

WIPO General Assemblies, Geneva, Switzerland, May 30 to June 3, 2022.

Intervention: **Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)**

Madam Chairperson, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago takes great pleasure in congratulating you on your appointment as Chair of this prestigious Committee. We are certain that your tireless efforts as Chair of this Committee will bear great fruit in furthering the agenda of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC). We fully support the statement made by GRULAC and, as a member of GRULAC, we can attest to the rich heritage expressed in our region in various facets, including through our traditions, music, culture such as our very own works of mas, and people.

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to working with Member States to continue the momentum of the Committee's work. We take particular note of the Chair's Text of a Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources. We applaud the undertaking of this Committee and look forward to progressing text-based negotiations with the aim of achieving agreement for an International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources.

Trinidad and Tobago notes the tremendous deliberations which have taken place under the stewardship of the former Chair of IGC and wishes to applaud the already existing endeavours by you Madam Chairperson. We are confident that the working document will provide the basis for healthy deliberations on the issues before the Committee.

Madam Chair, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago encourages all Members to work collectively to ensure that the IGC's mandate is materialised in the shortest possible timeframe. We are certain that under your stewardship, we shall all collectively succeed. With these comments, Madam Chair, I thank you.