

Mr Chairman,

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the quasi-totality of the Member States of the Lisbon Union: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Cuba, France, Gabon, Georgia, Haiti, Hungary, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Mexico, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Congo, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Togo, Tunisia.

Our collective message is to call for the adoption of the rules of procedures as they stand now, by consensus, for the legal reasons we have put forward in our letter dated May 5th. We all need to stick to our main objective which is to allow the Diplomatic Conference of the Lisbon Union to start its substantive work as soon as possible.

During these seven years, since the beginning of the work of the Group on the Development of the Lisbon System, our countries have preserved the principle of inclusiveness and have worked towards constructing the consensus that has allowed us to be in this Diplomatic Conference. We, the Members of the Lisbon Union are, in a positive, respectful, and open spirit, and despite the provisional rules of procedures that are binding to us all, we are welcoming the opening of the floor to any observer delegation who may wish to express itself on agenda item 2. This is a gesture of transparency towards all WIPO member States that will continue guiding us during the whole Diplomatic Conference of the Lisbon Union.

We know that the provisional Rules of Procedure give us the tools to adopt them immediately in calling for a vote, but we are ready to give an opportunity to those observer delegations that will have the desire to, to intervene in order to express their points of views. Naturally, we expect that those interventions will be done in a constructive manner, limited to their rights and obligations, and focused on this agenda item only.

As mentioned before, having in mind the importance of moving forward to the substantives discussions, we are firmly convinced that the Rules of Procedure must be adopted by the Lisbon Members during this morning session, as they stand now with no amendment. We will be ready to act accordingly.