IFRRO Statement at WIPO SCCR July 2012

1. IFRRO joins those who congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election.

2. With 137 members in 75 countries, IFRRO is the main international network of collective management organisations – the RROs - and creators’ and publishers’ associations in the text and image based works sector.

3. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights also gives everyone “the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author”.

4. Overbroad exceptions that conflict with the normal exploitations of the works and also broadening of educational exceptions without commensurate remuneration to authors and publishers would act as a disincentive to and have a negative impact on the continued creation and commissioning of works for the educational market. Both developed and developing societies would suffer from it.

5. Access to copyright material - from academic works, through newspaper articles, novels and illustrations - through agreements with rightholders and RROs, is what best meets the needs of educational institutions to legally access high quality teaching material in constantly changing environments.

6. RROs began their activities in response to requests from educational institutions for the licensing of large scale copying of the world’s scientific and cultural heritage for teaching and research purposes. Educational institutions continue as main beneficiaries of RRO services.

7. Students, teachers, researchers need good local educational resources. Local educational publishing needs stimulation and encouragement, financially and through adequate protection. RROs contribute to that. So must national authorities, among other things through appropriate copyright legislation.

8. Studies have shown that authors and publishers rely on income from secondary uses of their works. In the UK the income to publishers from secondary uses equals more or less their budget for investment in new works. Loss of that income would have impact on investments.

9. Increased opportunities for local authors to create good works and for local publishers to invest helps to build a sustainable national creative industry and a range of teaching materials adapted to local and special user needs. This enables a nation to educate its population in a sustainable way that is founded in local culture and traditions.

10. A main focus needs therefore to be on how a strong local publishing industry can be maintained where it exists, and built or strengthened where it is weak or in-existent.
IFRRO has experience from co-operating with WIPO, and with local stakeholders. We readily offer our collaboration and expertise in collective management to develop solid infrastructures to enable the strengthening of national educational publishing and apposite access to copyright works in education.

11. We will offer examples on best practices of seamless access to intellectual property in education at an event that we will organise in Room B on Thursday 19 July. You are all cordially invited.

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