

**Closing Statement of the Brazilian Delegation by her Excellency the
Minister of Culture, Ms Marta Suplicy**

Your Excellency The Minister of Communications of the Kingdom of Morocco and President of this Conference, Mr Mustapha El Khalfi,

Your Excellences Ministers here present,

Director General of WIPO, Mr Francis Gurry,

Your Excellences Ambassadors here present,

Mr and Mrs Heads of Delegations,

Mr and Mrs Delegates,

Mr and Mrs Representatives of Civil Society,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great joy that I join all the Delegations to celebrate the conclusion of the “Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled”. I would like to thank the Kingdom of Morocco, the Delegations here present and WIPO for all the dedication that permitted us to reach this moment.

Today WIPO and its Member States make history. Through a praiseworthy initiative presented by Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Argentina and Mexico and firmly supported by the whole group of Latin-American and Caribbean countries, we made it possible for a trade forum to effectively respond to a grave problem which affects more than four hundred million people throughout the world – the “book famine”.

Today, Mr President, we are giving visually impaired and print disabled persons the hope of having their fundamental rights guaranteed, overcoming the practical hurdles to their integral development. With this treaty, the visually impaired will have access to books, education, personal development and work with the same opportunities as other persons.

The path that has led us to this day was not easy. During four years we have faced intense and complex debates. Many expressed concerns with the possible negative impacts that the new treaty could have in the international intellectual property system, such as the uncontrolled access to works in the digital environment. With the passing of time, however,

these concerns were overcome as debates deepened and innovative solutions emerged, with a view to guaranteeing the just protection to the rights of creators.

Mr and Mrs Delegates and representatives of civil society,

The treaty before us is the result of a joint venture of developing and developed countries. This new instrument was forged with utmost care, answering to the specific needs of visually impaired persons without however weakening the right of authors to the fruits of their creation. The noteworthy result we have achieved demanded tireless work and sensibility from negotiators, to whom I now pay homage.

I would also like to thank the World Blind Union and all the organisations that represent the visually disabled which supported us throughout all these years. These brave men and women worked hard to guarantee the access of millions of disabled persons to knowledge, to culture and to education. It was them who showed us the right path, reminding us at every step the harsh reality of those they represent. During the negotiations, these representatives gave us real lessons of courage, dedication and effort. Dear friends, your determination, perseverance and optimism were the vital impulse of this achievement.

To conclude, Mr President,

The commitment we undertake today is a great advance in favour of the rights of persons with disabilities, constituting a solid foundation for the enhancement, in our countries, of our legislations and of new public policies.

The new agreement represents a great victory for the multilateral system. With this treaty, WIPO embraces in its actions a humanitarian vision, fulfilling its vocation as a specialised agency of the United Nations in the regulation of intellectual property. Once more, we stroll together for a fairer and more inclusive world.

We urge all WIPO Member States to ratify as quickly as possible the new treaty. I remind you we need twenty ratifications for its entry into force. We trust it will not be a long wait. On our part, we will endeavour all possible efforts so that, in a short period, we may have the treaty in force and fully operational. Thank you.