

**Group B Opening Statement**

- Mr. Chair, Honorable Ministers, Director General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,
- The delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Group B.
- Mr. Chair, allow me first of all to say that our group has full confidence in your abilities to lead this General Assembly to a constructive, successful and positive outcome.
- We would like to thank you and the Secretariat for all the hard work in preparing these Assemblies. Unfortunately, the decision to have the Assemblies in the summer continues to put our Member States in a difficult situation, especially during budget years. We therefore reiterate our plea to move the General Assemblies back to the fall, thereby allowing delegations more time for a proper preparation of the PBC and GA meetings.
- Group B thanks the Secretariat for preparing the Report on the Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System, document A/65/7. We welcome the information provided in this Report. Russia's illegal war of aggression in Ukraine continues to significantly impact the innovation and creativity sector in the country. We deplore Russia's continued acts of aggression, including yesterday's bombing of a children's hospital in Kyiv, hitting the most vulnerable civilians in Ukraine's society as well as the potential innovators and creators of the future. Group B considers the implementation of related technical assistance as work in progress that needs to be continued until this war finally ends, and beyond. We stand united behind Ukraine to address its urgent needs to support and rebuild its innovative, creative and technological capacities. We look forward to continued close cooperation between the International Bureau and Ukraine to ensure that WIPO's ongoing support and assistance provide concrete benefits and impact to the creators, innovators, and

members of the IP community, focusing on mitigating the adverse effects of the war and rebuilding an innovative and creative ecosystem in Ukraine that benefits all stakeholders and strengthens the country's economy. In this regard, we also welcome the MoU that has been signed between WIPO and Ukraine in July 2023.

- With respect to finances, Group B welcomes the positive financial result for 2023 and the surplus of 114 million Swiss Francs. Around 95 percent of WIPO's income originates from fees paid by users of its international intellectual property systems, primarily users of the PCT System (75%) and the Madrid System (17%). Once again, this observation underscores the key role played by WIPO's global IP filing and registration systems as the financial backbone of the Organization. With that in mind we note the drop in PCT filings and welcome WIPO's continued analysis into the reasons for this. Nonetheless, thanks to WIPO's IP systems, the Organization can provide high quality IP services that deliver value to users around the world.
- But as these filing and registration systems depend on the global economy, which remains fragile and volatile, our Group reiterates that WIPO must continue to adopt a prudent and effective management approach.
- Regarding our normative agenda, we congratulate Member States for the adoption by consensus of the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge. We would like to reiterate the importance of decision making by consensus that has been the foundation of WIPO's success and our expectation that we as Member States will continue to support and adhere to this proven successful practice. Group B stands ready to contribute constructively to a successful outcome of the diplomatic conference on the Design Law Treaty, that will take place this November in Riyadh.
- Furthermore, as we take stock of the year's work, we must remain mindful of WIPO's clear and focused mandate – “to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through cooperation among States,” as set forth in the WIPO Convention.

- Finally, Group B firmly believes that IP can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as exemplified by the activities of WIPO GREEN.
- To conclude, Mr. Chair, please rest assured that you can count on the active engagement of all Group B Members during the Assemblies.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.