

**DRAFT STATEMENT OF BARBADOS AT THE SIXTY-FOURTH SERIES OF  
MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE WORLD  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
JULY, 2023**

**Madame Chair,**

The Government of Barbados takes this opportunity to thank the Director General, Mr. Daren Tang for his exemplary leadership of this organization as it continues to promote the accelerate innovation and creativity in Member States. Barbados is pleased to support the continued implementation of WIPO's undertaking of leading the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property system.

**Madame Chair,**

At last year's Assemblies, Barbados indicated that it was working on a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening the legal framework of Intellectual Property within Barbados. It is my pleasure to report today that not only have those initiatives been achieved but we have also made other strides in advancing awareness about Intellectual Property through forging greater links and closer ties to governmental and non-governmental agencies as well increasing our outreach activities. We have also focused on institutional strengthening; continuing the work necessary to upgrade our IPAS and conducting training for our officers.

With respect to the legal framework, we happy to report that the final draft of the Copyright Amendment Bill has been submitted to Parliament. The amendments which are being pursued would bring Barbados' legislation into conformity with the WIPO Internet Treaties. Also pertaining to Copyright, in February of this year, Barbados to acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty. Consequently, our accession will necessitate further amendments to the copyright legislation. However, due to the advanced stage of the current Copyright Bill, these further amendments will be tabled for a later date.

In relation to forging greater links with other agencies, our accession to the Marrakesh Treaty has led to a partnership with Barbados' National United Society of the Blind (NUSB) to ensure that

Barbados makes the most of the ABC Global Book Service. Additionally, we are deepening our relationship with the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus as we work to make this institution a Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC). We thank WIPO for its guidance and assistance in these new initiatives.

In the train of institutional strengthening and capacity building, Barbados extends thanks to WIPO for its continued technical assistance and guidance. Over the past year Barbados has benefitted from training initiatives which were aimed at improving the capacity of office Staff, local attorneys and agents. Most recently Barbados benefitted from a Mission on Patent Examination organized by WIPO to train members of staff. We would be remiss in not acknowledging our sister office in Trinidad and Tobago for permitting Mr. Richard Aching to conduct the said mission on behalf of WIPO. Barbados is also thankful for WIPO's technical assistance, as we continue the necessary work towards the upgrade of our IPAS system.

Barbados wishes to commend the work of the Standing Committees and the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. We particularly look forward to hearing the reports from these working groups and the discussions that will be generated.

Finally, in light of the very recent visit to WIPO by, the Honourable Mia Amor Motley, Prime Minister of Barbados, let there be no doubt that Barbados remains committed to working with WIPO and all agencies to ensure the protection and promotion of Intellectual Property Rights and the acceleration of innovation and creativity within Barbados and beyond.