

**Diplomatic Conference to Conclude a Treaty to Facilitate Access to
Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print
Disabilities**

Marrakech, June 17 to 28, 2013

DRAFT TEXT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON LIMITATIONS AND
EXCEPTIONS FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS/PERSONS WITH PRINT
DISABILITIES

INFORMAL CONSOLIDATION PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT, June 24, 2013, 10:00am

Preamble

The Contracting Parties,

(First)

Recalling the principles of non-discrimination, equal opportunity, accessibility, and full and effective participation and inclusion in society, proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

(Second)

Mindful of the challenges that are prejudicial to the complete development of persons with visual impairments or persons with other print disabilities, which limits their freedom of expression including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds on an equal basis with others, including through all forms of communication of their choice, their enjoyment of the right to education, and the opportunity to conduct research,

(Third)

Emphasizing the importance of copyright protection as an incentive and reward for literary and artistic creations and enhancing opportunities for everyone including persons with visual impairments or persons with other print disabilities to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share scientific progress and its benefits,

(Fourth)

Aware of the barriers of persons with visual impairments or persons with other print disabilities to access published works in achieving equal opportunities in society, and the need to both expand the number of works in accessible formats and to improve the circulation of such works,

(Fifth)

Taking into account that the majority of persons with visual impairments or persons with other print disabilities live in developing and least-developed countries,

(Sixth)

Recognizing that despite the differences in national copyright laws, the positive impact of new information and communication technologies on the lives of persons with visual impairments or persons with other print disabilities may be reinforced by an enhanced legal framework at the international level,

(Seventh)

Recognizing that many Member States have established exceptions and limitations in their national copyright laws for persons with visual impairments or persons with other print disabilities, yet there is a continuing shortage of available works in accessible format copies for such persons, and that considerable resources are required for their effort of making works accessible to these persons, and that the lack of possibilities of cross-border exchange of accessible format copies has necessitated duplication of these efforts,

(Eighth)

Recognizing both the [preference for the rightholders to make] [importance of rightholders' role in making] their works accessible to persons with visual impairments or persons with other print disabilities and [the importance of] [the need for] appropriate exceptions and limitations to make works accessible to persons with visual impairments or persons with other print disabilities, [including] [particularly] when the market is unable to provide such access,

(Ninth)

Recognizing also the need to maintain a balance between the effective protection of the rights of authors and the larger public interest, particularly education, research and access to information, and that such a balance must facilitate effective and timely access to works for the benefit of persons with visual impairments or persons with other print disabilities,

(Tenth)

[Reaffirming the obligations of Members States under the existing international treaties on the protection of copyright and the importance and flexibility of the three-step test for limitations and exceptions established in Article 9(2) of the Berne Convention and other international instruments],

(Eleventh)

Recalling the importance of the Development Agenda recommendations, adopted in 2007 by the General Assembly of the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which aim to ensure that development considerations form an integral part of the Organization's work,

(Twelfth)

Recognizing the importance of the international copyright system and desiring to harmonize exceptions and limitations with a view to facilitating access to and use of works by persons with visual impairments or persons with other print disabilities.

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

General Clause¹

Nothing in this treaty shall derogate from any obligations that Contracting Parties have to each other under any other treaties, nor shall it prejudice any rights that a Contracting Party has under any other treaties.

Article 2

(ARTICLE A)

Definitions

For the purposes of this Treaty:

“work” means literary and artistic works within the meaning of Article 2.1 of the Berne Convention, in the form of text, notation and/or related illustrations, whether published or otherwise made publicly available in any media.²

“accessible format copy” means a copy of a work in an alternative manner or form which gives a beneficiary person access to the work, including to permit the person to have access as feasibly and comfortably as a person without visual impairment or persons with other print disabilities. The accessible format copy is used exclusively by beneficiary persons and it must respect the integrity of the original work, taking due consideration of the changes needed to make the work accessible in the alternative format and of the accessibility needs of the beneficiary persons.

¹ *Ad referendum*: these elements of the treaty are the result of the SCCR session that met from February 18 to 22, 2013. This language was tentatively agreed by the delegations attending that session and remains *ad referendum*.

² Agreed statement concerning Article [...]: For purposes of this Treaty, it is understood that this definition includes such works in audio form, such as audiobooks.

"reasonable price for developed countries"

means that the accessible format copy of the work is available at a similar or lower price than the price of the work available to persons without print disabilities in that market.

"reasonable price for developing countries"

means that the accessible format copy of the work is available at prices that are affordable in that market, taking into account the needs and income disparities of persons who have limited vision and those with print disabilities.

