



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement by Salman Khalid Chaudhary, Second Secretary-II under Agenda Item 6: Report by the External Auditor, during thirty-fourth Session of the Program and Budget Committee

27 June 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

My delegation thanks the External Auditor for the report as contained in document WO/PBC/34/4.

We note with satisfaction that financial statements remain of high quality, supported by sound systems of internal controls and reporting. It is also gratifying to note WIPO's strong financial performance in 2021 with increase in net assets and revenue.

Rise in medical related liabilities of the Organization were forecasted by the last year's External Auditor's report. This year's IAOC's report also alludes to important changes in the methodology to determine the medical claims costs, with a significant impact on the ASHI liability, which increased by CHF 121 million. Also, according to the External Auditor's report, Employee benefits continue to represent the greatest area of risk to WIPO's financial health.

While the health of WIPO's employees is of utmost importance, my delegation would like to request the Secretariat to apprise the Committee on the changes made in methodology to determine the medical claims cost and also highlight how some degree of certainty could be attained to mitigate future risks in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation also notes the closure of 14 prior recommendations including those related to External Offices. While these recommendations are closed, my delegation is of the view that these recommendations would continue to be relevant for Member States as well as for the Secretariat in our future work, especially Recommendation 2 from 2019, on the need for a clearer strategy for offices outside Geneva.

I thank you.