

Statement by Dr Marion Williams, Ambassador of Barbados on the occasion of the 2014 Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, under “General Statements” on September 23, 2014

Thank you Madam Chair,

I wish first to congratulate you Madam Chair on the assumption of the chairmanship of these proceedings. I have every confidence that you will do an excellent job. I wish also to thank the WIPO Secretariat for the excellent organization of this conference. I wish also to congratulate Dr Gurry on his re-election and to place on record our recognition of the great work that he and his team have done over the years. I thank the outgoing DDGs and ADGs for their support and assistance and for the important work that they have done for this organization. I would particularly like to single out my Caribbean ADG in that regard.

Barbados would first like to align itself with the statement made by Paraguay on behalf of GRULAC. We value highly the work of WIPO in the development of IP as it supports our own goal of providing IP protection for all. We also value highly the emphasis placed on training and in that regard we urge increased emphasis on training in trademark examination and patent examination in developing countries where these skills are still in need of development. This is important for most developing countries, and though some progress has been made, there is still a long way to go.

Barbados is of the view that IP is a vital tool which can be used effectively for accelerating the development of our economies. We value highly the work of WIPO even in areas in which we are not deeply involved, such as industrial design, but we recognize its importance. We also support the on-going efforts in the negotiations on broadcasting and urge that greater progress be made in this area. Barbados also supports the effective implementation of the development Agenda and believes that much can be achieved if we continue to work in a constructive manner.

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We recognize the need for the establishment of external offices and hope that the development of guidelines will assist in ensuring smooth decision-making in this area. We support the call for a Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources, Traditional knowledge and Cultural Expressions next year, and look forward to continued engagement in this area.

Before closing, I would like to thank WIPO for its involvement in the recent International Conference in Samoa organized by the Small Island Developing States as they celebrated the UN designated international Year of the SIDS. I was not there, but I am told that WIPO's presentations there provided very important information and advice on how SIDS could better benefit from IP protection and development.

Madam Chair, Barbados continues to be strongly committed to the further development of IP in developing countries and in small states in particular. We congratulate DG Gurry and his team for the efforts that they are making and for their achievements and wish them continued success.

You can depend on our continued support.

I thank you.

September 23, 2014