

J.P.H.

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COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
at the 54th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO including the PCT Union Assembly

DRAFT STATEMENT

World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
(September 22-30, 2014)

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**STATEMENT OF THE HONOURABLE PRAKASH RAMADHAR, MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE FIFTY-FOURTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,
MONDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2014**

Madam President,

In supporting the statement made by GRULAC on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean, I am happy to see you chairing once again these August Assemblies. This delegation looks forward to your continued wise leadership and guidance throughout the General Assemblies. We also wish to congratulate the other officers elected alongside you who will support your efforts in that regard.

Madam President, Trinidad and Tobago welcomes all of the positive signals coming from other delegations with regard to progress toward other diplomatic conferences such as the Design Law Treaty and the International Instrument for Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources. We are confident that

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we will craft paths around any obstacles to achieve that consensus. We have already begun work toward exploring the legislative amendments to enable the gains we made following the positive conclusions of the Beijing Treaty and the Marrakesh Treaty so all of this work can benefit the people we serve and of course we have sought the World Intellectual Property Office's (WIPO's) assistance to do so.

The development of national IP systems Madam President, is very often focused on the private sector as there is often very necessary innovation taking place in the public sector. In that regard, I wish to sincerely thank the Director General for delivery of the IP Audit and IP Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago. A very cogent map was produced. This will I am sure serve to stimulate discussion and consideration of IP within a Public Sector. The Public Service as we know seems to be very delivery-focused. In this present development, we believe that sector should begin to consider commercial opportunities that may arise from its service delivery because of the IP generated around them.

I wish to sincerely thank WIPO for its continued support of our development of an IP Academy through the Intellectual Property Office of Trinidad and Tobago. In that regard, the WIPO Academy has been a good source of support for the project. The project is moving along with great success.

I am again pleased to mention the project on Building Respect for Intellectual Property, which has been put forward as a Public Sector Investment Program project. This will become part of the work of the IPO and its recurrent expenditure.

Trinidad and Tobago is expected to accede to the Madrid Protocol in the latter part of 2014. Administrative and human resource arrangements are in place with the support of the Brands and Designs Sector of WIPO. The proposed new Trade Marks Act and Regulations have already been approved by the Legislative Review Committee and should be debated in Parliament certainly before the end of 2014.

This delegation notes with pleasure the advancement of the Caribbean Section in the LAC Bureau and welcomes the appointment of the new Head of Section. We are confident that the Caribbean Unit

will be further enhanced so that the section will be able to achieve its objectives in 2014 – 2015.

The tremendous progress which has been made in the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore restores the hope that a diplomatic conference may be possible in the year 2015. Trinidad and Tobago has maintained a number of proposals and we sincerely thank those Member States who supported those proposals.

This delegation remains encouraged by the way the Director General is shaping the Organization to fulfill the mandate of the member states. We look forward to the continued advancement of IP and under your expert guidance and leadership these discussions and their successful conclusion.

Madam President, I thank you.