

ASSEMBLIES OF THE MEMBER STATES OF WIPO SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION - GENEVA, 7 TO 15 JULY, 2026

Opening Statement

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The Bahamas would like to express thanks to Director General, Daren Tang, for his very informative opening address which depicts a vivid picture of the scope of work completed by WIPO over the past year in an effort to fulfill its mandate – to encourage innovation, enrich societies, and promote industrial activity via access to technology and investment. We also extend congratulations to Mr. Tang on his re-election as Director General of WIPO and wish him a productive and successful second term.

The Bahamas also congratulates the Director General and the Secretariat for the outstanding work and commitment demonstrated once again in organizing and hosting these Assemblies. We look forward to a highly productive session.

At the outset, The Bahamas aligns itself with the statement delivered by El Salvador on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC).

Mr. Chairman, similar to many developing countries and small island developing states, The Bahamas faces capacity and resource challenges which have limited our development potential in certain areas such as the expansion of intellectual property protection.

It is for this reason that The Bahamas is privileged to convey its gratitude to WIPO for the technical assistance provided to our country which, over the past year, has allowed us to achieve:

- Amended and modernized primary and subsidiary legislation in the areas of Trademarks, Patents, Copyright and Industrial Designs;
- Broader Trademark protection; and
- Electronic Applications

WIPO's assistance has also allowed us to:

- Create a modern, independent Intellectual Property Office; and
- Accede, for the first time since becoming an independent nation 53 years ago, to the following six(6) WIPO treaties:
 - Nice Agreement
 - Vienna Agreement
 - Trademark Law Treaty
 - Singapore Treaty
 - Budapest Treaty; and most recently on 19th May, 2026
 - Patent Cooperation Treaty, which will come into force on the 19th August, 2026.
- Additionally, The Bahamas, later this week, intends to deposit instruments of accession to
 - WIPO Copyright Treaty
 - WIPO Performances & Phonograms Treaty
 - Rome Convention

The Bahamas has completed substantive and subsidiary legislation on Geographical Indications, New Plant Varieties and Integrated Circuits and is currently engaged in a workshop to facilitate the registration of the Bahamas' first G.I. – The Bahamas Junkanoo Drum.

It is also for this reason, Mr. Chair that The Bahamas continues to place particular significance on the WIPO development agenda. The innovative projects supported by WIPO provide an example for other nations, and we look forward to engaging further on this topic.

We also place significance on WIPO's training and capacity building proficiency, which aids resource challenged countries in complying with WIPO treaties and expanding local IP protection.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, The Bahamas, again, extends its gratitude to WIPO for the extensive support and technical assistance provided. The assistance rendered has been invaluable to The Bahamas; and WIPO can be assured of our continued support and commitment during these Assemblies and in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.