



IFLA Intervention to the NetMundial April 24th 2014

My name is Stuart Hamilton and I am representing the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions or IFLA, the global Voice of libraries. IFLA represents the interests of the world's 320,000 public libraries, over 100,000 school libraries and thousands of academic, research, university and national libraries worldwide.

Libraries are concerned with access to information. Libraries are concerned with access to knowledge for all, regardless of their circumstances. In the context of this meeting we are concerned with access to the Internet, as it is through access to the Internet that people can find the information they need to improve their lives.

Access to the Internet supports access to information. Access to information supports development.

With 2/3 of the world's population not yet online we believe that public access to the Internet plays a huge role in bridging the digital divide.

Public access to the Internet – through libraries, telecentres or community access points – should be recognised in the principles section of the document. Millions of people worldwide rely on public access everyday to go online.

In light of this, and in line with the comments made yesterday by the distinguished delegate of Colombia, we therefore support the suggested amendments to paragraph 23 to include reference to public access.

Furthermore, libraries believe in equitable copyright frameworks. We would oppose suggested text relating to intellectual property on 'cooperation efforts'. 'Cooperation' has been used to undermine the rights to due process, freedom of expression and privacy in ACTA and TPP negotiations.

Thank you.

Stuart Hamilton
IFLA Deputy Secretary General