

Madam Chair,

Belgium would like to congratulate you and the vice-chairs on your continued dedication and hard work as office-holders in the context of this General Assembly. We also would like to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for their hard work of the past year.

Belgium fully supports the statement of group B (as read out by Japan) and the declaration of the EU (as pronounced by the Italian Presidency).

In addition, Belgium would like to make the following points:

With respect to the normative agenda:

- Belgium urges for a Diplomatic Conference to be convened in 2015 for the formal adoption of a Design Law Treaty. In view of the maturity of the text, we do not think any further work – in the context of the Standing Committee on Trademarks – would be justified after this GA;
- In general, we think that realism, balance and pragmatism are key principles that should be taken into account for the development of any normative project(s). However, the status of discussions in the IGC context with regard to the 3 texts lead us to believe that the convening of a Diplomatic Conference in the near future is currently not realistic. Nevertheless, Belgium stands ready to engage in further discussions on a reasonable and efficient work-plan for the IGC.

In the context of governance, we would like to make the following points:

- Belgium underscores the need for a robust set of guiding principles and guidelines which – eventually - would govern the setting up of a coherent network of External Offices in a small number of states that are strategically located;
- Furthermore, Belgium thinks that a transparent, efficient and democratic governance is important for any organization. In this context we have come forward, together with our Spanish and Mexican colleagues, with a proposal including some practical measures to enhance the effectiveness of meetings. We expect this proposal – together with other proposals on the table – to be further developed during or after the GA;
- Finally, on a more general level, we think it is important to have a culture of transparency in governance. In this framework, we welcome the reports and activities of the IAOC, the IAOD and the External Auditor.

Thank you Madam Chair