

IAF General Meeting 15 May 2020

Item 9. IAF Support for the development of authors organisations

Introduction

IAF's core membership is authors organisations. Although authors and creative works have a key role in every country, historically authors' organisations such as unions and collecting societies seem more prevalent in Western Europe while the benefits they offer are obviously viable everywhere. IAF has always supported the development of new authors' organisations around the world. To this end, we have offered support where possible. This has included showing support to governments on behalf of organisations seeking legal status and waiving membership fees for unions in need. At a recent meeting with the Director General of WIPO, we expressed a desire to see WIPO make similar efforts to support establishment of authors unions as it currently does for Collective Management Organisations, to which WIPO expressed an interest in suggestions for a joint effort. In addition, the IAF has reached out to UNESCO who are interested in potential joint working that could include this.

Benefits of supporting authors organisations

Supporting the development of authors organisations will lead to a broader network of cooperation. Currently pressure is felt worldwide against the interests of authors, for this reason alone it is important to establish as many allies as possible. All authors organisations fight to further normalise positive and fair rights for authors. By working together, new authors organisations will be able to better push for proper and fair remuneration and contracts for authors. Moreover, through this network of cooperation access will further enhance the voice of authors organisations.

Potential measures that IAF could help with

As suggestions for discussion at the IAF AGM, some of the potential measures that IAF could undertake include:

- Develop a charter outlining some basic features and functionalities authors organisations should have and guidance on how to achieve this, similar to the [PLR International Charter](#).
- Support attendance to promote authors organisations at WIPO missions to establish CMOs
- Develop a unions best practice toolkit, equivalent to [WIPO's Good Practice Toolkit for CMOs](#)
- Create a training program, where new members will be able to learn how other similar organisations work, campaign, to raise awareness about critical issues.
- Provide a digital platform, where membership organisation or potential organisation will exchange ideas on how to tackle issues concerning the creative industry.

The IAF Secretariat hopes that the membership of IAF will consider measures that could be undertaken to more actively support the development of authors organisations.