

Agenda item 13: Madrid System MM/A/54/1

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The delegation of Japan supports the statement delivered by the United Kingdom on behalf of Group B.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the document.

This delegation basically supports the proposed policy to require users to indicate their e-mail addresses, since it would be beneficial for communication between users and the International Bureau in case of suspension of international mail services, considering the recent experiences with COVID-19.

However, it should be noted that many users still prefer to receive communications for international registrations by postal services.

Therefore, to avoid excessive influences, lack of indication of e-mail addresses should not fall in the scope of 'Irregularities Affecting the Date of the International Registration' under Rule 15(1) of the Madrid Regulations.

Moreover, JPO might see difficulties in IT implementation compatible with the proposed amendments. We would like to coordinate with the IB at the administrative level on specific operations.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.