Alternative A

Delete both definitions.

Alternative B

Keep both definitions.

Alternative B.1

"Reasonable price for developing countries" is a price at which the accessible format copy of the work is available at prices that reflect national economic realities.

Alternative B.2

"Reasonable price for developing countries" is a price at which the accessible format copy of the work is available at prices that reflect national economic realities, taking into account the needs and income disparities of persons who have limited vision and those with print disabilities.

[References to "copyright" include copyright and any rights related to copyright recognized by Contracting Parties in accordance with national law.]

"authorized entity" means an entity that is authorized or recognized by the government to provide education, instructional training, adaptive reading or information access to beneficiary persons on a non-profit basis. It also includes a government institution or non-profit organization that provides the same services to beneficiary persons as one of its primary³ activities or institutional obligations.

It establishes and follows its own practices

- i) to establish that the persons it serves are beneficiary persons;
- ii) to limit to beneficiary persons and/or authorized entities its distribution and making available of accessible format copies;
- iii) to discourage the reproduction, distribution and making available of unauthorized copies; and
- iv) to maintain due care in, and records of, its handling of copies of works, while respecting the privacy of beneficiary persons in accordance with Article H.

Article 3**(ARTICLE B)****Beneficiary Persons**

³ Agreed statement concerning Article [...]: For purposes of this Treaty, it is understood that entities recognized by the government may include entities receiving financial support from the government to provide education, instructional training, adaptive reading or information access to beneficiary persons on a non-profit basis.

A beneficiary person is a person who

(a) is blind;

(b) has a visual impairment or a perceptual or reading disability which cannot be improved to give visual function substantially equivalent to that of a person who has no such impairment or disability and so is unable to read printed works to substantially the same degree as a person without an impairment or disability; or⁴

(c) is otherwise unable, through physical disability, to hold or manipulate a book or to focus or move the eyes to the extent that would be normally acceptable for reading, regardless of any other disabilities.

Article 4

(ARTICLE C)

National Law Limitations and Exceptions on Accessible Format Copies

1. (A) A Contracting Party **shall**⁵ provide in its national copyright law for an exception or limitation to the right of reproduction, the right of distribution, and the right of making available to the public as provided by the WIPO Copyright Treaty, to facilitate the availability of works in accessible format copies for beneficiary persons as defined herein. The limitation or exception provided in national law should permit changes needed to make the work accessible in the alternative format.

(B) Contracting Parties may also provide an exception for the right of public performance [**and the right of translation**⁶] to facilitate access to the work for beneficiary persons as defined herein.

2. A Contracting Party may fulfill Article C (1) for all rights provided therein by providing an exception or limitation in its national copyright law such that:

(A) Authorized entities shall be permitted without the authorization of the copyright rights holder to make an accessible format copy of a work, obtain from another authorized entity a work in accessible format, and supply those copies to a beneficiary person by any means, including by non-commercial lending or by electronic communication by wire or wireless means, and undertake any intermediate steps to achieve those objectives, when all of the following conditions are met:

1. the authorized entity wishing to undertake said activity has lawful access to that work or a copy of that work;
2. the work is converted to an accessible format copy, which may include any means needed to navigate information in the accessible format, but does not introduce changes other than those needed to make the work accessible to the beneficiary person;
3. copies of the work in the accessible format are supplied exclusively to be used by beneficiary persons; and
4. the activity is undertaken on a non-profit basis; and

⁴ Agreed statement concerning Article [...]: Nothing in this language implies that "cannot be improved" requires the use of all possible medical diagnostic procedures and treatments.

⁵ Use of "shall" subject to work of facilitator's group.

⁶ Proposed Agreed Statement: [It is understood that this Article/paragraph neither reduces nor extends the scope of applicability of the limitations and exceptions permitted under the Berne Convention.]

(B) A beneficiary person, or someone acting on his or her behalf including a primary caretaker or caregiver, may make an accessible format copy of a work for the personal use of the beneficiary person or otherwise may assist the beneficiary person to make and use accessible format copies where the beneficiary person has lawful access to that work or a copy of that work.

3. A Contracting Party may fulfill Article C(1) by providing any other limitation or exception in its national copyright law pursuant to **[cross-reference to be determined.]**

4. A Contracting Party may confine limitations or exceptions under this Article to works which, in the particular accessible format, cannot be obtained commercially under reasonable terms for beneficiary persons in that market. Any Contracting Party availing itself of this possibility shall so declare in a notification deposited with the Director General of WIPO at the time of ratification of, acceptance or accession to this Treaty or at any time thereafter.⁷

5. It shall be a matter for national law to determine whether exceptions or limitations referred to in this Article are subject to remuneration.

