

**Statement of Library Copyright Alliance to  
WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property  
Second Session, Geneva, 7-11 July 2008**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Library Copyright Alliance, representing the interests of five major American library associations that host a membership of over 87,000 individuals and institutions. The Library Copyright Alliance is committed to addressing copyright issues that affect the library community nationally and internationally as well as the public that we serve.

We are grateful to the Chairman and the Secretariat for the efforts you have made since March to modify the recommendations adopted at the first session and to provide a progress report on the recommendation currently being implemented. We offer our firm support for the goals and successes of this process and are committed to participating in the implementation of activities that improve the ability of developing countries and least developed countries to fully benefit from the global intellectual property system.

We encourage Member States to consider including the international library community in local efforts at technical assistance and capacity building, which will serve to promote the goals of information access and a balanced approach to intellectual property protection. Today librarians encounter the real needs of individuals and organizations making use of copyrighted material for creative, educational, and informative purposes. Librarians can play a positive role in WIPO's efforts. In this regard we appreciate the reference under proposed activity for recommendation 10 for "forging links with the user and professional community."

We would also like to make the observation that the Development Agenda represents the evolution of an idea, an idea embracing the notion that access to educational and informational materials is a necessary means toward the achievement of material progress and welfare. Promoting the protection and commercialization of intellectual property as a strategy, as reflected in the documents for this meeting, may eventually serve as a means toward economic improvement in developing countries, but what must happen first is for the intellectual property to come into being. For that to happen efforts must be made to minimize levels of protection and to make it easier for those in developing countries and least developed countries to use materials that will form the building blocks for development. We recommend consideration of an amendment to the Berne Appendix as part of this strategy, as well as implementation of functional limitations and exceptions in national copyright laws. We view this as fundamental to the success of the Development Agenda, and hope that it will be articulated in further discussions of the remaining 39 recommendations.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for providing us the opportunity to present our comments at this meeting.

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