CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine on Agenda Item 9 "Report on the Program and Budget Committee" at the 65th Series of Meetings Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO (July 11, 2024)

Mister Chair, Honorable Delegates,

Ukraine supports the statement made by the Distinguished Delegation of Moldova on behalf of the CEBS Group.

The Delegation of Ukraine would like to thank the Secretariat, the Chair of the PBC and distinguished delegates for their productive efforts during the work of the PBC.

We are also pleased to acknowledge the hard work of WIPO's management in ensuring the financial stability of the organization in such a challenging environment.

Meanwhile, we would like to build on the statements made by Ukraine and numerous distinguished delegates during the last General Assembly and previous sessions of the PBC regarding intransparent budgeting and the activities of the WIPO External Office in the Russian Federation.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to cause profound damage and destruction to the Ukrainian nation, its cultural heritage, intellectual and creative potential, which has been confirmed once again by the Report of the WIPO International Bureau and verified by many credible international organisations, including those in the UN system.

The international wrongful acts committed by Russian Federation undoubtedly affect the dissemination of WIPO knowledge and projects as well as the utilization of the outcomes of the External Office's activities. These problems are amplified by the almost complete legalisation in Russia of IPR infringement against stakeholders from around the world.

We reiterate that the Russian Federation must bear the legal consequences of all its internationally wrongful acts and harassment against the IP community.

We therefore call for the immediate termination of funding projects in the Russian Federation and emphasize the only viable way to restore justice can be achieved solely by the complete closure of the External Office in Moscow.

This practical solution will not only allow WIPO's financing to be better directed towards achieving WIPO mission and vision but also prevent Russia from further misappropriate actions against not only Ukraine but the global IP community.

Thank you, Chair.