

**GENEVA, May 30- June 5, 2025**

**Fifty-First Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)**

Thank you Chair for the floor. As this is the first time that Trinidad and Tobago is taking the floor, please let me congratulate you on your expert leadership of this Committee alongside the Vice Chairs and the tireless efforts of the Secretariat. Trinidad and Tobago also lends its support to the statements made by the coordinator of GRULAC.

Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to the fruitful and robust deliberations of this Committee and collaboration with Member States, especially on these draft Articles for the Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions and draft Articles for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge.

Trinidad and Tobago is heartened to have the term “works of mas” continue to be included as an example in Article 1 of the text of the Draft Articles on the Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions, highlighting the importance of recognizing and protecting the distinctive cultural expressions associated with Carnival traditions.

Trinidad and Tobago also supports the continued deliberations on the draft Articles for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge to ensure the protection of the dynamic and evolving knowledge originating from indigenous peoples, local communities and other beneficiaries as the result of intellectual activity.

With these comments, I thank you for the floor Chair.