

Mr. Chair,

It is an honour to deliver this General Statement on behalf of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

At the outset, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines extends its congratulations to the Director General on his reappointment. We commend his leadership and his continued commitment to strengthening the intellectual property systems of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through meaningful technical assistance and capacity-building. We look forward to continued collaboration during his new term and to an expansion of these valuable initiatives.

My country has benefited significantly from WIPO's support, particularly through the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty workshop. We also wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance provided to our National Library and the Ministry of Education through the Accessible Books Consortium and the DAISY Consortium. These initiatives have made an important contribution to improving access to knowledge and educational resources for persons with print disabilities.

Looking ahead, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains committed to advancing regional cooperation in intellectual property. We look forward to continued engagement on the establishment of the OECS Patent System and to contributing to this important regional initiative. We also intend to advance the modernization of our plant variety protection framework through the updating of our legislation to align with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) Convention during the second half of this year.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reaffirms its commitment to working closely with WIPO and its Member States to ensure that intellectual property continues to support innovation, inclusive development, and sustainable economic growth.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.