



**COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Statement by

**Mr. Regan Asgarali, Controller, Intellectual Property Office,
Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs**

**on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
at the 59th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization including
the PCT Union Assembly**

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Agenda Item 5: General Statements

(September 30 - October 9, 2019)

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**STATEMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019**

Mr. President,

Trinidad and Tobago aligns itself with the statement made by Mexico on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC). This delegation anticipates your continued astute leadership and guidance throughout the General Assemblies.

Mr. President, this delegation is very supportive of the various WIPO initiatives that have helped to shape the IP ecosystem. We are

continuing to shape the wider IP environment as Trinidad and Tobago will be acceding to a number of IP Conventions and Treaties such as the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances, the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks, the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled as well as the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations to be deposited with the United Nations Secretary-General in New York.

This delegation is pleased to report tremendous progress on the road to implementing online filing thanks to WIPO's assistance with the WIPO-FILE project. A mission from WIPO's IPAS experts certainly helped to propel it forward. Concurrent with that will be online payment, a possible first for our public service, which has been successfully tested. The Manual for IP Prosecutors is nearing completion. The Building Respect for IP video was completed and premiered at the ACE meeting last month. More importantly was the

start of our flagship project, the IP academy of Trinidad and Tobago and completion of the first train-the-trainer module. In a similar fashion, we are looking forward to the start-up of our TISC project which is also eagerly anticipated by our stakeholders and partners.

I am pleased to indicate that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has signed an MOU with WIPO to allow access to WIPO's IP-centred Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Collaboration has extended beyond our borders with continued horizontal cooperation in the Caribbean region with several other CARICOM member states and other south-south cooperation with INAPI in Chile, which is entering into Phase 2 this year.

Mr. President, this delegation wishes to sincerely express its gratitude to WIPO and the Caribbean Unit for the many initiatives undertaken involving the TTIPO and look forward to our continued partnership in promoting the IP ecosystem.

This delegation also wishes to signal its support for the conclusion of a Broadcast Treaty as we observe the burgeoning of commercial activity in this vital area of cross-border trade.

Our delegation remains committed to the process of advancing our discussions, working together toward mutually beneficial goals and ensuring the sustainability and dignity of the organization. We look forward to the continued advancement and growth of the IP ecosystem under your expert guidance and leadership.

Mr. President, I thank you.