

Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights
23rd Session
Geneva, November 21 to December 2, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

1. On behalf of Group B, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your vice chairs to this very important session of the SCCR. I am confident that under your leadership, we will be able to make significant progress during this session.
2. Group B would also like to take this opportunity to thank Assistant Director General Trevor Clarke and his team for their efforts in organizing this session, including the timely production of all documents.
3. Group B is extremely pleased with agreement on the 20 articles at the last SCCR meeting and the General Assembly decision last month to reconvene the 2000 Diplomatic Conference for a treaty on the protection of audio visual performances. Through openness and a sincere desire to move forward, delegations came together to solve the one outstanding issue from the failed 2000 Diplomatic Conference, the possibility of transfer or consolidation of economic rights with film producers. Group B looks forward to finalizing the work on agreed statements and the preamble, as well as engaging next week in the preparatory committee for the reconvened diplomatic conference.
4. While we should all be pleased with the significant progress on audio visual performances, we must also strive to make headway on the other two long-standing issues in the committee. It is undeniable that the single most important humanitarian issue that the committee, or for that matter the organization, has embarked upon in recent years is the work on exceptions and limitations for the benefit of persons with print disabilities. It is also fair to say that during these past few years, there has been a substantial convergence among WIPO members on the need to establish new norms to improve access for persons with print disabilities while safeguarding the integrity of the intellectual property

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system. Group B believes that a properly calibrated international copyright system can protect authors and enable the full participation by the visually-impaired in civic and cultural life. Group B reiterates its commitment to find a meaningful solution to improve substantially the access persons with print disabilities have to educational, cultural, and informational materials. Group B thanks the chair for his efforts on document SCCR/22/16, and we look forward to discussing it in greater detail over the course of this session.

5. Group B remains committed to working with other member states on the question of a treaty for broadcasting organizations, and we hope progress will be achieved towards the adoption of a treaty. We should seize the opportunity of the two-day consultations on November 26 and 27 to make significant progress towards this goal.

6. Group B is also committed to constructive discussions this week on the subject of limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives. We recognize the importance of these limitations and exceptions and are eager to learn about the experiences of other member states.

7. Chairman, let me assure you that you can count on the constructive spirit and support of the delegations of Group B during this session of the SCCR.

Thank you.