



**STATEMENT BY 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**

**Item Agenda No. 20 - Report on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual  
Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)**

Trinidad and Tobago wishes to commend WIPO on the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore to date. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago notes that tremendous discussions have taken place and considerable progress has been made in the last year. At this juncture we wish to thank the chair and deputy chairs for their astute leadership and sterling guidance during the sessions held in 2018/2019.

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago wholeheartedly supports the continuing efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. We believe the IGC has been steadily working toward consensus, and notes the tremendous amount of progress made. The issues arising from the deliberations in this important Committee are of critical importance to the delegation. This delegation is pleased to note that the inclusion of the term 'works of mas' under TCE's remains in the proposed text.

Trinidad and Tobago applauds the work of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions. The mandate of this group to provide advice and analysis on legal, policy or technical issues is welcomed. Trinidad and Tobago is pleased that the indigenous groups continue to be active participants in the IGC. The WIPO Voluntary Fund ensured there was wide participation from several contributors whose views will prove invaluable at this level of discussion. It is imperative that Member States who are financially able continue to contribute to the Voluntary Fund.

Mr. Chairman, the future of the protection of the global GRTKF rests in the hands of WIPO Member States. We therefore encourage all Members to work together to ensure that the IGC mandate is realised in the shortest possible timeframe.