

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS (IFRRO)

**STATEMENT ON THE  
PROMOTION OF ACCESSIBLE READING MATERIALS FOR THE  
BLIND IN A TRUSTED ENVIRONMENT**

The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (**IFRRO**) is an independent organisation established on the basis of the fundamental international copyright principles embodied in the Berne and Universal Copyright Conventions.

**IFRRO's** aims and objectives include encouraging and providing opportunities for authors, creators, publishers and their representatives to meet, exchange information, collaborate and partner in respect of reproduction of copyright works, document delivery and certain digital uses of their works.

**IFRRO** makes the following statement:

IFRRO and the blind and visually impaired share a common objective of enhancing access to the knowledge and information contained in the works created by the authors, creators and publishers that IFRRO represents.

IFRRO recognises that technology has opened up new opportunities for the blind and visually impaired to access works. We fully recognise that some of the legal issues, including the cross border use of digital resources, are complex.

To maximise the benefits of the new opportunities, IFRRO is committed to building trust, confidence and common ground among our constituencies and blind communities worldwide, including developing effective licensing mechanisms to ensure access.

IFRRO encourages WIPO to launch a platform of stakeholder consultation to develop a roadmap for ensuring access to copyright works for the blind and visually impaired.

This roadmap could include a joint effort to devise a set of best practice rules, guidelines and/or a sample agreement in order to facilitate the greater availability of accessible reading materials for the blind and visually impaired in a trusted and secure environment.

This should push for pragmatic and proactive solutions within the existing legal framework and really improve the access, while, at the same time, enhancing transparency. We look forward cooperating under the WIPO auspices.