

Committee on Development and Intellectual Property
8th Session
Geneva, November 14-18, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

- 1.** On behalf of Group B, I would like to thank you and your vice chair for the efforts put forward to resolve some of the outstanding issues. I am confident that under your leadership, we will be able to make progress during this session.
- 2.** Group B would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for its efforts to make available the documents for this session.
- 3.** This week, the CDIP will take up a number of important projects and studies. Unfortunately, because of the result of the 7th session in May, we have lost valuable time bringing closure to that session, which includes the studies and projects we tentatively agreed upon but were not formally adopted. Therefore, we must strive to move through the agenda in a well-organized manner, while ensuring a balanced discussion.
- 4.** Group B was eager to see the results of the external review of WIPO technical assistance. As the committee will recall, the review was expected to be released prior to the 7th session in May, but due to extraneous events, it was not released to Member States until early-September. With the finalization of the 2012/13 Program and Budget and the GA taking up most of our collective effort and time, I think it is only fair to say that few delegates have had the opportunity to fully digest the contents of the paper. In fact, the review is 280 pages long, with a 35-page summary. There are many interesting points raised and recommendations offered, but Group B thinks it would be wise to allow for a detailed review and

analysis of the paper before we undertake discussions. We also think it is premature to decide upon convening a working group to discuss the recommendations.

5. Again, these are just a few issues to highlight at this point, and we look forward to discussing more substantively the work before us over the course of this week.

6. Chairman, let me assure you that you can count on the constructive spirit and support of the delegations of Group B during this session of the CDIP. We saw from the recent adoption of the South-South Proposal that we can resolve our differences for the common good.

Thank you.