



COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
at the 63rd Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO

DRAFT STATEMENT

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World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
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**STATEMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE SIXTY-THIRD SERIES OF MEETINGS OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,
JULY, 2022**

Thank you for the floor Madam Chair,

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation supports the statement made by GRULAC on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean. We join with the other delegations in congratulating you on your election to the chair and we look forward to your guidance throughout the assemblies particularly as we emerge from the pandemic. We also wish to congratulate all the other officers alongside you supporting your efforts in this regard.

Chair, there has been major progress in Trinidad and Tobago's legislative agenda. We are in the process of preparing draft amendments to our legislation in order to accede to the Geneva (1999) Act of the Hague Agreement to update our industrial designs system, which had been operating successfully since 1997. We are also seeking to extend the term of copyright to life plus 70 years, up from 50 years. Furthermore, guidance has already be obtained regarding accession to the Patent Law Treaty. Chair, this delegation is very grateful for the various WIPO initiatives that have helped to shape our local IP ecosystem and have helped us to develop strong IP Policy and Strategy within Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago is committed to help grow the IP environment not just in Trinidad and Tobago but also together with our sister Caribbean offices. One important WIPO initiative was the CDIP

project in mobile apps. I am pleased to say that Trinidad and Tobago was one of 3 countries chosen for this project and we are very thankful for the opportunity presented to us. Trinidad and Tobago have successfully completed the CDIP project and we can already see the benefit to our local software developers and co-creators in the app development sector. We have also joined the Accessible Books Consortium post Marrakesh accession.

One of the positives arising out of the pandemic has been the impetus to digitize and place more services online. The WIPO-FILE project has been advancing and we are preparing to go fully online with post-filing processes and forms for trademarks and will add the other types of industrial property progressively. We have also joined the ePCT system and have implemented the electronic submission of PCT applications.

Trinidad and Tobago continues to prioritize IP enforcement and in that regard, the Manual for IP Prosecutors prepared by the Building Respect for IP Division using local experts has been completed and discussions are ongoing regarding the establishment of an IP Enforcement Unit within the Police Service. The amendments to the Copyright Act and the new Trade Marks Act incorporate modern enforcement provisions which are reflected in the Manual. The TTIPO also participates heavily in the Cabinet-appointed Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force.

This delegation is pleased to indicate that the flagship project, the National IP Training Center of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has been successfully launched anchored by our IP research focused library. We look forward to executing additional courses with our partners later this year under the NIPTC banner. The WIPO Diagnostic Tool is heavily utilized by our smes as a preamble to the execution of these courses.

We continue to collaborate with our Caribbean neighbours with the view of strengthening IP within the Caribbean region in addition to partners outside the region with

the respective MOUs signed with INAPI and IPOS. Trinidad and Tobago is also looking forward to concluding an MOU with Canada in the upcoming months which will further strengthen the capabilities of the TTIPO.

Madam Chair, this delegation wishes to sincerely express its gratitude to WIPO and the Caribbean Unit within the LAC bureau for the many initiatives undertaken involving the TTIPO and look forward to our continued partnership in promoting IP in the region, from the ground upwards. We look forward to working with you, Director General, and doing our part in helping you achieve your vision through the medium term strategic plan for WIPO.

This delegation also wishes to signal its support for the successful conclusion of discussions for a Broadcast Treaty as we observe the burgeoning of commercial activity in this vital area of cross-border trade. We also look forward to the successful conclusion on an instrument for the protection of Genetic Resources, Traditional knowledge and Cultural Expressions.

We look forward to the continued advancement and growth of the IP ecosystem under your expert guidance and leadership.

Chair, I thank you.