Article 5

(ARTICLE D)

Cross-Border Exchange of Accessible Format Copies

1. A Contracting Party **shall**⁸ provide that if an accessible format copy of a work is made under an exception or limitation or pursuant to operation of law, that accessible format copy may be distributed or made available to a beneficiary person or an authorized entity in another Contracting Party by an authorized entity.

2. A Contracting Party may fulfill Article D(1) by providing an exception or limitation in its national copyright law such that:

(A) Authorized entities shall be permitted without the authorization of the rightholder to distribute or make available for the exclusive use of beneficiary persons accessible format copies to an entity or organization in another Contracting Party that is an authorized entity.

[(B) Authorized entities shall be permitted, pursuant to Article A, to distribute or make available accessible format copies to a beneficiary person in another Contracting Party without the authorization of the rightholder.]⁹

Provided that prior to the making available or distribution the originating authorized entity did not know or have reasonable grounds to know that the accessible format copy would be used for other than beneficiary persons.

⁷ [Agreed Statement on Article C(4): It is understood that this is without prejudice to the operation of Article D [and E].]

Agreed Statement on Article C(4): It is understood that a commercial availability requirement does not prejudice whether an exception or limitation under this Article is consistent with the three-step test.

⁸ Use of "shall" subject to work of facilitator's group.

⁹ See Annex.

3.

Option 1: No clause on commercial availability.

Option 2: **[In special circumstances the flexibilities] [The flexibility]** in Article [C(4)] shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the distribution and making available of accessible format copies under Article [D] with the following additional conditions:

a) Whenever an Authorized Entity receives a request from an authorized entity in another Contracting Party for an accessible format copy of a work, such request shall be [presumed] sufficient evidence that the work in the particular accessible format cannot be obtained commercially under reasonable terms for beneficiary persons it serves in that market.¹⁰

b) Nothing in this article shall imply or require that a Contracting Party imposes in its law or otherwise that an Authorized Entity that receives a request for an accessible format copy of a work has a duty to investigate whether the work in the particular accessible format cannot be obtained commercially under reasonable terms for beneficiary persons in that market.¹¹¹²

Option 3: Whenever an Authorized Entity in a Contracting Party/Member State requests a copy of an accessible format copy, such request shall constitute sufficient evidence that the work requested is not commercially available in the importing country for beneficiary persons.

4. Alternative A: A Contracting Party may fulfill Article D(1) by providing any other exception or limitation in its national copyright law that is limited to certain special cases which do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the right holder.

Alternative B: [A Contracting Party may fulfill Article D(1) by providing any other limitation or exception in its national copyright law pursuant to [cross reference to be determined].

When an Authorized Entity in a Contracting Party receives accessible format copies pursuant to Article [D(1)] and that Contracting Party does not have obligations under Article 9 of the Berne Convention, it will ensure consistent with its own legal system and practices that the accessible format copies are only reproduced, distributed or made available for the benefit of beneficiary persons in that/its jurisdiction.

The distribution and making available of accessible format copies received by an Authorized Entity in a receiving contracting party pursuant to Article [D(1)] shall be limited to beneficiary persons in that receiving contracting party unless the contracting party is a Member of the WIPO Copyright Treaty or otherwise limits exceptions and limitations implementing this Treaty to the right of distribution and the right of making available to certain special cases which do not conflict with the normal exploitation of the work and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the right holder.

¹⁰ Agreed statement concerning Article [D3a]: It is understood that the **[presumption/conclusion]** in paragraph a) can be rebutted only by clear and substantial evidence to the contrary consistent with the Contracting Party's legal system and practice.

¹¹ Agreed Statement concerning Article [D3a and b]: For the purpose of this Article, it is understood that reasonable terms in the receiving country include inter alia timely access, price and the practical ability to use the particular accessible format copy.

