



**Statement by Jamaica to the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO  
62<sup>nd</sup> Series of Meetings  
4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**ABBREVIATED VERSION**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Jamaica commends you on your steering of our deliberations.

My delegation wishes to commend WIPO under the leadership of Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, for the proactive and agile response of the Organization to the Covid-19 pandemic. We also wish to thank DG Tang for his comprehensive report.

The tripartite collaboration of WIPO, WHO and WTO has and will continue to serve as a useful mechanism in facilitating the flow of information and ensuring that the required technical assistance is accessible and available especially for developing countries. WIPO is in our view an Organization that is conscious of the realities and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In this regard, Jamaica welcomes the organizational restructuring which includes the creation of new Sectors and Divisions such as the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector. The desire of DG Tang to further bring IP “*to the man on the street*” will assist in raising public awareness about the critical role that IP can play in developing solutions for some of the world’s most pressing economic and social challenges.

Chair,

The Government of Jamaica values its longstanding relationship with WIPO which continues to contribute to our national development. Through our local IP Office, Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO), Jamaica continues to receive technical assistance in the form of legislative support in the areas of patents, industrial designs, trademarks, and copyright. The work of WIPO committees and bodies continues to be a priority and Jamaica is pleased to have been recently elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). We look forward to advancing the negotiations within this body.

Chair,

As we consider our approach to the post pandemic recovery, support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which serves as the backbone from many developing countries will be critical in ensuring that they are equipped to better leverage their intellectual property. We also note WIPO's direct focus on youth, and the Organization's intention to place youth at the centre of IP Day 2022, to ensure that their innovative ideas and inventions are harnessed and used to contribute to sustainable economic development.

Chair, Jamaica commends the Staff of the various Divisions - ADG Kwakwa and the entire Traditional Knowledge Division for their work and support in that area; the Madrid Legal Division, The Hague Registry of the Brands and Designs Sector, the IP Office Business Solution Division, and last but certainly not the least, the LAC Division, noting especially the work of the Caribbean Section - all for the sterling support to Jamaica, as it seeks to advance its IP architecture and environment and build its capacity.

In closing, allow me to assure Director General Tang and his Team of Jamaica's commitment to advancing the work of this Organization.

**FULL VERSION**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor.

At the outset, my delegation wishes to commend WIPO under the leadership of Director General, Mr Daren Tang for the proactive and agile response of the Organization to the Covid-19 pandemic. The tripartite collaboration of WIPO, WHO and WTO has and will continue to serve as a useful mechanism in facilitating the flow of information and ensuring that the required technical assistance is accessible and available especially for developing countries.

Jamaica appreciates the continued thrust of WIPO to remain an Organization that is relevant and conscious of the realities and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In this regard, Jamaica welcomes the organizational restructuring which includes the creation of new Sectors and Divisions such as the IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector. As we work collectively towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, intellectual property, innovation and ingenuity are key components in developing solutions for some of the world's most pressing economic and social challenges. The intent of DG Tang to further bring IP "to the man on the street" will certainly assist in raising public awareness about the critical role that IP can play in ensuring no one is left behind.

Chair,

The Government of Jamaica values its longstanding relationship with WIPO and remains appreciative of the continued collaboration which contributes to our national development. Through our local IP Office, Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO), Jamaica continues to receive technical assistance in form of legislative support in the areas of patents, industrial designs, trademarks, and copyright. We acknowledge the work of the Madrid Legal Division under DDG Binying Wang and thank Senior Director, Mr. David Muls and Ms. Debbie Roenning for their tireless assistance in providing support to JIPO through the review of

legislation and participation in the various webinars hosted. The assistance of the Senior Advisor in The Hague Registry of the Brands and Designs Sector, Ms. Paivi Lahdesmaki for supporting Jamaica in our work towards acceding to the Geneva Act of 1999 of The Hague Agreement. Jamaica is also appreciative of the support to JIPO from the IP Office Business Solution Division particularly the efforts of Director, Mr. William Meredith and Senior Delivery and Support Manager, Mr. Adel Baccouche. We also recognise the support of Mr. Hichem Boutabba for the technical trainings provided.

Chair,

The work of the WIPO committees and bodies continues to be a priority for us as we believe in the mandate of the Organization and its ability to positively impact lives. Jamaica is pleased to have been recently elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) and looks forward to contributing to advancing the negotiations within this body. The issue of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression is an important one for Jamaica given the need to safeguard our rich intangible cultural heritage. Jamaica therefore, appreciates the focus of WIPO and commends ADG Kwakwa and Director Mr. Wend Wendland and the entire TK division for their work and support in this area and we were delighted to participate in the recent WIPO regional seminar on Copyright and Traditional Cultural Expressions. Jamaica also attaches great importance to the work which is being undertaken by the WIPO Standing Committee on Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), relating to the protection of country names and will continue to engage constructively with members on our revised proposal.

Mr. Chair,

We acknowledge also the work of the LAC Bureau under the leadership of Director, Mrs. Maria Beatriz Amorim-Borher and note especially the work of the Caribbean Section, under Ms. Carol Simpson.

As we look to the future and deliberate on our approach for the post pandemic recovery, support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which serves as the backbone from many developing countries is critical in ensuring that they are equipped to better leverage their intellectual property. There must also be a direct focus on youth, and we note the intention of WIPO to focus on youth for IP Day 2022 to ensure that their innovative ideas and inventions are harnessed and used to contribute to sustainable economic development. Additionally, WIPO should continue its outreach and support to developing countries to boost their innovative ecosystem.

Chair,

In closing, allow me to reiterate my delegation's commendation to WIPO and assure Director General Tang of Jamaica's commitment to advancing the work of this Organization.

I thank you.