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COUNTRY STATEMENT OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Statement on behalf of ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
At the 57th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
October 2, 2016 – October 11, 2017

**STATEMENT OF THE HONOURABLE SENATOR MAUREEN HYMAN
LEGAL AFFAIRS OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
AT THE
57TH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,**

Mr. President, Antigua & Barbuda, is represented here by Sen. Maureen Hyman Payne, Minister of State in the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Ms. Ricki Camacho, Registrar of the Intellectual Property and Commerce Department. We are confident that during this meeting, we will witness innovation and creativity in leadership as well as, judicious management of the Agenda. We support the statement made by GRULAC on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Antigua and Barbuda remains unwavering in our aspirations and commitments to create a modern Intellectual Property Registry and a culture of appreciation for Intellectual Property itself. In this regard, our delegation expresses appreciation to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), for coordinating meetings and workshops over the past year, and for the administrative and technical support to ensure success at all levels. Antigua & Barbuda pledges to continue to partner with WIPO on issues and platforms of common interests and we anticipate the continued support from WIPO's various secretariats in our country's ongoing endeavours. It would be remiss of us not to mention the devastating effect our Twin Island State has suffered at the hands

of the recent record breaking Hurricanes, Irma and Maria. The total devastation to our sister island, Barbuda resulted in a mandatory mass evacuation of the entire island. We also must acknowledge the devastation caused to other countries within the region by these awful natural disasters. This will undoubtedly affect us in many ways and for many years but we remain committed and open to serve our Country, fellow citizens and other users of the Registry both locally and abroad.

Antigua & Barbuda remains cognizant of the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) to our national development plans and goals. In this regard, our government has embarked on an aggressive legislative and administrative agenda designed to ensure that the laws governing IP in our country are up to date and in keeping with ongoing global developments in the sector. Our most recent legislative step has been the passage of our *Patents Act 2012*. The regulations related thereto should be enacted by the end of the year. In addition, we have technical assistance in regards to a modernised, updated, Copyright Bill which has been drafted and presented to the Ministry of Legal Affairs for consideration.

We are in the process of reforming our Trademarks Act in the upcoming year. We also hope to expand our awareness initiatives with the launch of our new website.

Mr. President, it is widely accepted that creative industries present the greatest opportunity for new economic growth particularly with music, sports and folklore. As a small island developing state (SIDS), we continue to explore how our creative industries can better contribute to our gross domestic product. To provide us with a means to develop our greatest and most significant resource, the human resource.

Mr. President, cognizant that our youth encounter IP systems daily particularly in the area of technology, we are committed to ensuring that IP is incorporated into the educational curricula in our country in the near future. Our IP Office and the Ministry of Education continue their discussions in this regard. In fact, as we celebrated World Intellectual Property Day 2017, our office and the Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Bank of Nova Scotia hosted an essay competition for primary and secondary schools nationwide. We also held a very successful Open day and mini street fair at the Registry office. We also did our usual school visits throughout the Island educating the youths on various aspects of IP. The initiative was successful. We recently presented at the 12th

session of the Advisory Committee on Enforcement, Awareness-Building Activities and Strategic Campaigns as a Means for Building Respect for IP about educational campaigns and competitions for young people to build respect for intellectual property in Antigua and Barbuda.

Mr. President, with WIPO's assistance, key local and sub-regional institutions, agencies, officials and key personnel have been exposed to, and benefitted from, IP training in Antigua and Barbuda in 2017 to include: in the area of the Madrid protocol; Patents and the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Mr. President, given the range of national initiatives, at varying stages of IP development, and growth and interest in IP generally in Antigua and Barbuda as well as the wider Caribbean, my Delegation expresses, in advance, our appreciation to WIPO for its sensitivity and understanding in recognizing the desires of the Caribbean member states to exploit the rich, vast and untapped opportunities within the IP sector. The important leadership role which the Caribbean Unit within WIPO plays in assisting us in meeting our varied and respective development agendas must also be acknowledged. This unit as a result continues to maintain its importance in the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

Antigua & Barbuda commends the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents as well as the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications.

Mr. President, we appreciate the opportunity to address this body. We further look forward to the future development and progress in the area of Intellectual Property in partnership with WIPO on a local, regional and international level.

Mr. President, thank you.