Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The delegation of Japan appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Working Group as an observer.

This delegation believes that, in order to ensure the transparency of the Lisbon System, all WIPO member states should be allowed to attend future Assemblies and sessions of the Working Group of the Lisbon Union.

This delegation requests the Lisbon Union to create an opportunity to seek opinions from observers and all other WIPO member states and consider those opinions when making important decisions, from the perspective of ensuring the transparency of the Lisbon System.

The delegation of Japan would like to reiterate that the Member States adopted the decision on the 2018-19 WIPO Program and Budget at the 2017 WIPO Assemblies. Namely, each union is to have enough revenue to cover its own expenses.

Financial Sustainability of the Lisbon Union has been discussed in the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System. This delegation hopes that the Member States of the Lisbon Union advance discussions on this issue, make the solution more concrete, and implement them as soon as possible.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.