DRFAT LETTER TO GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Madame/Sir,

We the [insert your union’s name] are reaching out to you concerning the global discussions on copyright and education.

More precisely, 13-17 November 2017 the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) is addressing copyright exceptions and limitations for education in the 35th session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) in Geneva.

As you are aware, as part of a major copyright reform, the EU currently has proposals for a mandatory exception for education for all EU countries. We welcome this development, however, are concerned about the discussions at the global level where many EU member states and other countries that have education exceptions are opposing the development of global minimum standards that would be beneficial for education systems in developing countries.

In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education it is essential that teachers and education support personnel at all levels of education have access to materials to provide quality education for all.

We, therefore, would like to ask you to consider bringing the following messages forward at the next SCCR meeting in Geneva:

1. Promote that all UN agencies, including WIPO, work collaboratively to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which also includes a discussion on how the SCCR can contribute to achieving SDG 4 and increasing equitable access to materials for education and research purposes. As part of the global Education 2030 Agenda, UNESCO’s Framework for Action repeatedly stresses the importance that qualified and trained teachers are “supported within well-resourced […] systems” and need access to appropriate “books, other learning materials and open educational resources”.
2. Promote an international normative agenda for education including the establishment of global minimum standards for copyright exceptions for non-commercial, educational and research purposes. Paradoxically, at the international level EU countries and other states with mandatory exceptions oppose the demand of developing countries to develop global minimum standards. This hypocrisy must be challenged.

Should you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to get back to us.

Best wishes,

[insert a name]