Joint Statement of Certain Civil Society, Rightsholders, Cablecasters and Webcasters, and Private Sector Representatives for the 22nd Session of the SCCR

The undersigned organisations represent a broad set of constituencies with a direct interest in the discussions underway regarding an international instrument relating to broadcasting.

We do not believe that there has been any change in the situation with respect to a proposed treaty on broadcasting since the Conclusions of the Second Special Session of the SCCR in June of 2007 recorded that “...it would not be possible to reach an agreement on the objectives, specific scope, and object of protection...” of a treaty.

We have seen no evidence that the discussions in subsequent meetings have produced any new positions or proposals that bring agreement closer on any of the mentioned areas: objective, specific scope or object of protection – rather the opposite seems to be the case.

So far we have heard not a single example of harm to broadcasters which cannot be remedied using existing international norms in the field – in particular, we note that the harm alleged previously related to ‘recordings of broadcasts’ being made available on the Internet are not evidence of harm to broadcasters at all, since what is being disseminated is not a broadcast but a fixation of the programme itself – for which copyright and related rights protection already provides remedies.

We respectfully consider that many challenges confront the copyright and related rights system at the present time, and it would be unfortunate if the SCCR were to continue to devote time to a subject that has produced no agreement on any fundamental point despite more than a decade of negotiations. The SCCR could, for example, deal with limitations and exceptions that support creation, access, and innovative services.

We are at the disposal of the distinguished delegates to the SCCR to discuss these views and we thank you for your consideration.