



**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**57th SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO
2 - 11 OCTOBER 2017**

AGENDA ITEM 13

**REPORT ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COPYRIGHT AND
RELATED RIGHTS (SCCR)**

Chairperson

At the outset, South Africa would like to align itself with the statement made by Senegal on behalf of the Africa Group.

South Africa is committed to working constructively on all three topical issues in the committee: Broadcasting, Exceptions and Limitations for Libraries and Archives and Exceptions and Limitations for Educational and Research Institutions, including persons with other disabilities.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Chairperson

South Africa has a vibrant and competitive film industry with commercial, cultural and artistic success. Local production and content are growing as South Africans are eager to share their stories with the world. However, our industry is confronted by the threat of signal piracy which, if not urgently addressed, has the potential to seriously damage our broadcasting and content industries, which have now become engines of growth, generating employment opportunities and socio-cultural introspection.

South Africa is of the view that the SCCR has made significant progress, drawing closer to a shared common understanding on the scope and object of the treaty. We would like to see our work expedited through the adoption of a Broadcasting treaty in line with the 2007 mandate for a signal-based approach while cognizant of the fact that the treaty needs to be consistent with the Development Agenda with regard to access to information, education and research.

We have observed that discussions in the recent Committee meetings has been straying away from the 2007 mandate, which mandated the SCCR to approach the Broadcasting discussion from a signal-based principle. This drifting away has misdirected and delayed the Committee's work. We would like to see discussions in the coming Committee meetings respecting the aforementioned 2007 GA decision.

Chairperson

As a developing country, we appreciate the importance of access to education and information, integral elements to development and socio-economic growth. Libraries and educational research institutions play a critical role in providing access to information and in the dissemination of knowledge empowering individuals to make well-informed decisions. However, restrictive copyright laws often hamper the work of libraries, creating unnecessary hurdles in the path of learning. This is further complicated in the world of rapidly evolving technologies where the current copyright regime is outdated and legislative reform is required to keep pace with the digital world.

Previous studies were also useful in providing a holistic view of current practices in 188 WIPO Member States, while also identifying fundamental gaps, such as cross-border exchange, that only a multilateral treaty could fill. It would not be suffice to only have exchange of information on national practices or only promoting the creation of domestic exceptions and limitations which do not address cross-border exchange issues.

Finally be assured of our full cooperation and South Africa looks forward to text-based negotiations.

Thank you.

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