

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



COUNTRY STATEMENT OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Statement on behalf of ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
At the 58th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
September 24, 2018 – October 2, 2018

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

Antigua & Barbuda is represented by Ms. Maureen Hyman Payne, Senator, Ministry of Legal Affairs and Ms. Ricki Camacho, Registrar of the Intellectual Property and Commerce Department. Mr. President, the Antigua & Barbuda delegation are confident through you, that during this meeting, we will indeed 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 American and the Caribbean States. We offer our deepest condolences to the people and Government of Vietnam on the recent passing of President Tran Dai Quang of Vietnam.

Antigua and Barbuda remains unwavering in our aspirations and commitment to create a modern Intellectual Property regime. In this regard, our delegation expresses appreciation to the Director General, Dr. Francis Gurry, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), for coordinating successful meetings and workshops over the past year, and for the excellent 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 anticipate continued support from WIPO's various secretariats in our country's ongoing endeavors.

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 our laws governing IP keep abreast with ongoing global developments in the sector. We currently have just passed a New Patents Act 2018 and Patent regulations. We are in the process of reviewing and reforming our Trademarks Act and Copyright Act and hope to have new legislation in the upcoming year. We recently concluded Vienna Classification training. Shortly, we will be members of the Budapest Treaty, Patent Law Treaty and the Nice Treaty and we are to accede to various Copyright treaties. We thank WIPO for its tangible support in this regards.

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. Our ongoing public awareness campaign has resulted in our people's heightened interest in and increased knowledge of, IP and as a consequence their desire to protect their IP rights. Likewise, we continue to work with many of our other

governmental entities to ensure a greater appreciation and understanding of IP throughout all sectors.

In light of global movements, the Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office, fully endorsed and supported the World Intellectual Property Day 2018 theme: Powering Change: Women in Innovation and Creativity. In fact, as we celebrated World Intellectual Property Day 2018, our office and the Ministry of Education in conjunction with two local sponsors hosted an essay and poster competition for primary and secondary schools nationwide. We had approximately 100 entries. We also held a Street Fair and Open House which were well attended at the Office's location in St. John's. We held a Women's Symposium at the Antigua Public Library where Antiguan and Barbuda Women in the Creative Industries were invited to speak. This event was extremely well attended. We wish to commend the work done in the Building Respect for Intellectual Property. We would welcome the addition of a children's page to the WIPO website to help us in educating the youth of our country. We do believe that the dissemination of information via the internet will be one of the best ways for our youth to learn about IP rights. We have added such a page to our own website.

We welcome the new initiative of WIPO for the Intellectual Property Judges Forum which we believe will give Judges across the globe a platform to discuss

relevant issues. For Countries such as ours with a travelling Circuit Appellate Court this should be extremely helpful.

Given the range of national initiatives, varying stages of IP development, and growth and interest in IP generally in Antigua and Barbuda as well as the wider Caribbean, it ought to be evident that the demands being placed on the Caribbean Section in the LAC Bureau are increasing tremendously. However, we are grateful for the addition to the Caribbean Section. We wish to thank the LAC Bureau and Caribbean Unit for all the continued support and the work that they do for us as a collective region.

Finally, 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, Madrid, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications.

Thank you.