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Yngve SLETTTHOLM

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Caroline MORGAN

Mr. Daren Tang
Chief Executive and Registrar,
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(IPOS)

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Singapore 408533

Brussels, 25 May 2020

LETTER OF CONGRATULATION

Dear Mr. Tang,

On behalf of IFRRO, we wish to offer our warmest congratulations on your appointment as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

As you will know, IFRRO and WIPO have enjoyed fruitful cooperation for many years, both through the sharing of knowledge and experience during SCCR meetings, and through practical work on the ground to build collective management capacity in developing and least developed countries.

We read your acceptance speech on the occasion of your appointment with great interest, regretting of course, that the current global pandemic meant we were unable to listen to it in person. Your comments outlining the three themes which will guide WIPO's direction under your leadership also resonate and align strongly with IFRRO's strategic priorities.

IFRRO is an **inclusive** organisation. Our 151 members, both collective management organisations in the text and image sector, and author, visual artist and publisher groups are drawn from more than 85 countries around the world, including developing and least developed countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia Pacific. We work closely with WIPO and with representatives from IP offices in countries where we have members, and those where we do not, to build capacity and to support authors, visual artists and publishers.

For example, in 2020 IFRRO-WIPO jointly launched three demand driven projects to implement the collective management of reprography in seven North and Western African countries, in Malaysia, and in Peru. We are also engaged in a CISAC-IFRRO-UEMOA-WIPO partnership to introduce private copying remuneration in several West African countries, which will support creators in those countries by providing them with a meaningful income from the use of their works.

Collective management adds **balance** to the copyright system, forming a bridge between owners and users of copyright and enabling fair, simple and flexible access to content. It is IFRRO's firm view that the answer to the access issues experienced by education and library groups in developing countries lies in capacity building which supports local authors and publishers to develop culturally relevant content for students and the community rather than in expanding exceptions to copyright.

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IFRRO's members are active in such capacity building projects. Kopinor, the Norwegian text and image CMO, of which our President is CEO, works closely in a public/ private partnership with stakeholders in Malawi to create school books, which supports not only local authors but also enables students to read and learn from content which is locally written and which reflects their lived experiences.

We too, believe that the IP ecosystem must be **vibrant and forward looking**. The Accessible Books Consortium demonstrates the power that WIPO has to bring stakeholders together to build this ecosystem. IFRRO is proud to be a member of the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) Advisory Board and we recently facilitated the National Library of Tunisia joining ABC and the Global Book Service, as a result of which a significant number of works in the Arabic language are now available to visually impaired people around the world.

We believe other areas in which WIPO can be instrumental in developing a forward looking and vibrant copyright ecosystem are through the facilitation of rights management via WIPO Connect, and by enabling creators in developing countries to share the benefits of publishing industry standards and identifiers to reach audiences outside their own countries. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to explore opportunities for future collaboration between our two organisations in these and other areas.

At these times of unprecedented challenges to the copyright system and the creative sector, we renew our commitment to work in an ever-closer collaboration with WIPO as you become the Director General.

IFRRO's 2020 Annual General Meeting and World Congress was due to take place in Singapore, hosted by our CMO member, CLASS. As a result of the pandemic, this event is postponed to late October or early November 2021. The IFRRO Congress gathers our members from around the world to discuss current issues in copyright and collective management, to share experiences and learn from each other.

We would be honoured if you would agree to join our Congress in Singapore next year, and invite you to and address IFRRO members, on your vision for WIPO's role in building a forward looking and inclusive international copyright system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yngve Slettholm". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Yngve Slettholm,
President of IFRRO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caroline Morgan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Caroline Morgan,
Secretary General and Chief Executive of IFRRO