

**WIPO Conference on Copyright Documentation and Infrastructure  
Held in Geneva, Switzerland on October 12-14, 2011**

**THEME II: PRIVATE REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION  
(COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTATION; PRIVATE  
REGISTRIES; RIGHTS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION)**

**Presentation of  
MRS. SIBY NDEYE ABIBATOU YOUM**

-----

**Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.**

My name is Madam SIBY Abibatou, I am from Senegal, a West African country, but I am here today, on behalf of West African Copyright Societies in my capacity as the President of the West African Network (WAN).

Firstly, I would like, on behalf of all West African stakeholders, that is to say authors, composers, performers, producers, and on behalf of all my colleagues thank warmly WIPO for giving the WAN the opportunity to participate and to share our point of view about two important issues: Documentation and Infrastructures.

In a very practical way, we believe in the WAN that these issues can be simply summarized in the following questions:

“What must be done in the new environment which could benefit the most right owners, users, public interest, and the States? We could also add a larger question: What must be done for humanity”?

When we think about these questions we see that, there is a strong need to reflect on the following issues:

- What are the new challenges ahead of us?
- What to do to enhance our capacities (technical, intellectual and legal capacities)?
- Are all the stakeholders well informed in their responsibility, and the importance of IPI?

If we look at the situation carefully, we can observe that neither of the countries, copyright societies or stakeholders in the fields of technology can address the big problem of online diffusion.

Presently, possibilities of using works and performances are so important but subsequently the lives of owners have not change, it is getting more and more difficult. By the same time we hear every day that numeric economy is growing.

The International Confederation of Authors and Composers Societies (CISAC) has earlier understood the challenges and the need to change, so CISAC decided to consider documentation like Alpha and Omega for legal exploitation of the new business models.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We also have to bear in mind that without a good system of intellectual property protection the technology industry would be one day in trouble.

Without Intellectual Property, how can we promote innovation?

Without Intellectual Property, how can we promote invention?

Without Intellectual Property, how can we promote technology?

Now, it is time to think of the interests of right owners, technology industry, users, public, states to reach results like:

- Good remuneration for right owners; promotion of creations;
- Security for technology industry by promoting invention, innovation and new business models;
- Legal access to the contents in respect of right of the public and the right of creators;
- Diversity in the offers;
- Creating and developing economy, industries;
- Fight against unemployment.

As members of CISAC, we consider that, we need to adapt all our system to the CISAC common information system.

In 2003, we created in Burkina Faso the WAN; during all the process we received support from WIPO. We really appreciate the help and support WIPO.

Today, more and more users are in the digital environment (virtual world), which means that there is no physical contact with them. However, users, whether physical or virtual need to respect the protection due to the right owners.

In the information and communication's technology age, it appears that new rights like "the right of Communication on demand" have emerged. Since 1996, the communication on demand is considered like right of public communication with a revolution: **"Users are playing an active role and they have become very dynamic in access to the contents protected by IP"**.

Users have capacities now to choose the moment and the place to access;

Freedom has become a slogan;  
But what is freedom without responsibility?

The responsibility in this case is simply the obligation to use rights in respect of the law.

To those who facilitate access, we believe that, they can argue that “no responsibility can be retained against them”.

New business models to benefit the public need the support of legal contents like audio visuals, literature, and music, arts visual and so and so. We believe as copyright managers, that we must change our way of documentation.

After building the West African Network we decided in cooperation with WIPO, to work together and to create a regional database especially in musical repertory.

Each society keeps its responsibility on its own musical repertory, with a commitment to be a fully member of the WAN and to contribute by doing what is required.

The WAN promise to offer a secure access via Internet via the WAN database; each member can also get interconnection with other database systems, like: regional database, or Latin Nobe and international database CISAC/CISNET.

Because of lack of documentation, every year our members lose very important revenues.

The process is simple, all the Members upload here database to the WAN database and each member has readily access to all database uploaded to the Wan database.

Technology is our problem and we agree, that the best response is using technology.

To facilitate legal use of our repertoire accessibility, information on the work and the owner is necessary. Our capacity to cooperate between the members of the Wan and the capacity to exchange with our CISAC sister societies are the biggest challenge in the west Africa region.

Now, we believe that there is a need to associate the executive bureau in all the process. Our technicians must be fully associated in the discussions and they must be active in the various steps so that we can work closely and with transparency.

All stakeholders have responsibility, and I would like on behalf of WAN members confirm that the success of the project depends on each one. All the CMO WAN members are committed to make this project one of the best success history.

Interoperability, interconnection and security consideration are very important elements for good administration and good management.

The musical west African patrimony is very rich, we have real advantages; our folklore also is very dynamic as a part of our identity we must preserve it.

**Thank you for your attention**