

Montevideo meeting on analysis of the proposal for a treaty on exceptions and limitations to copyright for the benefit of visually impaired persons, presented by the World Blind Union

Summary of conclusions

The representatives of the Intellectual Property Offices and other public entities from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Jamaica, Peru, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Uruguay; as well as representatives of nongovernmental organizations, assembled in Montevideo, Uruguay, on the 13th and 14th of May, 2009, at the invitation of the Uruguay Copyright Council, with the support of the Innovarte Corporation, in order to examine the proposal of the World Blind Union for a treaty on exceptions and limitations to copyright for the benefit of persons with visual impairment, listened with much interest to the various presentations offered concerning the problems that affect persons with disabilities. The same also explained the need to adopt urgent measures, especially by an international agreement like that which has given rise to the proposal mentioned. They took note of and examined the obligations which are imposed by Human Rights rules, in particular the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, especially in relation to the obligation to guarantee nondiscriminatory access for such persons.

After examining the content of the proposal for a text distributed by the World Blind Union, before the 17th WIPO Copyright Committee in November 2008, the participants in their respective capacities arrived at a consensus that it is important to advance in this initiative and to consider such text as a basis for negotiation, as well as that it is necessary to make this view known to their governments with the aim that they take a position on this matter.

Without prejudice to the foregoing, Brazil announced its decision as a country to present the text drawn up by WBU as a basis for negotiation in the WIPO Copyright Committee and concerning the bilateral discussions on this matter which it has initiated with other foreign ministries. Argentina expressed its support for this initiative. Nicaragua reaffirmed its commitment to the proposal on exceptions and limitations already presented in WIPO together with Brazil and Uruguay, and further expressed its support for the proposal made by Brazil with regard to the World Blind Union's text. Ecuador, together with announcing the principles that should underlie the proposal to strengthen access and growth of works in accessible format, declared from now on its support for the presentation of such text in the WIPO Committee together with Brazil. Likewise the Uruguay Copyright Council announced the resolution adopted to support the WBU's initiative to guarantee access for visually impaired persons.

Montevideo, May14, 2009

[Please note the foregoing is an unofficial English translation of the original Spanish-language Montevideo Declaration, prepared by EFF staff.]