



COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Statement 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

STATEMENT

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World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters

Geneva, Switzerland

(October 3-11, 2016)



**STATEMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE FIFTY-SIXTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,
OCTOBER, 2016**

Mr. President,

In supporting the statement made by GRULAC on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean, I wish to join with other delegations in congratulating you on your election to the chair. This delegation anticipates your thoughtful 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.

Mr. President, we have continued work toward exploring the legislative amendments to give effect to the gains we made following the positive conclusions of the Beijing Treaty and the Marrakesh Treaty. We are grateful to the Director General and WIPO for the guidance provided in this area and we are developing the necessary

amendments to our copyright system. We are also happy to report that a few collective management organizations are actively pursuing the incorporation of the WIPO TAG Compendium into their corporate structures following the successful WIPO Regional Broadcasting and Collective Management Conference held in Port of Spain earlier this year.

WIPO's assistance is also appreciated for the continued support of our development of an IP Academy in the Intellectual Property Office of Trinidad and Tobago. The courses have grown from an IP Clinic for the Sir Hugh Wooding Law School to include an IP Clinic for the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute, where the Intellectual Property Office provides guidance to its business incubator clients and also provides training on patent mining. Other institutions are also seeking memoranda of understanding to provide IP guidance and conduct IP Clinics and a draft is being finalized with the University of Trinidad and Tobago. The IPO has also begun teaching an IP module in an MSc. program in Computer Science at the University of the West Indies.

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, has continued as part of the work plan of the IPO. In fact, the Ad Agency that helped to develop the campaign and characters won a gold medal at the national advertising awards as a result of that campaign.

Mr. President, the Trade Marks Act was repealed and replaced. The new Act has been assented to and contains provisions for new types of trade marks and paves the way to implement the Madrid Protocol. Once the Regulations are completed and the legislation is proclaimed by the President, we can look forward to the most modernized trade mark system in Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago is grateful for the kind support of the Brands and Designs Sector in reaching this stage.

This delegation is pleased to acknowledge the hard work of the Caribbean Section in the LAC Bureau under the astute leadership of the Head of Section. We are confident that the Caribbean Unit will be further enhanced so that the section will be able to continue its work in 2016 – 2017.

Mr. President, this delegation is anxious to preserve the tremendous gains made in the IGC over the years and supports proposals to strengthen the endurance of the Committee and its work.

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.

Mr President, I thank you.