

WIPO Diplomatic Conference, Marrakesh

IFRRO Statement

19 June 2013

1. Thank you, Mr. President, for giving the floor to IFRRO. Please allow us to also congratulate you on your election and for chairing this Diplomatic Conference.
2. IFRRO supports an international treaty as an outcome of this Diplomatic Conference, under the condition that it addresses the specific concerns raised by the print disabled community, and, at the same time, upholds the copyright principles. Enabling and encouraging all stakeholders to work together is indispensable to achieve wide access to accessible works and accessible format copies across borders.
3. We believe that a simple and clear inclusion of the “three-step test”, as expressed in all copyright-related treaties of the past four decades, is the easiest and most effective way to remove any doubt about the treaty’s compatibility with the international copyright framework.
4. The treaty should be implemented using specific, already defined norms, and not refer to vague terminology such as “fair use”, which is not defined in international law.
5. Exceptions need to be made subject to the unavailability of appropriate accessible works, because the treaty must not discourage the fairest and fastest route to the widest possible range of accessible works: access provided by authors and publishers, and, if authorised by authors and publishers, through collective management organisations. Exceptions should only apply where the market fails, and not undermine the practical solutions that are already being explored and implemented in developing as well as in developed countries.
6. Thank you.