



## **EVA Statement at WIPO SCCR 48 on Limitations and Exceptions and the Access Toolkit**

**May 2026**

1. Thank you Chair
2. Visual artists are essential to the world's cultural richness, yet they are among the least remunerated authors. In the digital age, widespread unlicensed use, data scraping, unfair contracts, and expanding exceptions, are putting their livelihoods at risk.
3. We acknowledge the complexity of drafting a Toolkit involving many different stakeholders. Nevertheless, we believe that the Toolkit should remain firm and consistent with the basic principle of copyright: the author must be remunerated for all uses of their works, subject only to the existing exceptions and limitations
4. Copyright is not a barrier, on the contrary it helps sustaining the cultural ecosystem, which can function only if authors are able to continue creating. If there are no longer authors to protect, Cultural heritage institutions will have no works to exhibit.
5. We would like to reiterate that existing exceptions and limitations already offer the right balance and should not be expanded, as this would be at the expense of artists. Licensing schemes offered by CMOs provide tailored licences and ensure that authors receive fair compensation without hindering access and in compliance with copyright law and the three step test.

Thank you for your attention

**END**

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