

Agenda Item 19**Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector
and Intellectual Property System****Doc. A/63/8**

Madam Chair,

The European Union and its Member States fully support the statement delivered by Ukraine on behalf of the 52 cosponsors of the proposal on *Assistance and Support for Ukraine's Innovation and Creativity Sector and Intellectual Property System*.

Madam Chair, we all know the context which has led the high number of Member States to request this agenda item and to submit the mentioned proposal. And let me at this point express our deep appreciation to the vast majority of delegations who have demonstrated last week their wish to allow the proposed consolidated agenda of the GA, together with this important item, to proceed.

The unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has been already condemned on countless occasions, including through the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of 2nd March 2022, which was supported by more than 140 delegations. Regrettably, despite all the calls on Russia to cease the use of force against this sovereign country, the war in Ukraine continues for almost five months now. The unbearable damage it has been causing on the Ukrainian people, economy and infrastructure can no longer be disregarded by anyone. On the contrary, it needs to be reflected also here by the top governing body of WIPO from its specific angle, just as the many other UN agencies have already done, with a look at how an early recovery of Ukraine can be supported.

Although the broader context is indeed political, the addressed consequences of the war and the response we are expecting from WIPO are technical. The focus of the proposal before us is the recovery of Ukraine, in the specific area of the innovation and intellectual property ecosystem, which has been severely damaged by the war. WIPO is best placed to address the IP specific implications of the war, as well as to assess and to provide the assistance necessary for the restoration and rebuilding of Ukraine's creative industry and its intellectual property system. This currently most urgent and justified request, technical in its nature, and tailored to the specific role and mandate of WIPO, is the core of the proposal. It is an honest and constructive attempt to help Ukraine in these difficult times, and we therefore call on all Member States to give it their positive consideration.

The proposal has been tabled well in advance of our today's deliberations, allowing each delegation enough time to scrutinize it. The proponents have duly respected all procedural requirements. Already before its submission, the standpoints of different Member States from various regions and perspectives had been taken on board and reflected in the final language, in order to address sensitivities and to make it indeed broadly acceptable among the WIPO membership. In this respect, we foresee a smooth adoption of the proposal by the General Assembly.

Madam Chair, we will continue to stand in solidarity with Ukraine, which is now a candidate country for the membership of the European Union. At the same time, let me assure all delegations that we will also remain open to consider eventual requests for WIPO assistance in favour of any other Member State in urgent need, which the delegations remain free to submit and which should be then discussed in their own right.

I thank you.