

**ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF WIPO: 64<sup>th</sup> SERIES OF MEETINGS**

**GENEVA, JULY 6 TO 14, 2023**

**INTERVENTION ON AGENDA ITEM NO 13 (iii) by Trinidad and Tobago**

**Report on the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)**

Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago applauds the diligent work of the Standing Committee on Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications. We are elated to report that there has been a marked increase in trade mark filings in Trinidad and Tobago revealing the increasing trade throughout the country. We have the pleasure to indicate that since the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol) became operational in 2021, there has been significant interest in the system alongside the traditional Paris Convention route contributing to increased filings in Trinidad and Tobago from our local entrepreneurs. In 2022, Madrid designations accounted for 54% of our trade mark filings. Several local small and mid-size enterprises (SMEs) have recognized the benefits and ease of doing business and have opted to utilize the Madrid system to enhance their marketing strategies in order to boost competitive advantage.

A great focus is geared towards our on-going national campaign to promote the use of the Madrid Protocol through our National Intellectual Property Training Centre (NIPTC) for Trinidad and Tobago and to also introduce the new Madrid e-Filing online tool. Trinidad and Tobago became the first from Latin American and the Caribbean region to sign up to the Madrid e-Filing service as part of our continued efforts to promote the ease of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago. This is being vigorously promoted locally targeting SMEs, by demonstrating how the Madrid System supports their business expansion and how they can leverage their IP. We wish to thank WIPO for all of its assistance in this regard.

This delegation is pleased to report the successful implementation of the customized IP diagnostic tool which has assisted SMEs in ascertaining their IP, especially with regard to their branding. Trinidad and Tobago became the first country in the world to launch this useful tool for the benefit of users of the IP system.

With respect to Industrial Designs, the Trinidad and Tobago Intellectual Property Office (TTIPO), thanks WIPO for its assistance in the preparation of the draft legislation to facilitate our accession to the Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs. We also highly anticipate the upcoming diplomatic conference for the adoption of a proposed Design Law Treaty and Practice draft Regulations which will simplify the process for users in 2024.

Regarding the Revised Proposal made by the Delegation of Jamaica for a Joint Recommendation Concerning Provisions on the Protection of Country Names, document SCT/43/9, Trinidad and Tobago wish to convey our support for a balanced approach being settled. We were also elated to participate in the Questionnaire on Nation-Brand Protection in members' states, SCT/43/8.

Pertaining to Geographical Indications, the TTIPO is working on fostering and promoting GI registrations in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. We also thank the EUIPO for their assistance through the CARIFI project in developing GIs in the Caribbean region.

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to the on-going work of this Committee as it seeks to guide Member States along their developmental paths.

Mr. Chairman, with these comments, I thank you.