", a regional workshop for selected Caribbean countries, held from November 25 to 27, 2025 in Port of Spain. The workshop brought together IP offices, copyright authorities, libraries, AEs and stakeholders from the region. It allowed countries to share experiences on legislative alignment, accessible book production, assistive technologies, the ABC Global Book Service, school access, accessible textbooks, and the cross-border exchange of accessible works. Trinidad and Tobago recognizes the important role of AEs as national implementation partners. We also acknowledge WIPO's continuing support in helping countries move from policy and legislative reform to operational access. Trinidad and Tobago remains ready to work with WIPO and our Caribbean

partners to ensure that the Marrakesh Treaty delivers tangible access to knowledge for the persons and communities it was intended to serve.

33. [SAUDI ARABIA](#): My Delegation would like to thank you and the Secretariat for having prepared the document pertaining to the Marrakesh Treaty, and to the status of the Marrakesh Treaty, which enables the implementation of its goals, and further accessibility of the published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. We would like also to point out the important role of WIPO with regard to supporting the practical implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty through promotion of international cooperation, and exchange of accessible formats. This further improves the usability of the Marrakesh Treaty, particularly for countries who benefit from the ABC, and with regard to Arabic-language content. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to provide an overview of a number of national initiatives with regard to the Marrakesh Treaty. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has implemented a legislative framework on copyright by creating special provisions on exceptions and limitations concerning access to published works, which will be implemented in August of this year. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also implemented the Treaty by launching the *Qari'e* platform through collaboration with the literature and translation authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for making available more than 20,000 works, which have been made accessible through the platform in compliance with the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty. We reiterate our ongoing support to the WIPO in promoting implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, especially with regard to increasing accessible Arabic-language content to the benefit of States that are parties to the Treaty, and to make it available to all.

34. [SRI LANKA](#): The Delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the report presented under this agenda item and commends the Secretariat for its continued efforts in advancing the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty. Sri Lanka is pleased to have become the twenty-fourth Contracting Party to accede to the Marrakesh Treaty in 2016. We view this as an important milestone in our efforts to promote equitable access to knowledge, education and culture for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled. In this regard, Sri Lanka expresses its sincere appreciation to the WIPO Secretariat for its valuable technical assistance and constructive engagement throughout the accession process, particularly in supporting the finalization of the necessary regulations for the effective implementation of the Treaty. This assistance has been instrumental in enabling Sri Lanka to fulfill its commitments under the Treaty. As we move forward with the implementation, Sri Lanka looks forward to continuing its close cooperation with WIPO in strengthening institutional capacity, raising awareness among stakeholders and supporting AEs to facilitate the creation and cross-border exchange of accessible format copies. We also recognize the important contribution of the ABC in expanding access to accessible published works and fostering international collaborations. Sri Lanka remains committed to ensuring that the objective of the Marrakesh Treaty translates into tangible benefits for its beneficiaries. We believe that continued technical assistance, capacity building and the sharing of best practices will enable developing countries to fully realize the Treaty's humanitarian objectives. Sri Lanka looks forward to continued engagement with WIPO and Member States in advancing the objectives of the Marrakesh Treaty and ensuring that its benefits reach all intended beneficiaries.

35. [INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS FORUM \(IAF\)](#): IAF wishes to congratulate WIPO and all those involved in the Marrakesh Treaty on the tenth anniversary of its entry into force. We are delighted to observe that Marrakesh is WIPO's fastest growing Treaty. This is entirely fitting because the Treaty addresses one of the world's most significant inequalities in access to knowledge and culture, namely the book famine experienced by people who are visually impaired. The Treaty has transformed access to literature and learning for millions, enabling their full participation in education, society and the economy. To celebrate this anniversary, IAF, in close collaboration with the Copyright Office of Morocco and WIPO, will convene a series of events in Marrakesh from April 13 to 15, 2027. All delegations are warmly invited. As the celebrations will be taking place in the Arab region, we are leading a work stream focusing on

the Arabic language. We are keen to support the expansion of Arabic-language collections within ABC's Global Book Service. We kindly invite all delegations to note April 13 to 15, 2027, to follow developments through the IAF website and, in due course, to join us in Marrakesh.

36. [AMERICAN ARAB INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION \(AAIPA\)](#): Mr. Chairperson, your Excellencies, we are honored at the AAIPA as we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty to celebrate the humanitarian achievement of this historical treaty, which has removed all the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities. This is nothing new in terms of these achievements. The Marrakesh Treaty has laid the foundations for true knowledge to be spread, and we would like to celebrate the opportunities that this treaty has granted to beneficiaries, especially in the field of international law. First, accessibility. The Treaty has facilitated the principle of legal exceptions that permit the production of accessible copies in formats such as Braille and audio books, removing the copyright restrictions that limit the ability of persons with disabilities from accessing knowledge and learning. Second, the cross-border nature of the Treaty and its provisions and the internationally accessible formats have contributed to end the book famine, which was widespread. Third, with regard to the international legal framework, the national translation of which into local legislation, provided rights to the beneficiaries and allowed them safe access to knowledge. In this regard, the AAIPA reiterates its support and commitment to the initiatives aiming at fostering these foundations, so that IP remains an enabling factor, not an obstacle to innovation, or to the right to knowledge. We also call for the intensification of global partnerships to ensure the sustainability of these accessible digital resources. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, we renew our pledge to work with all concerned parties to promote the principles of inclusiveness and equality, believing that creativity belongs to everyone and that its protection must guarantee everyone's right to access it.

