

WIPO GA- draft statement

Item 10

Reports on Audit and Oversight

Report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee (IAOC)

Thank you chair for giving me the floor and for leading this discussion,

Israel welcomes the report by the Independent Advisory Oversight Committee and aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of Group B.

As in any organization, external review is a critical tool for organizational growth and improvement. The report presents a well-thought process and provides the advice of external experts. .

Specifically, Israel would like to address the recommendation of the report contained in paragraph 43, which states that "concerns of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) community be considered in the formulation of WIPO human resources policies."

LGBTQI persons often face discrimination, and are at higher risk for exploitation, including in their work place. Policies on sexual exploitation and abuse and on sexual harassment should address their specific needs, offer support, and take action when needed.

As is, Israel strongly supports taking note of the IAOC's report, and we support the Committee's ability to carry out their work in a fully independent manner in order to continue being an active player in WIPO's oversight structure.

Thank you.