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### ***AFM and FIM Endorse WIPO Audiovisual Performance Treaty***

American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM) International President Ray Hair has announced the organization's support for the reconvening of a Diplomatic Conference on the protection of audiovisual performances, the final stage of negotiations for an international audiovisual treaty. In a written statement forwarded today to the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), now meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, Hair explained that increased sophistication of digital technology and new distribution platforms make it even more difficult to protect the livelihoods of performing artists.

"The need for an international treaty protecting audiovisual performers has long been acknowledged, and the lack of such protection grows ever more problematic as the distinction between audio and audiovisual works becomes blurred," says Hair. "This proposed treaty harmonizes the moral and economic interests of performers with the need for uniformity and clarity for all stakeholders."

Also present at the assembly supporting a WIPO treaty conference were representatives from the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA), American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA), International Federation of Musicians (FIM), the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the International Federation of Actors (FIA).

"After years of hard work and discussion, it appears that a consensus is on the horizon and that the resumption of the Diplomatic Conference may result in conclusion of a WIPO audiovisual performance treaty," concludes Hair. "The AFM enthusiastically endorses this endeavor."

### END ###