



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE BIBLIOTHECAIRES ET DES BIBLIOTHEQUES
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG BIBLIOTHEKARISCHER VERBÄNDE UND EINRICHTUNGEN
FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE ASOCIACIONES DE BIBLIOTECARIOS Y BIBLIOTECAS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ БИБЛИОТЕЧНЫХ АССОЦИАЦИЙ И УЧРЕЖДЕНИЙ
国际图书馆协会与机构联合会

الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات ومؤسسات المكتبات

Cancillería de Colombia
Claudia Blum De Barberi- Ministra de relaciones exteriores

Instituto Nacional para Personas Ciegas
Carlos Parra Dussan- Director

Dirección Nacional de Derecho de Autor
Carolina Romero- Directora general

Biblioteca Nacional
Diana Patricia Restrepo Torres- Directora

Departamento Administrativo de la Presidencia de la República
Jairo Raul Clopatofsky Ghisays- Consejero presidencial

[By e-mail]

Date: 14 April 2021
Our Ref: S6/cm/gl
Subject: Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty in Colombia

Your Excellency Ms Claudia Blum De Barberi, Dear Mr Dusan, Ms Romero, Ms Restrepo-Torres,
Mr Clopatofsky Ghisays,

I congratulate the Colombian government on the ratification of the Treaty of Marrakesh, on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the international organisation for libraries with members in over 150 countries representing over 2.6 million libraries around the world and their users. We work to help people who work in libraries offer the best possible services to their users, and to promote legislative reforms that allow libraries to carry out their public service mission.

Libraries, archives, and museums not only play a crucial role in preserving and accessing heritage, but they enable children to read, students to learn, researchers to innovate, and all members of the community to access the information they need to improve their own lives and those of their communities, reducing gaps and becoming bridges to access rights.

We believe that in trying to move towards the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, the work of the National Copyright Directorate has great potential to promote the inclusion of all people, equity, education and innovation. We believe that it is possible to achieve a balance that both supports creators and intermediaries, without denying access to people with disabilities, as the Directorate has done and we hope that it will continue to do so. In doing so, the National Copyright Directorate can fulfil its obligation to follow the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



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In particular, it can do so by recognizing a broad and inclusive interpretation of the concept of beneficiaries as all those persons with disabilities who face barriers to access to reading, and similarly consider as authorized entities all those institutions that support them, in line with the text of the Marrakesh Treaty, including galleries, libraries, archives, museums, educational entities and repositories. As long as these interpretations are broad, the cross-border exchange of accessible works between the countries that implement the Marrakesh Treaty will be favoured, so that more people in the world can exercise the right of access to information.

We urge that the implementation the Marrakesh Treaty in Colombia should involve organizations of persons with disabilities and library associations in an open consultation process that meets Colombia's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and guarantees the protection of personal data and the right to privacy of this group. We encourage you to give the National Library of Colombia an active role in managing the national repertoire of accessible works, allowing everyone to know what is published in accessible formats and where to request it.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Mackenzie
IFLA President 2019-2021
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions - IFLA