



COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Statement on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
at the 68th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the
Member States of WIPO

STATEMENT

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World Intellectual Property Organization Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
(July 7 to 15, 2026)



**STATEMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE SIXTY-SIXTH SERIES OF
MEETINGS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION,
JULY, 2026**

Thank you, Chair, for giving us the floor.

We are a small developing country in the Caribbean. Our wealth is not in our oil and gas alone but rather in our people their hopes, aspirations, culture and talent.

As we gather for this General Assembly, Trinidad and Tobago recalls with pride the conclusion of last year's proceedings, where the sounds of our national instrument, the steelpan, brought the Assembly to a close, showcasing the innovation that originated in our twin-island nation. Since then, Trinidad and Tobago has also been honoured by its overwhelming support from Member States as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2027–2028 term. This achievement reflects the confidence of the international

community in our commitment to multilateralism, international cooperation; values that underpin the work of WIPO and the global intellectual property system.

Trinidad and Tobago commends you on your leadership, as well as the dedication of the Secretariat.

I wish to congratulate the Director General of WIPO on the commencement of your second term in office. Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to continuing our strong partnership with you and your team as we advance the intellectual property agenda, strengthen innovation ecosystems, and promote sustainable development within our respective regions.

As a new administration, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has placed significant emphasis on strengthening our IP framework. Our Honorable Prime Minister Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, SC who was a pioneer for intellectual property in Trinidad Tobago has established the Ministry of Land and Legal Affairs. The land aspect deals with

tangible, real property and the legal affairs component deals with, inter alia, intangible, intellectual property. This shows our commitment and attention to IP in Trinidad and Tobago.

We are continuing the work where we left off when we passed the legislation to modernize the Trademarks framework. Trinidad and Tobago continues to advance the modernization of its intellectual property legislation. Upon returning to office, we immediately prioritized the updating of our Copyright Act to extend the term of protection from life plus 50 to 70 years and to extend the protection of sound recordings from 50 to 70 years. We are proud of our music – soca, calypso and chutney.

We have therefore strengthened the management and enforcement of rights in the creative sector. We are committed to acceding to the Hague Agreement and the Riyadh Design Law Treaty, with the necessary legislative amendments underway.

In the area of plant variety protection, Trinidad and Tobago is progressing reforms to its legislative framework and signals its intention to align with the latest Act of the UPOV 1991 Convention. This will enhance protection for plant breeders and support innovation and resilience within our agricultural sector. Furthermore, within the Ministry of Land and Legal Affairs, under my leadership as Minister, we have been able to prioritize advancements in our world famous fine Flavour Trinitario Cocoa with the registration of a certification trademark for same. We are exploring rice, peppers and pineapple.

We have made significant progress under the WIPO-led Creative Economy Data Model. The National Report has been completed, providing a comprehensive assessment of the contribution of the creative economy to Trinidad and Tobago. Work is now underway for the second phase with completion anticipated by the end of 2026. These efforts will support our world-famous creative sector such as our carnival and steel pan. I invite everyone to our shores and immerse yourself in our culture of sweet music, delicious food and the warmth of our people.

Trinidad and Tobago is a leader in intellectual property in our region and remains committed to strengthening the intellectual property ecosystem alongside our Caribbean colleagues. With WIPO's support, we continue to engage with OECS Member States on patent examination cooperation and broader regional collaboration.

Our Government is actively considering IP Valuation and IP backing financing to assist our local artistes to access financing using their talent as collateral.

Finally, Chair, Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its commitment to a balanced, inclusive, and effective global IP system, and to continued engagement through multilateral, regional, and national efforts.

Thank you, Chair.