Annex A

FIAPF statement to the “Enabling Environment” Working Group on the WSIS Common Declaration

“We wish to thank national delegations and in particular, Brazil, as Chair of this working Group for the opportunity to come and express our views here.

Film and Television Producers are supportive of WSIS' vision of a fair, transparent and democratic deployment of the global information society.

As content creators and packagers, we also share delegates’ concerns with ensuring that a fair balance exists between the protection of copyright and related rights on the one hand, and knowledge sharing, on the other.

We wish to remind all parties to WSIS that such a balance has already been achieved in existing international copyright and related rights legislation, which includes WIPO’s WCT and WPPT Treaties and the TRIPS Agreements.

Indeed, the Intellectual Property framework as it now stands has been built on the need to achieve such equilibrium.

Consequently, with reference to the draft declaration Article 33 (formerly 40 c) we urge the conference to include an explicit recognition of this fact. Failure to do so may disrupt the delicate balance established in international law and hamper the protection of content creators, thereby compromising WSIS' vision of a well-developed information society.”

Delivered by Bertrand Moullier, 24th September 2003, Geneva