

**Diplomatic Conference to Conclude a Treaty to Facilitate Access to
Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print
Disabilities**

Marrakech, June 17 to 28, 2013

CEBS closing statement

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Group of Central European and Baltic States, Poland would like to congratulate you and all participants, representatives of the Governments, NGO's and stakeholders on a successful outcome of the dynamic and tense negotiations with the result that we all expected for a long time.

Let us express our gratefulness to His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, state authorities and all Moroccans for their exceptional hospitality. We recognize the importance of the fact that this is the first WIPO Diplomatic Conference on copyright taking place in Africa. The first one with so many hopes pinned on.

We also dedicate special words of appreciation to the Director General Francis Gurry and WIPO Secretariat for their assistance and guidance through the whole process. We are equally grateful to all officers of the Conference for their commitment and hard work.

Sincere thanks we wish to address to Mr. Martin Moscoso for his great personal involvement and leadership of the informal work. His patience and decisiveness helped us to reach consensus during the late night negotiations and finalize our work which meet the needs of print disabled people.

Mr. President

The process of negotiations was sometimes tough but the aim was always one - to improve the access to published works for visually impaired and persons with print disabilities. The moment we reached the agreement on the night of the 25th of June was the expression of happiness not only for us but especially for the blind society and stakeholders. Thanks to their presence we were reminded that we have to focus on the legal framework that will improve a system of an exchange of accessible format copies on one hand, and will ensure continued respect for the copyright and creativity on the other hand.

As His Royal Majesty King Mohammed VI mentioned in his message to the Conference, this treaty is a mile stone in building legal mechanism to provide “the blind and visually impaired persons to access, research and take advantage of written copyrighted materials across the world”.

To make it happen, the Group of Central European and Baltic States invites all Contracting Parties to make every effort to ensure an early entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty, *to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled.*

Thank you.