



COUNTRY STATEMENT OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Statement on behalf of ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
At the 59th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO

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World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
September 30, 2019 – October 9, 2019

**STATEMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA AT THE FIFTY-NINTH SERIES OF
MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019**

Mr. President, we wish to join with other delegations in thanking you for Presiding over these Assemblies. We support the statement made on behalf of GRULAC. The Antigua & Barbuda delegation are confident that during this meeting, we will witness indeed innovation and creativity in leadership as well as, judicious management of the Agenda. We look forward to constructive discussions.

Antigua and Barbuda remains unwavering in our aspirations and commitments to create a modern Intellectual Property Office to effectively administer our national system and our participation in regional and international activities. In this regard, our delegation expresses appreciation to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), for coordinating successful meetings and workshops over the past year, and for the excellent administrative and technical support to ensure success on all levels. Antigua & Barbuda pledges to continue to partner with WIPO on issues and platforms of common interests and anticipate continued support from WIPO's various Units in our country's ongoing endeavors.

Antigua & Barbuda remains cognizant of the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) to our national development plans and goals. In this regard, our government has embarked on an aggressive legislative and administrative agenda designed to ensure that our laws governing IP keep abreast with ongoing global developments in the sector. In 2018, we passed a New Patents Act and Patent regulations. We are now in the process of having applications examined through horizontal cooperation. Recently, we have acceded to the Patent Law Treaty and Budapest Treaty. We hope to pass a new Trademark Act and Copyright Act in 2020. As of March, 2020 Antigua, and Barbuda will be celebrating twenty years since we first become members of the Madrid Protocol.

We also have had a National Intellectual Property Strategy recently completed. We look forward to implementing the recommendations that have been made by the Consultant, Dr. David Tennant, of the University of the West Indies.

In light of our Country's sporting history, with Cricket greats such Vivian Richards, Richie Richards and Curtly Ambrose and in other sporting areas, the Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office, fully endorsed and supported the World Intellectual Property Day 2019 theme: Reach for Gold: Sports and Intellectual Property. We celebrated World Intellectual Property Day 2019, with Cricket West Indies and in conjunction with the Ministry of Education,

hosted an art competition for our Primary and Secondary students nationwide. In addition, we held a Sports Symposium at the Cricket West Indies Coolidge Cricket Grounds where Antiguan and Barbuda's well-known sports persons in various sporting industries were invited to speak and share their stories of success. This event was extremely well attended. We wish to commend the work done in the Building Respect for Intellectual Property. The Building Respect for IP video is as well scheduled for completion in the New Year.

Our Ministry of Education continues to work on its programme for Innovation and Intellectual Property to be included in our school curricular in the future.

This year we hosted a very successful Enforcement Workshop with our local stakeholders in law enforcement, inclusive of the Police, Customs and our Bureau of Standards. As a result, the Manual for IP Prosecutors is nearing completion by the Director of Public Prosecutions. In addition, we are in discussions with the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda as it pertains to the creation of a specialized unit and a training manual for new recruits.

We have also made strides in the area of Copyright with the establishment of the Copyright Tribunal under our Copyright legislation. We would also like to thank

WIPO and the Trinidad and Tobago IPO for hosting the recent Copyright Conference, in Port of Spain, which addressed many of the issues of grave concern. We appreciate also the recently held Caribbean and Latin American Conference dealing with the copyright limitations as concerns libraries, archives and museums and we look forward to a continuation of the discussion and interaction on these issues.

Given the range of national and regional initiatives being undertaken by Antigua and Barbuda and the other small states of the Caribbean, it is evident that the demands being placed on the Caribbean Section in the LAC Bureau are increasing. We wish to thank them and remain grateful for their continued support and look forward to greater collaboration with the Countries serviced by the LAC Bureau as a whole. Antigua and Barbuda remain committed to the process of advancing our Regional work and ensuring the sustainability of the Bureau and the Caribbean Section.

Finally, Antigua & Barbuda commends the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents as well as the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks and all the others Committees and looks forward to their ongoing progress.

Mr. President, Thank you.