

**42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) –**  
Education International's statement on copyright exceptions and limitations

Thank you Chair,

I speak on behalf of Education International, the global federation of education trade unions.

We are here to advocate for balanced global copyright reforms that advance the right to education. We want to copyright reforms that empower teachers as creators and users, to adapt and choose materials. And we want copyright reforms that contribute to more equitable research opportunities essential for the development of inclusive and sustainable societies.

We are concerned about restrictions on copyright exemptions for educational purposes through licenses. They increase the financial burden on education systems and institutions, many of which already pay substantial licensing fees to provide students and teachers with access to essential learning materials.

Current copyright laws put educators, researchers and students at risk.

EI research<sup>[1]</sup> in 40 countries worldwide shows that copyright laws often do not allow teachers to do basic teaching activities such as showing a short YouTube video in a live online class or posting an article on a school platform.

Teachers in Latin America, Africa and partially Asia-Pacific, are particularly disadvantaged in this regard. What teachers worldwide have in common are legal uncertainties for cross-border collaboration.

Considering the massive discrepancies between what is required from teachers and what copyright laws allow, we appreciate the leadership of so many countries in this room who recognise the important role of teachers for quality education, who do not close their eyes to the fact that current copyright laws put teachers in vulnerable positions and who are ready to move beyond vague statements about potential legal impossibilities.

Teachers around the world rely on you, rely on WIPO, to make use of the expertise in this committee and to work towards solving national as well as international copyright challenges for education, research and cultural heritage organisations.

This effort couldn't be more timely! As progress on SDG4 on Quality Education is dramatically off track, the UN Secretary-General is convening the Transforming Education Summit this September to revitalise national and global efforts to achieve quality education for all. The world is looking to all UN bodies including WIPO as a specialised UN agency to contribute to making the achievement of SDG 4 a reality.

The African Group's proposal is an excellent starting point for this. Intersessional working groups on the topics mentioned in the proposal could and should already start, and why not in parallel with technical discussions on the broadcast treaty. We cannot wait another year! Finally, we would be interested to hear from the experts whether global minimum copyright standards for education and research could solve challenges related to cross-border collaboration and exchange.

Thank you.

<sup>[1]</sup> Is it legal? Education and Copyright in the Digital Age (2022), T. Nobre: <https://eiiie.io/3PdfYEW> & Summary  
French: <https://eiiie.io/3kKYGku> , Spanish: <https://eiiie.io/3MUJywT>, English: <https://eiiie.io/3LX8FyU>