

**Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights: Thirty-fourth Session
1-5th May 2017 (Geneva, Switzerland)**

The International Authors Forum represents authors from the text, screenwriting and visual arts sectors and their interests in copyright. Its members are 60 organisations representing well over half a million authors worldwide.

1. Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ensures everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits, and that everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.
2. Furthermore, in an increasingly homogenized world the preservation of cultural diversity is as important as that of environmental diversity for the future of our planet. Authors preserve that diversity by maintaining indigenous arts, literatures, languages and music much as the rainforest maintains natural diversity.
3. Ultimately, it is authors' work that is being considered in the proposals being discussed at the World Intellectual Property Organisation. There are individual authors whose rights are involved, in all countries. Those rights must be given primary consideration.
4. Authors need fair remuneration if they are to continue to produce the work everyone wants to access – without payment they will not be able to continue to create. The diversity and quality of content will suffer and the quantity of works produced will be limited.
5. All authors want the widest possible lawful access to their works and recognise that libraries, archives and educational institutions are vital to broadening and encouraging access for all. However, just one example from across the world, research by the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society in the UK shows that authors, particularly of educational works in subjects such as geography, history and philosophy, will not continue to produce textbooks without adequate remuneration. In Canada, tens of millions of dollars in income has been lost to Canadian authors. This is just one of the many unintended consequences of the expansion of the educational exception in Canada's Copyright Modernization Act, which came into force in 2012.
6. There are already international copyright provisions in place that work well to enable the development of licensing frameworks which enable access through libraries, archives and educational institutions and ensure fair payment or that permission is sought from authors to use their works. Public Lending Right is one such positive mechanism that provides financial recognition for authors for the loans of their books from libraries and the Artist's Resale Right is another that compensates artists in certain circumstances when their work is resold.
7. Authors believe that these existing provisions contain sufficient flexibility for countries represented at WIPO to continue to work towards national solutions, such as licensing frameworks, which can be developed according to local needs.
8. Authors recognise that each country must aim to respond to its local needs. However, in no country are authors able to work and create effectively when they are entirely denied remuneration or else inadequately paid.
9. While each country represented at WIPO contains libraries, archives and educational institutions seeking to secure access to works, it must not be forgotten that there are authors in each of the WIPO Member State whose rights and property are affected.

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