

Fact Sheet

The ILO/UNESCO/WIPO International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organisations, Rome, 26 October 1961

The ILO/UNESCO/WIPO Rome Convention of 1961 covers copyright in music, acting and other related areas, and now has over 85 States parties. The Rome Convention was an important early standard in the field of intellectual property and the respective rights of performers, producers and broadcasters. Under Article 32 of the Rome Convention, the ILO, UNESCO and WIPO constitute the joint Secretariat of the Committee. Meetings of the Committee are held successively at the headquarters of the three organizations. In 2005, UNESCO hosted the [nineteenth ordinary session](#) of the Intergovernmental Committee of the International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations (Rome Convention, 1961). The [eighteenth ordinary session](#) of the Intergovernmental Committee was held 27-28 June 2001 at ILO headquarters. The next session of the Rome Committee is due to be held in 2009, at WIPO, and by that time there could be a new WIPO Convention on broadcasting, and possibly another on audiovisual performances.

- Full text of [The Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations, 1961 and list of its Contracting Parties](#).

Standards related to the Rome Convention

- [UNESCO Universal Copyright Convention](#), Geneva, 1952, revised at Paris in 1971; and [States Parties to the Universal Copyright Convention](#).
- [WIPO Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms - Phonograms Convention](#), Geneva, 1971; and [States Parties to the Phonograms Convention](#).
- [The Convention relating to the Distribution of Programme-carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite - Satellite Convention](#), Brussels, 1974; and [States Parties to the Satellite Convention](#).

In recent years, activity by WIPO, the WTO, the European Union, national Governments and others on international protection of performances, broadcasters and performers has also been significant for media and entertainment. In the early 1990s, WIPO prepared the way for new treaties to cover the area of copyright in the context of rapidly evolving technologies, multimedia convergence and the globalization of media and entertainment in the digital age. These were the [WTO/WIPO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights](#) (TRIPS Agreement, 1995), the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT, 1996), and the [WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty](#) (WPPT, 1996). The WPPT provides for improved protection for performers, producers of phonograms and broadcasters, but its general application to audiovisual performances was excluded because agreement could not be reached at the Diplomatic Conference held in 1996. WIPO has been the venue for negotiating such an instrument, to complement the WPPT, for the past ten years.

The protection of the rights of performers and other rights-holders in relation in audiovisual performances is of utmost importance in today's entertainment industry, with digitization creating unlimited possibilities for copying, reproducing, recreating, reusing, etc. the works of performers.

A WIPO instrument on the protection of audiovisual performances would in itself call for a substantial re-examination of the Rome Convention. The process of updating international law in this area continues through efforts in WIPO to adopt an international instrument on the rights of broadcasting organizations, and on audiovisual performances (see the latest developments at <http://www.wipo.int/copyright/en/index.html>).

In October 2005, the General Conference of UNESCO approved the [Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression](#). That Convention seeks “to reaffirm the links between culture, development and dialogue and to create an innovative platform for international cultural cooperation, while ensuring that measures aimed at protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions do not hinder respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression, information and communication.”

Useful links/resources

- Copyright and related rights:
 - [WIPO Copyright and Related Rights Programme homepage](#)
 - [WIPO homepage for treaties related to copyright and related rights](#)
 - [WIPO general page on copyright](#)
 - [UNESCO legal instruments on culture and creativity](#)
 - [Combatting copyright piracy in music and film](#)