37. [CORPORACIÓN LATINOAMERICANA DE INVESTIGACIÓN DE LA PROPIEDAD INTELECTUAL PARA EL DESARROLLO \(CORPORACIÓN INNOVARTE\)](#): We would like to thank the Secretariat of WIPO for the valuable work in this area. From the beginning, Innovarte pushed for and helped assist in the negotiations of the Marrakesh Treaty and, therefore, this tenth anniversary brings us great joy. The successful adoption of this Treaty demonstrates that mandatory exceptions and limitations in the public interest are necessary and valued by all Member States. The initial proposal for negotiation in which we participated included all persons with a need for special formats. However, to progress, persons who had cognitive needs, for example, were excluded. And this is why on this tenth anniversary of the entry into force we call for an end to this unacceptable discrimination through the adoption of an annex that, *mutatis mutandis*, extends the application of the Marrakesh Treaty to all persons with disabilities who need accessible formats, and thereby end the cultural hunger that is affecting them.

38. [CHAIR](#): Now I would like to present to you the draft decision which is contained in the related document:

39. The Assembly of the Marrakesh Treaty took note of the "Status of Marrakesh Treaty" (document MVT/A/11/1).

40. [CHAIR](#): I do not see any objections. It is so decided. Thank you very much. And now we will move to the information document MVT/A/11/INF/1, titled "Report of the Accessible Books Consortium". Before we conclude the consideration of this agenda item, I would like to invite Ms. Monica Halil Lövblad, Head of the Accessible Books Consortium, to present us with an update on the important activities engaged in under the Consortium to implement the objectives of the Marrakesh Treaty.

41. [SECRETARIAT](#): The Secretariat is honored to be able to provide the Marrakesh Assembly with five key updates relating to the main activities of the ABC. Firstly, I would like to advise that the ABC Global Book Service, an online catalog of accessible books managed by

WIPO, now contains over 1.2 million accessible books in 80 languages, all available for cross-border exchange under the framework of the Marrakesh Treaty. Access to the ABC catalog is provided free of charge. Secondly, we also provide direct access to the ABC catalog to people who are print disabled through ABC's beneficiary application and the Dolphin EasyReader App so they can search and download directly the books they wish to read on their preferred assistive technology devices. Thirdly, ABC is currently collaborating with the Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) Consortium and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on developing an ABC AI tool to convert print publications into accessible formats. This AI tool will significantly reduce the time it takes to produce accessible books. We hope to be able to release a pilot version to AEs for testing purposes in the upcoming months. Fourthly, ABC provides training and funding to organizations serving people who are print disabled around the world so that the organizations can produce educational titles in accessible formats for students who are print disabled. Since 2015, ABC partner organizations have collectively produced over 24,000 accessible educational books. Finally, ABC has partnered with the WBU and the ICEVI in a global Braille literacy campaign that highlights Braille as the foundation of literacy and its continuing relevance in the digital era. The Marrakesh Treaty and the ABC are making a real measurable difference in people's lives. We continue to call on more countries to not only join the treaty but to fully implement Treaty provisions into their national legislation and we invite AEs and beneficiary persons to make full use of our free catalog of accessible books.

42. [CHAIR](#): Thank you very much for this inspiring presentation of the activities of the ABC Consortium. We have now concluded the work of the Marrakesh Treaty Assembly. Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to beg your indulgence. As you know, multilateralism is the pursuit of bilateral interests in key sectors such as IP. As we work, we meet with many people with whom we maintain very good relations. I would like to thank the Deputy Director General Ms. Forbin, whom I met for the first time in 2017 during the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR). Following this 2017 meeting, we also met in Cameroon for a regional conference. I greatly appreciated Ms. Forbin's dynamic attitude, and this is something I never said to you, dear Sylvie, but these ten years had a profound impact on me. I very much admire Ms. Forbin's level of commitment to the quality with which she led the work of the SCCR, and since 2023, when I took the role of Vice Chair of this Assembly, I have had a very good image and idea of her. I am saying this because multilateral work, international work, has its own dynamics but Deputy Director General Forbin, I am fully convinced from where I sit today, and also from where I will be sitting soon, that you will continue to be a source of inspiration and support in the area of IP and copyright for everyone. There are several issues that are still pending, but I am sure that we will continue with your team and with the general management. We have already complimented the DG and his team for his re-election and for his work, and we will continue with this good work with the Copyright Division, with all the Secretariat with whom we have collaborated now for a number of years. Thank you very much, Deputy Director General. That is all I wanted to say.

43. [DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL](#): Your words touch me deeply. I have to say that the first international conference we attended together shortly after I arrived was indeed a Pan African Conference on books, which led to many initiatives that were then followed by different activities with publishers, which were a source of immense satisfaction for me. I was able to count on your country, on all African countries, to help me in this work. Thank you very much.

[End of document]