

SAINT LUCIA

General Statement to the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO: Sixty-Fifth Series
of Meetings
WIPO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
July 9 – 17, 2024

The Saint Lucia delegation congratulates the Chair on his appointment of these meetings and wishes him successful stewardship. We also thank the WIPO Secretariat for their diligent preparation of the Assemblies. Chair, we wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Director General (DG), Daren Tang and his team, for the unwavering support over the past year and we renew our commitment to collaborate with and provide support to your organization.

Saint Lucia aligns itself with the statement made by GRULAC on behalf of the Caribbean and Latin American states.

By way of update on the work done by the Intellectual Property Office of Saint Lucia, we are pleased to inform that significant progress has been made with legislative reform over the past year. Recently, we engaged stakeholders in the consultative process on our new Patents Bill. Following this important step, we will take steps to enact the new law in the coming months. We appreciate WIPO's technical assistance in drafting the relevant legislation.

We continue to thrive and sustain our revenue in the area of Trademarks, receiving approximately 400 trademark applications each year and registering a comparable number.

Saint Lucia is pleased to report that the IP Office received its first Geographical Indication (GI) application in April, this year, for "Saint Lucia Rum". We look forward to registering our first GI very soon.

High on our agenda is further legislative review in the areas of Copyright, Industrial Designs, Trademarks and Geographical Indications in the near future, to bring our laws in compliance with modern international standards and the advanced and ever evolving digital environment.

The Government of Saint Lucia was pleased to sign the Cooperation Agreement with WIPO last year for the upgrade of our IT infrastructure of IPAS. We will continue to make progress towards the implementation of IPAS 4.0 (Cloud) very soon.

Saint Lucia is privileged to be one of the beneficiaries of the WIPO Project on IP and Women in Entrepreneurship. This has undoubtedly been fully embraced and exploited by our Agricultural and Export sectors in our country who have taken full advantage of the activities that have taken place thus far.

We were honoured to participate in and to host the Director General on his inaugural visit to the Caribbean region at the WIPO Ministerial-Level Meeting held in Saint Kitts and Nevis, in November 2023. The DG's presence reassured the region of his commitment to the development of the IP agenda in the region. The discussions, particularly about the potential inclusion of AI tools in the IP system, opened our eyes to the realization of where the world is heading and the need for our region's readiness for advanced technology.

The Government of Saint Lucia had the pleasure of being represented at the WIPO Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge held in May, this year and to sign the final Act. Saint Lucia looks forward to the ratification of and formal accession to the treaty, in due course. In addition, we anticipate our participation in the Diplomatic Conference on the Design Law Treaty (DLT) in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in November and a successful outcome and adoption.

Finally, we wish the Assemblies every success as we continue to work together for the overall success of the IP system in the world.