

Intervention on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
at the 56th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO including the PCT Union Assembly

Agenda Item 13 Standing Committee on Trade Marks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)

In supporting the statement made by GRULAC, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago applauds and continues to support the significant strides made by the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT).

Trinidad and Tobago continues to follow the exceptional guidance of the SCT and has made notable advances since last year's Assembly.

Subsequent to revising and modernising its Trade Marks legislation in keeping with international best practices, Trinidad and Tobago is currently reviewing The **Trade Mark Regulations, 2016** inclusive of the Border Enforcement Regulations and International Registration Regulations. The Trinidad and Tobago Intellectual Property Office (TTIPO) is currently reviewing comments from the Trademark Law Section, Law and Legislative Advice Division of WIPO as well as the United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office before it is put forth for stakeholder consultations. The Regulations accompanying the **Trade Marks Act No. 8 of 2015** are subject to negative resolution and are to be laid in Parliament before coming into effect. We are pleased to report that we are proposing to implement provisions under the Regulations to allow for online filing at the TTIPO. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago would like to extend its gratitude to WIPO and the United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office for the continued support and assistance extended to the country during this transition period.

The issue of the protection of country names remains of particular importance to countries in the Caribbean region, inclusive of Trinidad and Tobago. As Trinidad and Tobago seeks to diversify

its economy, the protection of country names is of particular importance and as such we look forward to these discussions.

The Domain Name System (DNS) raises challenges for the protection of IP due to the global nature of the internet and the implications which emanate from this such as bad-faith registration and use of domain names corresponding to trade mark rights. International approaches to addressing this issue are of particular importance and we anticipate its development.

The discussions on the Design Law Treaty are of particular interest to Trinidad and Tobago as it is anticipated to complement its agreement in principle to accede to the Hague Agreement. We look forward to information regarding the WIPO Digital Access Service (DAS). The exchange of documents electronically between offices would contribute significantly to efficacy by providing quicker means of transferring such documents.

Further, exploring effective measures against misuse of geographical indications and other important geographical names in the operation of the DNS is of particular relevance to Trinidad and Tobago. This is especially so in light of local products such as our cocoa, which has an international reputation of being a premium cocoa that is used to make some of the world's finest chocolates. We are actively working with local cocoa farmers in providing assistance regarding filing of a geographical indication.

Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to the continuing work of the SCT and its guidance given to Member States to enhance their development.