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Writers and Directors Worldwide

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Resolution: Support to the Directors Guild of Japan

“The members of Writers and Directors Worldwide, gathered at their annual meeting in Moscow, Russia, on March 25-27, 2019, recall the precarious situation of directors of audiovisual works in Japan who, under the current Law, are not granted copyright and are deprived of any right to equitable remuneration for the exploitation of their works.

The above situation adversely affects not only the economic situation of directors but also the development of the film industry and cultural diversity. It disregards the principles laid down in the Berne Convention, which recognize cinematographic works and audiovisual works as original creations. Further, it prevents the societies representing audiovisual directors in Japan from entering into representation agreements with foreign societies when works are used across borders.

In light of the above, Writers and Directors Worldwide:

Expresses full support to the actions of the Directors Guild of Japan aiming at enabling directors to be fairly remunerated for the exploitation of their works;

Commits to join forces with Directors Guilds of Japan towards the achievement of better conditions for directors in the country;

Calls upon the Government and the members of the Diet to modernise the Japanese copyright law by enabling directors to be recognised as authors with copyright to audiovisual works and by ensuring them a right to fair and unwaivable remuneration for the use of their works, to be managed collectively by duly authorised collective management organisations.”