**WIPO SCP Statement: SEPs Sharing Session**

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Innovation Council’s mission is to provide information from the perspectives of organizations that are bringing technology solutions to society. We have a diverse membership that includes large and small innovative companies, TTOs, and public-private partnerships.

We recently published a Q&A about cellular technology innovation, standardization, SEPs, and licensing. The goal was to provide context to ongoing policy discussions about SEPs, particularly in Europe. I have a few printed copies here – or you can view the document on our website. There are two versions, with one touching on the details of the EU SEP Regulation, which has been mentioned several times this morning.

Innovation Council has members that develop innovative standardized technologies – and also organizations that use them to develop connected products and services. We have a practical and positive view of today’s topic. I will offer some high-level thoughts.

Speakers this morning described what is sometimes called the “virtuous cycle of innovation” in the cellular technology sector. It’s great that discussions in this Committee are unpacking how that cycle works, and more generally how SEP licensing works in the real economy. They must also tackle misconceptions. One misconception is that SEP owners use patent rights to hoard technology; as we have heard today, this is not the case. Another misconception pertains to innovators “gaming the system” of standards development. Still another is that the SEP owners are over-charging for the use of their standardized technologies. To provide one example, connected cars: Avanci is extending its platform to include 5G SEPs, and the one-time cost per vehicle is just under 30 dollars.

Key takeaways from today’s discussion include the following:

Standardization and FRAND licensing is an efficient approach for broad global connectivity technology diffusion. It has been proven to work well over many years.

Organizations everywhere do not have to do the R&D themselves in order to use connectivity in their products and services at an affordable cost. This is particularly beneficial for SMEs which, it’s worth noting, are not typically approached for licenses. It was noted this morning that the system has “democratized connectivity”. This is so true.

Entire ecosystems have been created around standardized connectivity technologies. We have witnessed an explosion of connected devices and services, all interoperable – with constantly rising performance as we move from 4 to 5G and next to 6G and beyond. This is thanks to the virtuous cycle, with its massive R&D investments, that I mentioned above.

Could the system be improved? Possibly – and that’s why it’s important to have open, evidence-based discussions. But regulators should tread carefully.

How is today’s discussion directly related to the work of the IP officials in this room? The FRAND licensing success story is made possible by effective and even-handed systems for IP protection and enforcement, the issuance of quality patents which provide legal certainty to all actors, and other factors including the availability of injunctive relief when warranted.

Thank you.