¹² **[Agreed statement concerning Article [D3]: It is understood that the requirements of commercial availability under reasonable terms referred in Article [C(4)], when applied for purposes of Article [D], will be subject and evaluated according the conditions of the receiving country.]**

Nothing in this agreement shall be used to address the issue of exhaustion of rights.^{13,14}

Article 6
(ARTICLE E)
Importation of Accessible Format Copies

To the extent that national law of a Contracting Party would permit a beneficiary person, someone acting on his or her behalf, or an authorized entity, to make an accessible format copy of a work, the national law of that Contracting Party **shall**¹⁵ also permit **[them/authorized entities]** to import an accessible format copy for the benefit of beneficiary persons, without the authorization of the rightholder.^{16,17}

Article 7
(ARTICLE F)
Obligations Concerning Technological Measures

A Contracting Party shall take appropriate measures, as necessary, to ensure that when it provides adequate legal protection and effective legal remedies against the circumvention of effective technological measures, this legal protection does not prevent Beneficiary Persons from enjoying the limitations and exceptions established in this Treaty.¹⁸

Article 8
(ARTICLE H)
Respect for Privacy

In the implementation of these exceptions and limitations, Contracting Parties shall endeavor to protect the privacy of beneficiary persons on an equal basis with others.

Article 9
(ARTICLE J)
Cooperation to Facilitate Cross-Border Exchange

1. Contracting Parties shall endeavor to foster the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies by encouraging the voluntary sharing of information to assist authorized entities in identifying one another. The International Bureau shall establish an information access point for this purpose.¹⁹

¹³ Agreed statement concerning Article [D4]: It is understood that nothing in this Treaty creates any obligations for a Contracting Party to ratify or accede to the WCT or to comply with any of its provisions and nothing in this Treaty prejudices any rights, exceptions and limitations contained in the WCT.

¹⁴ Agreed statement concerning Article [D4]: It is further understood that nothing in this Treaty reduces or extends the scope of exclusive rights under any other treaty.

¹⁵ **Use of "shall" subject to work of facilitator's group.**

¹⁶ **See Annex.**

¹⁷ **See Annex.**

¹⁸ **Agreed statement concerning Article [...]: [it is understood that Authorized Entities, in various circumstances, choose to apply technological measures, in accordance with national law, in the creation, distribution and making available of accessible format copies and nothing herein requires or implies that those uses of technological measures should be circumvented.]**

¹⁹ Agreed statement concerning Article [...]: It is understood that Article [J] does not imply mandatory registration for authorized entities nor does it constitute a precondition for authorized entities to engage in activities recognized under this Treaty; but it provides for a possibility for sharing information to facilitate the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies.

2. The International Bureau is invited to share information, where available, about the functioning of the Treaty.

(ARTICLE/S²⁰)

Article 10

Contracting Parties undertake to adopt the measures necessary to ensure the application of this Treaty.

Nothing shall prevent parties from determining the appropriate method of implementing the provisions of this treaty within their own legal system and practice.

Contracting parties may fulfill their rights and obligations under this Treaty through, exceptions or limitations specifically for the benefit of beneficiary persons, other exceptions or limitations, or a combination thereof within their national legal traditions/systems. These may include judicial, administrative or regulatory determinations for the benefit of beneficiary persons as to fair practices, dealings or uses to meet their needs.

This Treaty is without prejudice to other exceptions and limitations for persons with disabilities provided by national law.

Article 11

In adopting measures necessary to ensure the application of this Treaty, a Contracting Party may exercise the rights and shall comply with the obligations that that Contracting Party has under the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property and/or the WIPO Copyright Treaty, so that:

1. **in accordance with Article 9.2 of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, a Contracting Party may permit the reproduction of works in certain special cases provided that such reproduction does not conflict with the normal exploitation of the work and does not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the author;**
2. **in accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property, Contracting Party shall confine limitation or exceptions to exclusive rights to certain special cases which do not conflict with the normal exploitation of the work and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the author;**
3. **in accordance with Article 10.1 of the WIPO Copyright Treaty, a Contracting Party may provide for limitations of or exceptions to the rights granted to authors under the WCT in certain special cases, that do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the author;**
4. **in accordance with Article 10.2 of the WIPO Copyright Treaty, a Contracting Party shall confine, when applying the Berne Convention, any limitations of or exceptions to rights to certain special cases that do not conflict with the normal exploitation of the work and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the author.**

²⁰ *Ad referendum*: these elements of the treaty are the result of the SCCR session that met from February 18 to 22, 2013. This language was tentatively agreed by the delegations attending that session and remains *ad referendum*.

Article 12

Contracting Parties recognize that a Contracting Party may implement in its national law other copyright exceptions and limitations for the benefit of beneficiary persons than are provided by this Treaty having regard to that Contracting Party's economic situation, and its social and cultural needs, and in the case of a least-developed country taking into account its special needs, in conformity with that Contracting Party's international rights and obligations.

