**General Statement by the delegation of Israel**

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor. As it is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, I take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for preparing this session.

Israel aligns itself with the statements made by the delegation of the UK on behalf of Group B, and believes that the implementation of the World Intellectual Property Organization Development Agenda is crucial to promote sustainable and inclusive economic development globally, and in particular with regards to the need to close existing gaps.

Therefore, technical assistance to build capacities is paramount to achieve the sustainable development goals, especially as we are still combating the covid-19 pandemic. With the support of WIPO, stakeholders all around the globe can be empowered to turn ideas into solutions that will help us build back better.

Israel welcomes the focus WIPO is giving to stakeholders and looks forward to learning more how the work of this committee will enable the support for women, youth, startups and SMEs to use IP as a tool for social and economic development. This will create future opportunities and training for all.

Chair, Israel looks forward to contributing to the work of this committee throughout this week.

Thank you, Chair