



Statement by H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, Permanent Representative of the Holy See
to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
at the 59th Series of Meetings of the WIPO Assemblies, Agenda Item 15:
Report on the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) (WO/GA/51/5)
Geneva, 2 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of the Holy See would like to thank the Chair of the SCCR, Mr. Daren Tang, for his continued commitment to the Committee during and around its 37th and 38th sessions. Our gratitude also goes to the Secretariat for its dedicated and competent work over the past year.

The Holy See continues to attach importance to the negotiation of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations. The service provided by broadcasters and the significant value of broadcast call the Member States of WIPO to a continuous work in updating the existing international framework with due regard to technological developments. At the last sessions of the Committee, as a tangible sign of the steady progress made, member States agreed to continue the work of the SCCR towards convening a diplomatic conference “for the adoption of a treaty on the protection of broadcasting organizations, aiming for the 2020/2021 biennium, subject to Member States reaching consensus in the SCCR on the fundamental issues”¹. The Holy See in thanking the Chair for the updated version of the document SCCR/38/10 looks forward to contributing positively to constructive discussions and making further progress.

Mr. Chairman,

The copyright system must continue to play its essential role of incentivizing and rewarding creativity and innovation. At the same time, it should take into account the broader interests of our society, especially such areas as education, research, access to information and creative content.

¹ SCCR/38/summary by the chair, para 9, p.3.

Four years ago, the international community formally decided to assign the financial resources needed for “life-long learning opportunities that help them [all people] to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society”². The Action Plans concerning limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives and museums, for educational and research institutions, as well as for persons with other disabilities proposed by the Chair and approved by this Committee, reflect a constructive and useful approach to these very important matters. A complete and inclusive education, one that solid and open, has the potential to break down the walls of exclusivity, promote the flourishing of individual talents, and extends the perimeter of knowledge to every corner of the social experience, thus facilitating solidarity, sharing, and communion.³ The very nature of education seeks to build the foundations for peaceful dialogue and a better world, allowing every citizen to be an active protagonist for the common good of the human family.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

² A/RES/70/1, N.25.

³ Cfr. POPE FRANCIS, *Address to the Participants at the World Congress on “Educating today and tomorrow, a renewing passion” promoted by the Congregation for Catholic Education*, Rome, 21 November 2015.