Article 13 [ADOPTED] Assembly

- (1) (a) The Contracting Parties shall have an Assembly.
 - (b) Each Contracting Party shall be represented in the Assembly by one delegate who may be assisted by alternate delegates, advisors and experts.
 - (c) The expenses of each delegation shall be borne by the Contracting Party that has appointed the delegation. The Assembly may ask WIPO to grant financial assistance to facilitate the participation of delegations of Contracting Parties that are regarded as developing countries in conformity with the established practice of the General Assembly of the United Nations or that are countries in transition to a market economy.

- (2) (a) The Assembly shall deal with matters concerning the maintenance and development of this Treaty and the application and operation of this Treaty.
 - (b) The Assembly shall perform the function allocated to it under Article [...] in respect of the admission of certain intergovernmental organizations to become party to this Treaty.
 - (c) The Assembly shall decide the convocation of any diplomatic conference for the revision of this Treaty and give the necessary instructions to the Director General of WIPO for the preparation of such diplomatic conference.

- (3) (a) Each Contracting Party that is a State shall have one vote and shall vote only in its own name.
 - (b) Any Contracting Party that is an intergovernmental organization may participate in the vote, in place of its Member States, with a number of votes equal to the number of its Member States which are party to this Treaty. No such intergovernmental organization shall participate in the vote if any one of its Member States exercises its right to vote and vice versa.

- (4) The Assembly shall meet upon convocation by the Director General and, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, during the same period and at the same place as the General Assembly of WIPO.

- (5) The Assembly shall endeavor to take its decisions by consensus and shall establish its own rules of procedure, including the convocation of extraordinary sessions, the requirements of a quorum and, subject to the provisions of this Treaty, the required majority for various kinds of decisions.

Article 14 [ADOPTED] International Bureau

The International Bureau of WIPO shall perform the administrative tasks concerning the Treaty.

Article 15 [ADOPTED]
Eligibility for Becoming Party to the Treaty

- (1) Any Member State of WIPO may become party to this Treaty.
- (2) The Assembly may decide to admit any intergovernmental organization to become party to this Treaty which declares that it is competent in respect of, and has its own legislation binding on all its Member States on, matters covered by this Treaty and that it has been duly authorized, in accordance with its internal procedures, to become party to this Treaty.
- (3) The European Union, having made the declaration referred to in the preceding paragraph in the Diplomatic Conference that has adopted this Treaty, may become party to this Treaty.

Article 16 [ADOPTED]
Rights and Obligations under the Treaty

Subject to any specific provisions to the contrary in this Treaty, each Contracting Party shall enjoy all the rights and assume all of the obligations under this Treaty.

Article 17 [ADOPTED]
Signature of the Treaty

This Treaty shall be open for signature at the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh, and thereafter at the headquarters of WIPO by any eligible party for one year after its adoption.

Article 18 [ADOPTED]
Entry into Force of the Treaty

This Treaty shall enter into force three months after 20 eligible parties referred to in Article [...] have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession.

Article 19 [ADOPTED]
Effective Date of Becoming Party to the Treaty

This Treaty shall bind:

- (i) the 20 eligible parties referred to in Article [...], from the date on which this Treaty has entered into force;
- (ii) each other eligible party referred to in Article [...], from the expiration of three months from the date on which it has deposited its instrument of ratification or accession with the Director General of WIPO;

Article 20 [ADOPTED]
Denunciation of the Treaty

This Treaty may be denounced by any Contracting Party by notification addressed to the Director General of WIPO. Any denunciation shall take effect one year from the date on which the Director General of WIPO received the notification.

Article 21 [ADOPTED]
Languages of the Treaty

(1) This Treaty is signed in a single original in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish languages, the versions in all these languages being equally authentic.

(2) An official text in any language other than those referred to in paragraph (1) shall be established by the Director General of WIPO on the request of an interested party, after consultation with all the interested parties. For the purposes of this paragraph, "interested party" means any Member State of WIPO whose official language, or one of whose official languages, is involved and the European Union, and any other intergovernmental organization that may become party to this Treaty, if one of its official languages is involved.

Article 22 [ADOPTED]
Depositary

The Director General of WIPO is the depositary of this Treaty.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

Note on Article D(2)(B): Text for discussion: [(B) Authorized entities shall [may] be permitted, pursuant to Article A, to distribute or make available accessible format copies to a beneficiary person in another Contracting Party without the authorization of the rightholder [if there is no authorized entity in the importing Contracting Party /if the beneficiary person is registered with an authorized entity in the importing Contracting Party].]

Note on Article E: Text for discussion: [The Contracting Party may limit said importation to published works which, in the particular accessible format, cannot be obtained commercially under reasonable terms for beneficiary persons in the Contracting Party of importation.] [Alternative to commercial availability clause in Article D].

[End of document]