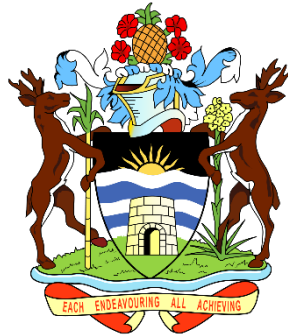


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COUNTRY STATEMENT OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Statement on behalf of ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

At the 63rd Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States
of WIPO

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World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters Geneva,
Switzerland

July 14, 2022 – July 22, 2022

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**STATEMENT OF THE HONOURABLE SENATOR MAUREEN HYMAN,
LEGAL AFFAIRS OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA AT THE
SIXTY THIRD SERIES OF MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER
STATES OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

Antigua & Barbuda is represented by Ms. Maureen Hyman Payne, Senator, Ministry of Legal Affairs and Ms. Ricki Camacho, Registrar of the Intellectual Property and Commerce Department. Madam Chair, the Antigua & Barbuda delegation is confident through you, that during this meeting, we will witness innovation and creativity in leadership as well as, judicious management of the agenda. We support the statement made by GRULAC on behalf of Latin American and the Caribbean States.

Antigua and Barbuda remains unwavering in our aspirations and commitment to create a modern Intellectual Property regime. In this regard, our delegation expresses appreciation to the Director General, Darren Tang, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), for coordinating meetings and workshops over the past year, in what continues to be uncertain times in a Covid-19 era, and for the administrative and technical support to ensure success at all levels. We welcome his vision for WIPO. 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 endeavours.

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 in the sector. As a result, we have commenced the process of reviewing and reforming our Trade Marks Act, Copyright Act, Geographical Indications Act and The Protection of New Plant Varieties' Bill. In the realm of Copyright, we hope to enact a reformed legislation in 2023 that will supplement the deficiencies identified in our current Act. In addition, we hope to accede to other Copyright treaties in providing greater Copyright Protection to the People of Antigua and Barbuda. In this endeavour, we thank WIPO for its continued and palpable support.

Moreover, our Government has sought not only to review the Geographical Indications Act of 2003 but also to establish a more robust Geographical Indications system that will produce tangible benefits to our local producers. This is with the eventual hope of registering, our world-renowned Antigua Black Pineapple and the Barbuda Logwood Honey as Antigua and Barbuda's first ever registered geographical indications. As the subject matter of New Plant Varieties is an important factor in bolstering our country's food-chain supply given the times we find ourselves in, the work performed by the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) have been integral in this endeavour. We thank UPOV for its leadership in protecting breeders' rights and for assisting countries in developing the legal and institutional framework to support local producers.

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. By this our ongoing public awareness campaign has resulted in our people's heightened interest in, increased knowledge of and their desire to protect their IP rights. This has been gradually realized through

undertaking national initiatives such as trainings, seminars, and competitions, that emphasize the impact of IPRs on innovation and creativity. “The Regional Seminar for Caribbean Countries on Trade Secrets”, “The Journey of a Book” and our most recent webinar “Copyright Protection and Music: Protecting What’s Mine” are notable initiatives that have been employed to increase the knowledge and understanding of IPRs. In addition to the Office’s public awareness campaign, we have cultivated regional partnerships that have yielded many operational benefits to the People of Antigua and Barbuda. Presently, we enjoy horizontal cooperation in the examination of Patent Applications. Moreover, in recent times, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in partnership with WIPO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at strengthening the regulatory architecture in support of the protection and monetization of intangible assets and other forms of intellectual property. This action serves an important role in providing a framework for mitigating the adverse effects associated with the evolution of digital technology.

As our twin-island state continues to champion IP, we remain consistent in working with our national entities to ensure a greater appreciation and understanding of IP throughout all sectors. We have fostered discussions for the creation of an Intellectual Property Unit in the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and have sought to train the Officers in Copyright Protection and Enforcement. In the realm of technological development, our Government has also embarked on the re-design of the Office’s website to ensure current information and user-friendly applications for the public’s awareness of IPRs.

Furthermore, Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property and Commerce Office, fully endorsed and supported the World Intellectual Property Day 2022 theme: IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future. The Office hosted an exciting online campaign

highlighting the innovative spirit of our youth. The youth were celebrated for their pursuits in the areas of Artificial Intelligence, Architectural Technology, Microbiology, Robotics, Meteorology, and Information Technology. In addition to this, three inspiring Antiguan and Barbudan businesses, namely The Local App, Project Jaguar and Packed – Grocery Delivery were featured on the World Intellectual Property Day Youth Gallery which underscores the exemplary work that is being undertaken among the youth around the world. We commend WIPO on this noteworthy initiative in celebrating the tenacity, innovation, and commitment of our young.

As our campaign did not end on the 26th April, the Office sought to publish a video series entitled “Conversations on Intellectual Property” which provided an avenue for local entrepreneurs to share about their business. Significantly, this series not only explored the uses of intellectual property rights within businesses but also underlined its tangible benefits in the entrepreneur’s operations. Through this activity deeper and wider relations were garnered within the business community to which a notable collaboration was borne. The Office in partnership with Splash Robo Club in May this year organized a robotics and programming exercise for children between the ages of 9-11. This exercise proved to be an immense success to which exposed the demand among children to engage in innovative activities within the areas of Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering and Mathematics. As our Government is steadfast in its’ efforts to including IP incrementally in the schools’ curricula, youth engagement has been critical in greater IP awareness.

Given the range of national initiatives, varying stages of IP development, and the growth and interest in IP generally in Antigua and Barbuda as well as the wider Caribbean, we are grateful to the Caribbean Section and we wish to thank the LAC

Bureau and Caribbean Unit for all the continued support and the work that they do for us as a collective region.

Finally, 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.

Thank you.