IFRRO Statement at 28th WIPO SCCR 3 July 2014

1. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing IFRRO to take the floor; we also take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election.

2. IFRRO is the main network for the Collective Management Organisations – CMOs - and authors and publishers organisations in the text and image sector, with 145 member organisations in some 80 countries worldwide. These organisations represent millions of authors and publishers to books, journals, newspapers, etc. The CMOs in the sector are referred to as RROs - Reproduction Rights Organisations. They exist on all continents, in small as well as big countries, in developed countries as well as those under development.

3. We agree with the conclusion made by, among others, the group of Central European and Baltic States that it has been clearly documented that the current international legal framework allows Member States to introduce appropriate exceptions and limitations in their national legislation.

4. IFRRO supports those who have advocated the need for updated information and the sharing of experiences in relation to exceptions and limitations. In addition to identifying the exceptions and limitations that have been included in national legislations, emphasis should also be on their implementation.

5. We note Member States’ acknowledgement of the value of information on real life practices provided by stakeholders through side events. In this, it is essential to recognise the critical role of authors, publishers and CMOs, such as RROs, in providing sustainable access to intellectual property in both developed and developing countries.

6. So-called “Free access” to copyright works through exceptions and limitations without remunerating copyright holders cannot meet the dynamic needs of the user communities, whether served by libraries or archives, or in education. Agreements with authors and publishers, supported by collective rights management, can! As recognised also in the intervention from the EU.

7. IFRRO offers to contribute to the information sharing, as required and appropriate, whatever form this takes, including through global, regional and national seminars.

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