



The International Authors Forum wishes to congratulate WIPO and all those involved in the Marrakesh Treaty on the tenth anniversary of its entry into force.

We are delighted to observe that, over the past decade, the Marrakesh Treaty has become the most rapidly implemented treaty in WIPO's history. This is entirely fitting, because the Treaty addresses one of the world's most significant inequalities in access to knowledge and culture: the book famine experienced by people who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled.

The Treaty has transformed access to literature and learning for millions of people, enabling fuller participation in education, society, and the economy. Yet significant challenges remain. In particular, there continues to be a shortage of accessible content in the Arabic language.

The International Authors Forum is therefore working with a range of partners to help address this challenge, and we warmly encourage Arabic-speaking Member States represented here today to consider how they might support the expansion of Arabic-language collections within the Accessible Books Consortium's Global Book Service.

To support this work, and to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Marrakesh Treaty, the International Authors Forum, in close collaboration with the Copyright Office of Morocco and WIPO, will convene a series of meetings in Marrakesh from 13 to 15 April next year, with a particular focus on increasing the availability of Arabic-language accessible content.

We warmly invite all delegations to note these dates, to follow developments through the International Authors Forum website, and, in due course, to join us in Marrakesh.