



COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
at the 61st Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
(September 21 – September 25, 2020)



**STATEMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE SIXTY-FIRST SERIES OF MEETINGS OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,
SEPTEMBER, 2020**

Mr. President,

In supporting the statement made by GRULAC on behalf of Latin America and the Caribbean, I wish to join with other delegations in congratulating you on your election to the chair. This delegation anticipates your astute leadership and guidance throughout the General Assemblies. We also wish to congratulate the other officers elected alongside you who will support your efforts in that regard.

Mr. President, this delegation is very supportive of the various WIPO initiatives that have helped to shape the local IP ecosystem. We in Trinidad and Tobago are committed to help shape the wider IP environment. I am pleased to report that Trinidad and Tobago has acceded to four (4) WIPO Treaties and Conventions namely; the Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations Accession on December 9, 2019, the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances, the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, and the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks on October 4 2019. I am also pleased to report that during these Assemblies, Trinidad and Tobago is preparing its instrument of accession to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks.

This represents major progress in Trinidad and Tobago's legislative agenda having amended the Copyright Act to facilitate the provisions of the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties, and a repealing of the former Trade Marks Act and replacing with the Trade Marks Act No. 8 of 2015 and accompanying Regulations to facilitate modern and progressive trade marks law and the Singapore Treaty.

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 tremendous progress made with regard to online filing thanks to WIPO's assistance with the WIPO-FILE project. On March 27th 2020 the Trinidad and Tobago Intellectual Property Office launched its Electronic Online System facilitated by WIPO-FILE for the filing of applications, and online payment through the national GovPay system which is the first in our public service.

With regard to Enforcement of IP, the Manual for IP Prosecutors has been completed and relevant stakeholders have been meeting toward the official establishment of an IP Enforcement Unit. The amendments to the Copyright Act and the new Trade Marks Act incorporate modern enforcement provisions which are reflected in the Manual. The Building Respect for IP video which was premiered at the ACE meeting in 2019 is also in syndication on national television in Trinidad and Tobago.

Our flagship project, the National IP Training Center of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has completed the second train-the-trainer module. 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. Work is also ongoing to support the local sporting and mobile application ecosystem.

I am pleased to indicate that the Government 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. This MOU will facilitate access to the more than half a million books for the blind and visually impaired in Trinidad and Tobago.

Collaboration continues to extend beyond our borders with horizontal cooperation in the Caribbean region with several other CARICOM member states and other south-south cooperation with INAPI in Chile, which is entering into Phase 2 shortly.

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. In particular, we wish to express our immense thanks to Dr. Gurry for his astute leadership over the years which guided the completion of all of these initiatives and going all the way back to his oversight of the PCT when Trinidad and Tobago was in its developmental phase. We wish you even more success in the next phase of your career. We look forward to working with the incoming Director General and doing our part in helping him achieve his vision for WIPO and the global IP system going forward.

This delegation also wishes to signal its support for the conclusion of a Broadcast Treaty as we observe the burgeoning of commercial activity in this vital area of cross-border trade.

Our delegation remains committed to the process of advancing our discussions, working together toward mutually beneficial goals and ensuring the sustainability and dignity of the organization. We look forward to the continued advancement and growth of the IP ecosystem under your expert guidance and leadership.

Mr President, I thank you.