



COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
at the 57th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO including the PCT Union Assembly

DRAFT STATEMENT

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World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters

Geneva, Switzerland

(October 2-11, 2017)



**STATEMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE FIFTY-SIXTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,
OCTOBER, 2017**

Mr. President,

In supporting the statement made by GRULAC on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean, I wish to join with other delegations in congratulating you on your election to the chair. This delegation anticipates your thoughtful leadership and guidance throughout the General Assemblies. We also wish to congratulate the other officers elected alongside you who will support your efforts in that regard.

Mr. President, we have continued work on several fronts toward enhancing the entire IP ecosystem and raising the awareness and capacities of stakeholders and creators alike.

The national workshop on Making a Living from Music held earlier this year was very well received by a wide spectrum of

participants from the music industry. We are grateful to WIPO and Mr. David Stopps for sharing so many insights into the commercial side of music and the guidance provided in this area.

Work continued on the development of the IP Academy in the Intellectual Property Office of Trinidad and Tobago. A memorandum of understanding to provide IP guidance, conduct IP Clinics and patent mining courses was signed with the University of Trinidad and Tobago. The IPO interacted with various agencies to provide guidance to their respective business incubator clients and we are proceeding with our own Technical Library, which could be transformed into a TISC with WIPO's assistance.

I am again pleased to mention the project on Building Respect for Intellectual Property, which has been put forward as a Public Sector Investment Program project, has continued as part of the work plan of the IPO.

Mr. President, the Trade Marks Act was repealed and replaced. The new Act has been assented to and contains provisions for new types of trade marks and paves the way to implement the Madrid Protocol. Once the Regulations are completed and the legislation is

proclaimed by the President, we can look forward to the most modernized trade mark system in Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago is grateful for the kind support of the Brands and Designs Sector in reaching this stage.

The TTIPO has sought to promote all areas of IP among knowledge creators. In that regard, Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to announce its first geographical indication registration for Montserrat Hills Cocoa, Trinidad. The journey has also helped to unearth several other potential GIs which we hope to report on soon. This delegation wishes to sincerely express its gratitude to WIPO and the Caribbean Unit for the many initiatives undertaken to nurture and mentor the holders of potential GIs.

This delegation is pleased to commend the hard work of the Caribbean Section in the LAC Bureau under the astute leadership of the Head of Section. We are confident that the Caribbean Unit will be further enhanced so that the section will be able to expand its objectives in 2017 – 2018.

Mr. President, this delegation is anxious to preserve the tremendous gains made in the IGC over the years and supports proposals to strengthen the endurance of the Committee and its work.

This delegation remains encouraged by the way the Director General is shaping the Organization to fulfill the mandate of the member states. We look forward to the continued advancement of IP and under your expert guidance and leadership these discussions and their successful conclusion.

Mr President, I thank you.