

WIPO General Assemblies, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2 to October 11, 20117

**INTERVENTION FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (Agenda Item 18)**

Mr. Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago congratulates WIPO on the continuing efforts of the IGC during the past year in the series of meetings and seminars leading up to the current Assemblies. This delegation congratulates the Chairman of the IGC, Mr. Ian Goss for his steadfast leadership and guidance.

The recent Sessions dealt with Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE's). This delegation has several proposals under consideration regarding TCE's, most importantly of which is for the inclusion of the term 'works of mas' under TCE's. . As we have clearly articulated at IGC, of particular importance to this country is the protection of its indigenous carnival and a model provision titled 'works of mas' that exists in our Copyright Act has been proposed in the text on traditional cultural expressions/expressions of folklore. We think that this clause is perfectly suited to the emerging text and we continue to maintain this request for this work to remain as part of the treaty. I am very pleased to announce that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has declared Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 a public holiday in recognition of the First Peoples.

A tremendous amount of progress was made during this period and Trinidad and Tobago joins the other members States in seeking an extension of the existing mandate toward the hopeful convening of a Diplomatic Conference.

Further, it is hoped that The WIPO Voluntary Fund is also renewed and continues to ensure that there is wide participation from several indigenous groups whose views will prove invaluable at this level of the discussion.

Therefore Mr. Chairman, Trinidad Tobago continues to strongly support the extension of the IGC's mandate and the process so engendered for the upcoming year ahead.

With this Mr. Chairman, I thank you.