



## **COUNTRY STATEMENT OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

Statement on behalf of ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
At the 55<sup>th</sup> Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the  
Member States of WIPO

.....

World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters  
Geneva, Switzerland  
October 5, 2015 – October 14, 2015

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

Mr. President, the Prime Minister, his Cabinet along with the People of Antigua & Barbuda 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, send warmest and sincere greetings for a successful 55<sup>th</sup> Assemblies. We congratulate you on your appointment. The Antigua & Barbuda delegation 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 Office. In this regard, our delegation expresses appreciation to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), for coordinating 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. The recent implementation of IPAS in Antigua & Barbuda is a positive step in the creation of modern Office. The recent appointment of regional IPAS contacts has and will greatly assist us in our region and we welcome this sort of training by WIPO.

Antigua & Barbuda remains cognizant of the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) to our national development plans and goals. In this regard, the 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. We currently have a revised Patents Act and the regulations should be passed shortly. We are in the process of reforming our Trademarks Act and Copyright Act in the upcoming year. We thank WIPO for its tangible support in this regards.

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. We continue to try to work with many of other governmental entities to ensure a greater appreciation and understanding of IP throughout all sectors. We continue to work on branding projects regarding the Antigua Black Pineapple,

what we proclaim as the sweetest pineapple in the world and the History of Calypso project.

Mr. President, cognizant that our youth encounter the IP systems daily particularly in the area of technology. We celebrated World Intellectual Property Day 2015, our office and the Ministry of Education in conjunction with our Sponsors hosted a music video competition for primary and secondary schools nationwide under the theme of World IP day this year, Get Up, Stand Up. For Music. We wish to commend the work done in the Building Respect for Intellectual Property. We hope to see more work commence in this area. Given the cutback in our local budgets with regards to the advancement in technology we would welcome the addition of a children's page to the WIPO website to help us in educating the youth of our country who do come into our Offices. Also, we would be able to globally see what work is being done in this area.

Mr. President, given the range of national initiatives, varying stages of IP development , and growth and interest in IP generally in Antigua and Barbuda as well as the wider Caribbean, it ought to be evident that the demands being placed on the Caribbean Section in the LAC Bureau are increasing tremendously.

We wish to add that the WIPO external offices does add to the work of WIPO and may increase geographic diversity at WIPO and that consideration may be had to another external regional office in our region.

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, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications.

Mr. President, thank you.