**BACKGROUND NOTE FOR SCCR34:**

**DECISIVE MOVE TOWARDS A WIPO BROADCASTERS’ TREATY**

**Commitment to the Broadcaster’ Treaty requires the scheduling of a Diplomatic Conference in 2018, while finalizing the draft Basic Text in the next few SCCR meetings; this forthcoming SCCR should therefore mark the final step.**

The most recent paper from Argentina, Columbia and Mexico (SCCR/33/5) urges delegations to finalize the work on a treaty for the protection of broadcasting organisations, so that *a diplomatic conference can be convened in 2018.* Similar proposals have been made by other delegations in the past years, both in the SCCR and at the WIPO General Assembly, and which was supported by other regions*.*

The SCCR work on the Treaty has now arrived at a decisive stage: Further clarity was provided on the objectives and scope of the Treaty, and most key provisions have been streamlined. Moreover, there is increased recognition of the need to protect all signals that broadcasters use for delivering their programming to the public. Representatives of broadcasters stressed the desire for a Treaty that is adaptable to future technologies and the platforms used for broadcasters’ signals, which has been supported by many delegations. Some work remains to finalize outstanding aspects, and the other issues need to be complemented by the usual, standard Treaty clauses. It is foreseeable that this can be achieved in a few meetings over this and next year in time for a 2018 Diplomatic Conference.

Recognizing that the SCCR can only arrive at a so-called “minimum level” of consensus, some legal details will be left to last-minute negotiations. However a common understanding on this minimum framework has sufficiently grown within the SCCR and the time has come to move the debate to its final level.

Therefore, the SCCR34 meeting should

* agree on finalizing a basic draft text within the next 2-3 meetings (which text will then be made subject to substantive negotiations at the Diplomatic Conference), and
* issue a strong message to the WIPO GA 2017 to set a final date for a Diplomatic Conference in 2018.

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