Thank you, Madam Chair.

For many years since the time prior to acceding to the PLT, Japan has provided continuous technical assistance for developing countries in the intellectual property field, based upon its financial resources including voluntary contributions to WIPO.

One of the priority areas is digitalization in IP offices, including the digitization of paper documents. In this regard, we would like to continue to provide assistance in increasing operational efficiency in individual IP offices.

I thank you, Madam Chair.