

**Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
Sixtieth Series of Meetings
Geneva, May 7 and 8, 2020**

Written statement by Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)

Agenda item 3: Appointment of the Director General

By written procedure.

Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL), that works with libraries to enable access to knowledge in developing and transition economy countries, congratulates Mr Daren Tang on his appointment as Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

As the first Director-General to be newly appointed from outside the organization, you bring to the role valuable knowledge of the practical workings of IP law and policy, and its impact on modern business, science and society. In the field of copyright, that most closely affects the work of libraries, the experience of Singapore, a young, newly industrialized nation that has recently undertaken its biggest copyright law reform in 30 years, is especially relevant. Libraries welcomed the review's technology-friendly approach to the law, the desire to better support creators and enjoyment of creative works in the digital age, and the transparent consultation process.

Under your leadership, we hope that you can ensure that such principles also apply at WIPO, especially around work on copyright limitations and exceptions. In particular, we hope that you can

- encourage analysis and evidence-based policy-making to promote understanding and help inform policy debates and norm-setting activities at WIPO. For example, by utilizing the Office of the Chief Economist to assess the economic effects of IP policy choices.
- provide a fresh focus on the importance of a balanced IP system in supporting economic, social and cultural development, and in WIPO's role supporting attainment of all the SDGs.
- ensure that WIPO's technical and legislative assistance is development-oriented and appropriate to national priorities and levels of socio-economic development.

Concerning the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), we hope that you will encourage real progress on the agenda items limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, education and research institutions, while ensuring that any new WIPO treaty on the protection of broadcast organizations is properly balanced to protect public access to information.

Access to information for research, scientific discovery and education has been brought sharply into focus during the COVID-19 pandemic. Libraries around the globe have had to urgently shift operations online to support education, research and communities, bringing to the fore the challenges of compliance with copyright laws many of which are out-of-date and not fit for purpose in the digital age.

We hope that under your leadership, WIPO will be able to respond positively to these global challenges, such as COVID-19 and climate change, so that WIPO can demonstrate its true global potential.

We look forward to working with you.

Thank you.