

**Statement of the Republic of Poland
under Agenda Item 18**

**Report on the Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector
and Intellectual Property System**

(document A/65/7, document A/65/8)

Dear Chair,
Honorable Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,

Poland fully supports the statements made on behalf of CEBS, group B and the EU.

We express our gratitude to you, Director General, and the WIPO Secretariat for preparing the Report on the Assistance and Support for Ukraine's IP Sector. While analysing the data contained in the Report, looking for signs of hope for the better, I cannot resist the temptation to take rather a different perspective. The assessment of the significant negative impact of the cruel Russian aggression against Ukraine deserves making some projections about what the Ukrainian Innovation and creativity ecosystem would look like today, if it was not purposely destroyed each day of the Russian attacks on the civilians and civilian infrastructure.

In 2022, before the Russian invasion, Ukraine was a powerful regional Science & Technology economy with good prospects for growth. With the technology sector amounting to 4% of the country's GDP, with around 5,000 IT companies and almost 300 thousands IT specialists Ukraine was on a trajectory of exemplary economic modernization. All this has been lost as a consequence of the Russian full-scale war against Ukraine. Today, instead of having a discussion how Ukraine can further build on its success and serve as example for others, we are forced to mobilize efforts and resources to provide immediate assistance to the IP stakeholders.

Dear Chair,
Last week we talked extensively about the role of women in IP, and ways how we can further assist them in bolstering their creativity and innovative potential. Again, I cannot escape the picture of a young Ukrainian, Julia Zdanowska, a talented mathematician, winner of many European and international awards. Julia was a dreamer, a beautiful mind of our times. She was killed in one of the first Russian bomb strikes on her home city of Kharkiv at the age of 21 on 8th of March 2022, exactly as the world was celebrating the International Women Day. Julia opens a long list of talented Ukrainians, whose dream of changing this world for the better, will for ever remain only an unfulfilled promise of a better tomorrow because of the Russian unjustified and unprovoked full scale war. No report can reflect such a loss and human suffering.

Mr Chair,
Poland stands in full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. From day one of this cruel war we have welcomed an unprecedented number of the refugees who were forced to flee their country. We have made our best efforts to help Ukrainian SMEs, including creative and innovative businesses, who were forced to relocate literally overnight. In a very short time the Polish universities have accommodated the need of more than 50 thousand Ukrainian

students. 2023 has also shown over 70 per cent increase – vis a vis previous years – of the number of Ukrainian companies registered in Poland. A big part of over 30 thousand of Ukrainian enterprises which recently established operations in Poland, represent ICT or creative industries. Poland is making everything possible to support those who have decided to stay in Ukraine, despite the dramatic situation. Offering significant support to ensure operations of ICT services and launching specific instruments aimed at facilitating economic operation of the Ukrainian entities represent only a few examples of the continued Poland's assistance to the people of Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,
To conclude:

1. We must join our efforts to support Ukraine in this dramatic time. That is why Poland supports WIPO's continued assistance aimed at rebuilding the Ukrainian IP and innovation system. Poland is in full support of the draft decision contained by document A/65/8 presented on behalf of CEBS and group B.
2. Poland strongly objects "business as usual approach" to cooperation with Russia. As long as Russia continues its war of aggression against Ukraine and cynically ignores repeated demands to stop violating fundamental rules and principles of international law, including the UN Charter, there is no possibility for the UN organisation to offer its benefits or even expand its cooperation with the aggressor country.
3. We demand that the Russian Federation immediately stops this war, completely withdraws its troops from the whole territory of Ukraine and respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you, Mr Chair.