The Honorable Senators
José Luis Pérez Oyuela
Paola Andrea Holguín Moreno
Second Commission
Senate of the Republic of Colombia

[by e-mail]

Date: 9 October 2019
Our ref: S6/sw/GL
Subject: Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in Colombia (Bill 138S)

Honourable Senators,

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) welcomes the initiative to launch Bill 138 S of 2019 regarding the Marrakesh Treaty in the Congress of the Republic of Colombia. As the leading body representing the interests of library and information services and their users internationally, IFLA welcomes Colombia's decision to support the Marrakesh Treaty which has already had an unprecedented international impact (88 countries are now states parties) by implementing targeted copyright exceptions across borders in the service of citizens.

This is a milestone in the evolution of intellectual property treaties, as the Marrakesh Treaty is framed by the principles of non-discrimination, equal opportunities, accessibility, and participation, as proclaimed in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The ratification by Colombia will be a catalyst for the effective enjoyment of the rights of this group.

IFLA, as the global voice of libraries around the world, is looking forward to supporting libraries and other institutions, collaborating with networks of people with disabilities, sharing the experience we have had in accompanying the process of implementing the Treaty in other countries of the region, and encouraging practical initiatives to facilitate the sharing of books and other documents through initiatives such as the Accessible Books Consortium.

[...]

The Honorable Senators
José Luis Pérez Oyuela
Paola Andrea Holguín Moreno
Second Commission
Senate of the Republic of Colombia

[by e-mail]

Date: 9 October 2019
Our ref: S6/sw/GL
Subject: Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in Colombia (Bill 138S)
We therefore celebrate and support the initiative to ratify the Treaty in Colombia, the only signatory country in Latin America which has yet to do so, and hope you will be able to do so rapidly, and in a way that maximises the possibilities for libraries to serve some of the most vulnerable people in our population. We are confident that this will help give more access to the information and knowledge to the people who need it, as well as support the Sustainable Development Goals in your country and your region.

Yours sincerely,

Gerald Leitner
Secretary General