

Statement of Barbados' Delegation at the Fifty Eighth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of
the World Intellectual Property Office, 24 September-2 October 2018

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The Barbados Delegation is pleased to attend the Assemblies and takes this opportunity to thank the Director General Dr. Francis Gurry for his outstanding leadership of this organisation and we thank him for his detailed report on the work of the organisation during the past year.

We are happy Mr. Chair to see you and the vice chairs presiding in these Assemblies and we join with other speakers in thanking the International Bureau for the hard work that was done during the year in supporting the work of and in preparation for these assemblies.

Barbados aligns itself with the statement made by El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC and we take this opportunity to extend our sincere sympathy to you Sir on the passing of your President.

Turning our attention to the substantive work that was done in the various communities, Barbados wishes to make the following comments:

- With respect to the work of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, Barbados commends the committee for the work that was done during the year and urges Member States to adopt the Work Plan which would allow for work to proceed towards the convening of a Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of a treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organisations
- As regards to the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, we welcome the work that continues to be done and we look forward to the adoption of the policy proposal for the protection of Country Names and Geographical Names.
- We also take note of the work that was done by the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, traditional Knowledge and Folklore in line with the mandate that was given for the period 2018-2019. We remind Members of the importance of seeking agreement on a well balanced and effective system of protection which also takes into consideration the needs of the indigenous people.
- We thank WIPO for the critical role it continues to play in assisting Member States in leveraging the IP system for enhanced economic development, and in this regard we highlight the continued technical assistance that has been received by Member States within the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Special regard is made to the work that has been done by WIPO which was aimed at strengthening the

infrastructure of the IP system as well as the ongoing work towards harmonising the regional IP system.

At the domestic level Barbados also wishes to place on record our thanks to WIPO for the ongoing technical assistance which assisted the strengthening the capacity of the Intellectual Property Office and by extension in furthering the development of our economy. So far this year, technical assistance was rendered to training initiatives which were aimed at capacity building for the SMEs sector as well as for local attorneys/agents, university officials, IP office staff and other stakeholders through the PCT Mission in May. There was also this year's module in the annual IPAS training programme for IT professionals at the office consequent upon the IPAS upgrade several years ago. In this regard we look forward to WIPO's continued technical and other support as the office works towards the implementation of a fully electronic system.

Barbados wishes to assure the International Bureau as well as Member States of our commitment to working with all agencies in the protection of Intellectual Property Rights and we wish to assure WIPO of our continued support.

I thank you.