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COUNTRY STATEMENT OF BELIZE

Statement on behalf of BELIZE at the 58th Series of Meetings of
the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO including the
PCT Union Assembly

World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
(September 24, 2018 – October 2, 2018)

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

In line with the words echoed by the delegate of El Salvador of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group, this delegation would like to extend a congratulation to you and your co-chairs in presiding over these Assemblies. We are confident that under your astute leadership, the objectives as laid within the agenda will be accomplished while also bringing about solutions to the ongoing challenges. We also would like to commend the Secretariat for doing an impeccable job in providing the contents needed to ensure a smooth transition of this year's proceeding.

Mr. President, as the country vibrantly marked its 37th years of independence on the 21st of September, we are reminded of continuous works that call for a reexamination of strategic objectives that furthers the growth of intellectual property rights thus we remain grateful for the technical assistance rendered to the Attorney General's Ministry through the Belize Intellectual Property Office in developing the National Intellectual Property Strategy. As this awaits its endorsement, the IP ecosystem continues to be strengthen through collaborative approach with key stakeholders that has nurtured the concerted efforts to raise awareness of Intellectual Property. This has been highlighted with seminars organized by the Caribbean Section in the LAC Bureau of WIPO in partnership with key stakeholders within the Ministry of Trade, Investments and Economic Development which provided Small and Medium- sized Enterprises in using Intellectual Property tools as a form of leverage for competitiveness.

Another success to be highlighted is the round of WIPO Roving Seminars on the Patent Cooperation Treaty which provided inventors in Belize with an opportunity to secure registration outside the jurisdiction when using this medium. We are also very grateful for the study visit

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mission that allowed us to appreciate the benefit of registering one's Industrial Designs through the system of the Geneva (1999) Act of the Hague Agreement. This mission signaled the relevant infrastructure to be set in place and the need for capacity building among staff to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the system.

Mr. Chairman, with this immense exposure, Belize will be taken the step in finalizing its deposit of instruments to the following treaties: Geneva (1999) Act of the Hague Agreement concerning the International Industrial Designs, the International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations, the WIPO Copyright Treaty, the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances and the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to the Published Works for Persons who are blind, visually disabled or otherwise print disabled. The process of accessions will be completed before the year ends.

We are also grateful to the support received by the Caribbean Section in the LAC Bureau as they willingly lend their assistance in accomplishing the vision of the Belize Intellectual Property Office.

Finally, Belize remains committed in working with WIPO and each Member States to forward the progression of innovation and development of intellectual property across all spectrums.

We look forward to a successful and productive discourse at these General Assemblies.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.