

Diplomatic Conference on Treaty to facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visual Impaired, or otherwise Print disabled
IFRRO Closing Statement on 27 June 2013

1. Thank you, Mr. President. I congratulate you, as well as the Main committee chairs and the facilitator on the successful outcome of this Diplomatic Conference, and join those who have expressed appreciation and recognition of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this important event.
2. IFRRO wishes to acknowledge the contribution of all stakeholders as well as the WIPO DG, Mr. Francis Gurry, and his team to the result. I sincerely hope, and also believe, that it will contribute positively to an improvement in books and other copyright works in accessible formats
3. I have heard persons with print disabilities saying that they have waited a long time - first patiently, then more impatiently, I suppose - for this Treaty to happen and for today, when it is formally adopted, to come. However, the fact that it has taken time to arrive at a Treaty text may also prove to have significant positive aspects.
4. IFRRO, along with other stakeholders concerned, have candidly provided information and expressed opinions on issues relevant to the development of the Treaty text, with the one main purpose: the deserved improvement of enhanced access to intellectual property for persons with print disabilities.
5. I am confident that this candidness in expressing views and positions and sharing information has, in its turn, resulted in a better mutual understanding of opinions, concerns and information that should only benefit and facilitate the proper implementation of the Treaty.
6. Substantial emphasis has been put on transparency and accountability issues in the Treaty text. A proper implementation of those issues will have a decisive impact on a successful implementation of the Treaty.
7. We thank you again, Mr. President, for giving the floor to IFRRO allowing us to publicly join the communities of persons with print disabilities and their representatives and other stakeholder in celebrating this memorable day and the outcome of this Diplomatic Conference. - END -