

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

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
at the 51<sup>st</sup> Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the  
Member States of WIPO including the PCT Union Assembly

## **COMPLETE STATEMENT**

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[Check against delivery]

World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters

Geneva, Switzerland

(September 23 – October 2, 2013)

**STATEMENT OF H.E. AMBASSADOR JOHN SANDY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE  
FIFTY-FIRST SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE  
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,  
TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2013**

Madame President,

In supporting the statement made by GRULAC on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean, I wish to congratulate you most sincerely on your elevation to the chair. This delegation looks forward to your leadership and guidance throughout this Assemblies. We also wish to congratulate the other officers elected alongside you to support your efforts in that regard.

Madame President, with the Intellectual Property successes of this year and last year, with the positive conclusions of the Beijing Treaty and the Marrakesh Treaty, we seem to have entered an era of hope. To my delegation, this hope signals that there is nothing so important to us that we cannot all agree on. It signals that the IP environment can achieve convergence and accommodate areas on the periphery of human endeavor. And it gives us hope that the negotiations ahead of us, such as the IGC and the SPLT, can come to universally beneficial conclusions, which will then add to the increasing business of IP.

Madame President, in Trinidad and Tobago, the enhancement of the IP capacities so that we may increase the critical mass of an IP-savvy regime continues to be a primary focus. This was made very clear in a study executed by WIPO pursuant to an IP Audit and development of an IP Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago. Enhanced public outreach activities will address awareness but the creation of

capacity and other business support systems will take this further into strategic use and management of knowledge assets. In this regard, we wish to thank WIPO for its support as we successfully develop the IP Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago. I am very pleased to report that one of the initiatives at the Intellectual Property Office of Trinidad and Tobago is the establishment of an IP Academy within the IPO. In that regard, I wish to again thank WIPO and the WIPO Academy for their assistance and guidance in the establishment of a National IP Academy through the Intellectual Property Office. The project is moving along with great success.

Another project worthy of mention is the project on Building Respect for Intellectual Property, which has been put forward as a Public Sector Investment Program project and will become part of the work of the IPO and its recurrent expenditure.

I am also pleased to report that Trinidad and Tobago is expected to accede to both the Madrid Protocol and the Hague Agreement in the first half of 2014. Legislative, administrative and human resource arrangements are presently being effected. We must thank WIPO for supporting us as we deal with the various accessions. To facilitate accession, the existing trade mark law will be repealed and replaced by a new Trade Marks Act and Regulations which are completed. The proposed legislation should be debated in Parliament by the end of this year.

Given that range of national initiatives and stages of IP development in the Caribbean region, the magnitude of work of the Caribbean Unit in the LAC Bureau becomes more evident. We therefore express our anticipation that the Caribbean Unit

will be further equipped to be able to provide such strategic guidance. We look forward to the progressive advancement of the Caribbean Unit.

Madame President, in light of this era of hope and what we see as the tremendous value of WIPO External Offices, we would want to encourage an expansion of the discussions particularly regarding the establishment of another regional office to support Latin America and the Caribbean.

The tremendous progress which has been made in the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore is recognized. We would like to sincerely thank those member states who supported our various proposals during these meetings. Recognising the importance of the IGC to developing countries, we encourage the renewal of the mandate of the IGC to allow the Committee to complete its work so we can proceed to a diplomatic conference at least by 2015.

Trinidad and Tobago is remains encouraged by the way the Director General is shaping the Organization to fulfill the mandate of the organization, in light of the changes undertaken and the heightened position of developmental IP considerations in the work of WIPO. We look forward to the continued advancement of IP and look forward to these discussions and their successful conclusion.

Madame President, I thank you.