



COUNTRY STATEMENT OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

*Statement on behalf of ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
At the 56th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO*

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*World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
October 3, 2016 – October 11, 2016*

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**56TH SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,**

Mr. President, Antigua & Barbuda is represented here by Sen. Maureen Hyman Payne, Minister of State in the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Ms. Ricki Camacho, Registrar of the Intellectual Property and Commerce Department. Mr. President we congratulate on your appointment. We also wish to congratulate the other Officers elected alongside you who will support your efforts. We are confident that during this meeting, we will witness indeed innovation and creativity in leadership as well as, judicious management of the Agenda. We support the statement made by GRULAC on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Antigua and Barbuda remains unwavering in our aspirations and commitments to create a modern Intellectual Property Registry. In this regard, our delegation expresses appreciation to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), for coordinating several successful meetings and workshops over the past year, and for the excellent administrative and technical support to ensure success at all levels! Antigua & Barbuda pledges to continue to partner with WIPO on issues and platforms of common interests and anticipate continued support from WIPO's various secretariats in our country's ongoing endeavors.

Antigua & Barbuda remains cognizant of the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) to our national development plans and goals. In this regard, our government has embarked on an aggressive legislative and administrative agenda designed to ensure that our laws governing

IP keep abreast with ongoing global developments and trends in the sector. We currently have the Patents Act 2012 and the regulations should be passed shortly. We are in the process of reforming the Copyright Act in the forthcoming year. Also, we hope to have our Trade marks Act revised in 2017. We are also continuing to implement the IPAS system that we hope will be expanded to patents and industrial designs.

Mr. President, it is widely accepted that creative industries present the greatest opportunity for new economic growth particularly with music, sports and folklore. As a small island developing state (SIDS), we continue to explore how our creative industries can better contribute to our gross domestic product.

In regards to the growing External Offices we hope that WIPO will balance this with financial prudence and in particular our regions cultural and unique needs.

Our ongoing public awareness campaigns have resulted in our people's heightened interest in, and increased knowledge of, IP and their consequential desire to protect their IP rights. We are hoping to expand our Public Awareness work as continue to build respect for Intellectual Property. Our new website at www.abipco.gov.ag has been helpful in this regard.

Mr. President, cognizant that our youth encounter the IP systems daily, particularly in the area of technology, the IP Office and the Ministry of Education continue their discussions in regards to one day introducing IP in the educational curriculum. In fact, as we celebrated World Intellectual Property Day 2016, our office and the Ministry of Education in conjunction a corporate sponsor hosted a digital competition for primary and secondary schools nationwide. The competition used the theme of World Intellectual Property Organisation. The initiative was a tremendous success as many schools participated. WIPO provided certificates to the

winners which were appreciated by the students, their parents and schools. We will be placing the winning entries on our website. We are of the belief that WIPO could benefit from having a section on Building for Respect for IP dedicated to youth on the website. We commend WIPO for its new website design.

Mr. President, with WIPO's assistance, key local and sub-regional institutions, agencies, officials and key personnel have been exposed to, and benefitted from, IP training in Antigua and Barbuda in the area of Trademarks, Madrid Protocol and Patent Administration and courses on IP as offered by the WIPO academy.

Finally, Mr. President, Antigua & Barbuda commends the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents as well as the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Madrid, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications.