



Check Against Delivery

## **COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the  
Member States of WIPO

### **FULL STATEMENT**

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World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters

Geneva, Switzerland

(October 4<sup>th</sup> – October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021)



**STATEMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE SIXTY-SECOND SERIES OF MEETINGS  
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE  
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,  
OCTOBER, 2021**

Thank you for the floor Mr. President.

My delegation would like to support the statement made by the distinguished delegate on behalf of GRULAC. We also wish to join with the other delegations in congratulating you on your astute leadership and guidance throughout the last year particularly during this pandemic. We also wish to congratulate the other officers alongside you who have supported your efforts in that regard.

Mr. President, this delegation is very grateful for the various WIPO initiatives that have helped to shape our local IP ecosystem and have helped us to successfully navigate the rough waters during this pandemic. We in Trinidad and Tobago are committed to help shape the IP environment not just locally but also regionally and internationally. I am pleased to report that the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks was successfully operationalized in January, 2021 in Trinidad and Tobago. We also received our first local applicant filing through the Madrid System this year concerning our National Carnival Industry.

There has been major progress in Trinidad and Tobago's legislative agenda having amended and operationalized our Copyright Act to facilitate the provisions of the Beijing

Treaty on Audiovisual Performances and The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

I am pleased to announce that the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago anticipates the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Library and Information System Authority and the Accessible Books Consortium led by WIPO in the near future. This MOU will facilitate access to published works in accessible formats for the blind and visually impaired in Trinidad and Tobago.

We are also in the process of preparing draft amendments to our legislation in order to accede to the Patent Law Treaty and the Geneva (1999) Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs to govern the international registration of industrial designs.

This delegation is pleased to also report the ongoing success of the WIPO-FILE project with regard to online filing that was launched with WIPO's assistance. The Electronic Online System facilitated by WIPO-FILE for the filing of applications, which was the first in our public service, has made filing an extremely simple and efficient process.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago established the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force (AITTF) that has the mandate to coordinate a holistic approach to combating illicit trade with eleven agencies from both the public and private sectors inclusive of the TTIPO. This task force has already seen enforcement successes since its establishment.

Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to the launch of our flagship project, the National IP Training Center of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. We have completed three out of the four modules and look forward to completing the final module in December of this year. In a similar fashion, we are looking forward to the next phase of our TISC project which is also eagerly anticipated by our stakeholders and partners.

We continue to collaborate with our Latin American and Caribbean neighbours with the view of strengthening IP within the region. Trinidad and Tobago has signed an MOU with INAPI and begun to collaborate in a number of areas. We are also looking forward to concluding MOUs with Singapore and Canada in the upcoming months which will further strengthen the capabilities of the Trinidad and Tobago Intellectual Property Office.

Mr. President, this delegation wishes to sincerely express its gratitude to WIPO and the Caribbean Unit for the many initiatives undertaken involving the TTIPO and look forward to our continued partnership in promoting the IP ecosystem. We look forward to working with the Director General in helping him achieve his vision for WIPO and the global IP system.

This delegation also wishes to signal its support for the successful conclusion of discussions for a Broadcast Treaty as we observe the burgeoning of commercial activity in this vital area of cross-border trade. We look forward to further discussions on an instrument for the protection of Traditional knowledge and Cultural Expressions and the convening of a diplomatic conference regarding the Design Law Treaty in the foreseeable future.

Our delegation remains committed to the process of advancing discussions, working together toward mutually beneficial goals and ensuring the sustainability of WIPO and its approaches during this pandemic. We look forward to the continued advancement and growth of the IP ecosystem under your expert guidance and leadership.

Mr. President, I thank you.