

International Publishers Association
Statement delivered at WIPO SCCR 42
by
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Thank you Mr. Chair.

The International Publishers Association, the world's largest federation of publishing associations representing 89 associations from 73 countries, is delighted to be back at SCCR at a time when copyright is facing its biggest challenge in decades.

The pandemic highlighted the importance of the global copyright framework provided by WIPO treaties which enable publishers everywhere to invest in authors and serve the public interest. This framework enabled publishers to make literature, peer-reviewed research, and educational learning solutions available – even in the global pandemic.

Alongside IPA, I've led a number of consultations throughout the pandemic which showed that publishers around the world were quick to step up and find ways to keep people reading and learning. In particular, the IPA's International Sustainable Publishing and Industry Resilience (Inspire) initiative – has shown that global publishing has seen an uneven recovery. Countries with developed digital economies were able to weather the pandemic better, while countries with emergent digital economies were hit the hardest. Many of our colleagues, including authors, illustrators, printers, distributors, booksellers, libraries, and retailers, are still deeply affected by the pandemic.

Over the recent years, I have also led IPA's push to engage with emerging publishing markets. I have just come back from book fairs in Bogotá and Buenos Aires, and in the last two years I visited publishers in Kenya, Egypt, Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Nigeria, and Tunisia. Through the Inspire initiative, I also met with publishing stakeholders in more than 50 countries. In these discussions, publishers have consistently told me that they want to boost publishing of indigenous educational resources and homegrown authors. A key barrier that prevents them is copyright and worries about whether their creations will be protected.

The publishing industry plays an essential role in cultivating literacy, transmitting cultural heritage, fostering cross cultural understanding, supporting diversity, advancing education, and protecting local and minority languages.

What allows publishers to fulfill these roles? The answer is copyright laws with appropriate enforcement.

Now more than ever, copyright frameworks, in both developed and developing publishing markets, that reward investment in creative content are critical. However, these laws must be accompanied by effective enforcement of exclusive rights against physical and online piracy.

Thank you