1. Thank you, Madame Chair, for giving the floor to IFRRO. Please allow us to congratulate you on chairing this Special Session.

2. As stated at previous SCCR meetings, IFRRO also accepts the print disabled communities’ request for a WIPO instrument.

3. It is, in our view, indispensable that exceptions in the legal instrument be made subject to the so-called three-step test. This should be reiterated in the legal instrument for the print disabled, as it was in the recently adopted Beijing Treaty. As not all WIPO Member States have ratified the international copyright treaties, the reference to the three-step test is essential, in order to create an appropriate balance between rights of rightholders and user requirements with respect to the making available and distribution of works.

4. We also appreciate the objective expressed by representatives of the print disabled communities to be allowed access to intellectual property on basically equal terms with other reader groups. Exceptions in favour of the print disabled should be made subject to copies not being commercially available, which is particularly important with respect to the cross-border transfer of accessible format copies. This would maintain the necessary incentive for the publishing industry to serve the print disabled on an equal basis with any of the other customer groups.

5. To this end, an enabling technology framework has been developed jointly by the print disabled and rightholder organisations, which allows a more cost efficient production of works for the print disabled. IFRRO encourages WIPO Member States to contribute to the dissemination of this already existing enabling technologies framework.

6. Thank you.

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