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**STATEMENT BY BARBADOS DELIVERED AT 51st WIPO ASSEMBLIES SEPTEMBER 24,
2013**

Madam Chair,

First, let me congratulate you on your election to the Chair of the 51st Series of WIPO Assemblies.

We also wish to thank and congratulate the Director General and his team for their important work during the year.

In particular, we congratulate WIPO on the successful diplomatic conference held in Marrakech earlier this year at which was concluded a Treaty which provided for exceptions and limitations for persons with print disabilities. We particularly recognize the role played by Mr. Trevor Clarke, and acknowledge the commitment of members to ensuring a successful outcome.

WIPO has been constantly enhancing its programmes to enrich the knowledge of its members about Intellectual Property issues. I wish to thank WIPO for the technical assistance to our country, including assistance for participation in these conferences. We urge WIPO not only to continue this practice but to extend it to allow greater and more frequent participation in the Geneva meetings.

We are encouraged by the increased emphasis placed by WIPO on the development of IP competencies in small and medium sized enterprises. In small countries, such enterprises are often micro-sized enterprises and therefore greatly need such assistance, particularly in the area of securing the benefits of innovative ideas.

JH.

In this regard, external offices are critical in helping to enhance IP familiarity, to build knowledge about IP processes and to increase the understanding of IP standards of the businesses and potential businesses on the ground. My delegation therefore strongly supports the call for greater number of external offices for Latin America and the Caribbean and urge approval of that proposal later in the meeting. In due course. We hope that we can look forward to seeing an external office in the Caribbean, some day.

Madam Chair, we take the opportunity also to compliment WIPO on the work that it is being doing on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. This is an important area for developing countries, and we trust that members will remain committed to achieving a successful conclusion to those deliberations.

Madam Chair, small economies often need to put appropriate legal infrastructures in place to accommodate new treaties and agreements. The challenge of making the required modifications to legislation to accommodate ratification of new treaties can be burdensome for small states. We therefore continue to welcome assistance from WIPO in helping us to accelerate this process.

In order to offer better access to guidance on IP matters so that members can take the appropriate steps to protect their intellectual property, we would encourage WIPO to conduct a greater number of seminars in local jurisdictions so as to allow more persons to have access to knowledge of IP. Often potential beneficiaries are unable to travel to Geneva to benefit from our seminars here.

We congratulate WIPO for achieving widened access in 2013 to new national collections of trademark records. In addition, WIPO's work in facilitating access to Research and

Development for Innovation databases and as well as access to scientific and technical periodicals for LDCs and developing countries is also a facility which can be quite beneficial to those in our domestic environments. However, we suggest that greater outreach efforts may be useful in order to encourage the use of these facilities.

In closing, I commend WIPO on its work over the past year and though there are several improvements which can be made, the programmes and facilities offered to its members, if well utilized, have the potential for being very beneficial to its members and especially to developing countries. Barbados remains committed to the objectives of WIPO and pledge our continued support.

I thank you.