



## Creative Commons Statement on Exceptions and Limitations for Cultural Heritage

*WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights - 45th Session*

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Thank you for giving me the floor on behalf of Creative Commons. As it is the first time I take the floor, allow me to congratulate you, Madam Chair, on your appointment and to thank the Secretariat for organizing this session.

Madam Chair, access to cultural heritage is a fundamental right. And preservation, access, sharing, use, and reuse of cultural heritage are all some of the essential functions that libraries, archives and museums fulfill to enable everyone to enjoy that fundamental right.

However, without proper exceptions and limitations to copyright, these functions cannot be fully carried out, with direct negative impacts on citizens, their communities and society as a whole. Indeed, when people face challenges connecting with their past heritage, how are they to understand their present and sustainably build their future?

At Creative Commons, we work to ensure that the copyright framework is conducive to the activities of cultural heritage institutions, so they can continue to preserve and allow access and use of the materials in their collections.

Madam Chair, regarding the Toolkit on Access, we urge the Secretariat to ensure broad and inclusive participation of stakeholders in the development of the Toolkit and any related activities, in order for the Toolkit to include a balanced and diverse range of perspectives.

As a matter of even greater priority, we also call on the Committee to start its work on objectives, principles and options for limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, and museums, without delay and to consider using existing proposals as one basis for discussion.

To recall, we continue to support the work plan (SCCR/43/8) and implementation plan (SCCR/44/6REV) proposed by the African Group and adopted by this Committee at SCCR 43.

With more and more heritage at risk of irremediable loss, especially due to climate change, it is becoming increasingly urgent to move this agenda forward.

Thank you, Madam Chair. [End of document]