

WIPO Member States Recognize Inadequacy of Existing Exceptions at African Group Regional Seminar in Nairobi

**Regional Seminar for the African Group on Libraries, Archives, Museums and Educational & Research Institutions in the Field of Copyright
Nairobi, 12-13 June 2019**

WIPO member states expressed strong agreement on the following five points at the African Regional Seminar in Nairobi¹:

- Exceptions and limitations in Africa for libraries, archives, museums, education and research lag far behind the level of exceptions elsewhere in the world. Copyright laws need to be revised to update and strengthen exceptions to achieve a proper balance in the copyright system. Where exceptions exist, they need to be more precise and better framed. The exceptions are particularly inadequate with respect to digital technology.
- Copyright barriers to preservation of cultural heritage should be eliminated. Researchers must have access to the preserved culture.
- Copyright law poses a serious barrier to cross border activities that are essential to preservation, educational, and research.
- Exceptions in this area can and should be implemented in a manner that does not harm the interests of rightsholders.
- Some groups suggested that a new supranational legal framework was needed and there was broad agreement that WIPO could provide importance guidance and direction in this regard.

¹ Based on notes taken by observers in plenary.