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*The following statement was presented by Authors Alliance Executive Director Brianna Schofield at the Thirty-Sixth Session of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 30, 2018. Authors Alliance, together with other international observers, was invited to provide brief comments on agenda items related to limitations and exceptions.*

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### **Authors Alliance Statement on Agenda Items 6 and 7: Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries, Archives, and Museums; for Educational and Research Institutions; and for Persons with Other Disabilities**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking on behalf of Authors Alliance. As this is the first time we take the floor, I'd like to express our appreciation for the approval of our request for observer status.

The mission of Authors Alliance is to further the public interest in facilitating widespread access to works of authorship by assisting and representing authors who want to disseminate knowledge and products of the imagination broadly. We help authors better understand and exercise their rights, and to make sound publication decisions so that their publication contracts don't stand between them and their readers.

Authors Alliance represents more than 1,500 members who are authors of a broad range of works: nonfiction works, memoirs, thrillers, science fiction, romance novels, short stories, academic articles, poems, and more.

Authors around the world are likely to benefit from limitations and exceptions in every stage of the creative process and long thereafter.

- On the topic of limitations and exceptions for libraries, archives, and museums, it is in the long-term interests of authors that their creative and intellectual legacies live on through the preservation and access efforts of these cultural stewards. These efforts can also enhance the ability of authors'

works being discovered, improving the chances that these works will reach the audiences for which they were intended.

- In the educational setting, limitations and exceptions can actually enhance some authors' incentives to create. Limitation and exceptions for education can promote authors' goals of advancing knowledge and can help authors to build reputational capital. And educational uses of authors' works can help authors to reach more readers, increasing the impact of their writings.
- Likewise, limitations and exceptions for persons with disabilities help our members reach the broadest possible audience for their creative works.

In sum, limitations and exceptions help our creative systems to flourish, and we commend the Committee for its consideration of this important topic.

Thank you.