IFRRO Statement at WIPO SCCR, 22 November 2012

1. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, for giving the floor again to IFRRO.

2. We refer to statements made by IFRRO regarding exceptions and limitations at the SCCR meeting in July, and reiterate that, more than a copyright and exceptions and limitations issue, appropriate access to copyright works, including adequate teaching material, is a question of building apposite infrastructures and sustaining the development of good teaching material and other copyright works. Material founded in local culture and traditions must be available to appropriately adapt to local and special user needs.

3. It is therefore indispensable that carefully framed narrow exceptions, to allow certain limited uses in libraries and education, are complemented by access to material through contracts with rightholders directly and their representatives, supplemented by collective rights management.

4. As demonstrated at the IFRRO side event at the SCCR meeting in July this year, seamless access through agreements with rightholders and RROs, the collectives in print and publishing, is what most adequately and efficiently meets user needs in terms of providing legal access to high quality content from multiple stakeholders in constantly changing environments. In a fast changing world, where technology moves with an unprecedented speed, laws and other regulations do not alone have the ability to offer the required flexibility. Licensing agreements do.

5. We reiterate our willingness to share best practices on how to provide access to works, in order to allow other countries to benefit from experience and expertise from well-functioning models, so these countries can establish their own mechanisms, including collective management structures, adapted to their needs and traditions to build and maintain a sustainable national copyright industry.

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