



COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
at the 58th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO including the PCT Union Assembly

DRAFT STATEMENT

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World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
(September 24 - October 2, 2018)



**STATEMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,
OCTOBER, 2018**

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 considered 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, the dynamic nature of intellectual property implies the need for a matching effort by IP offices in several areas to keep the entire IP ecosystem relevant to the capacities of stakeholders and creators alike. This effort is not just in the IP system itself but also in the back-office services that underpin the front office. In that regard

we are pleased to indicate that the IPO is very close to implementing online filing thanks to WIPO's assistance with the WIPO-FILE project. Concurrent with that is online payment, a possible first on our public service, which has been successfully tested.

I am pleased to indicate that the government of Trinidad and Tobago is actively reviewing this week two MOUs which, when signed with WIPO, will allow for the provision of IP-centred Alternative Dispute Resolution and for the Start-up IP Academy that will certainly add to our growing IP ecosystem.

Collaboration has extended beyond our borders with continued horizontal cooperation in the region and south-south cooperation with INAPI in Chile. A number of activities will continue this cooperation later this year with an exchange of teams to explore each country's services offered to inventors and businesses.

Mr. President, this delegation wishes to sincerely express its gratitude to WIPO and the Caribbean Unit for the many initiatives undertaken to nurture and mentor the holders of potential GIs in our newest IP frontier.

This delegation is pleased to commend the hard work of the Caribbean Section in the LAC Bureau under the astute leadership of the Head of Section.

Mr. President, local interest has prompted Trinidad and Tobago to seek accession to 6 more IP related treaties over the next few months.

This delegation also wishes to signal its support for the conclusion of a Broadcast Treaty as we observe the burgeoning of commercial activity in this vital area of cross-border trade.

Our 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.