Thank you, Mr. Chair.

At the outset, the delegation of Japan would like to express our sincere appreciation to Assistant Director General Mr. Kenichiro Natsume, and the Secretariat for their efforts in the Committee on WIPO Standards, or the CWS, as well as preparing the report contained in document WO/GA/57/8.

In the last session of the CWS, the delegation of Japan proposed to establish a taskforce to develop new standards for IP data exchange. We believe that securing global access to IP data, including data exchange, by each IP Offices will create global innovation and bring future development not only in each country or region but also in the entire world.

The delegation of Japan will continue to engage actively and constructively in the discussions at the CWS in order to promote innovation for the benefit of all.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.