



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Land and Legal Affairs

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MINISTER HOSEIN DELIVERS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S COUNTRY STATEMENT AT
THE 68TH WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

The Honourable Saddam Hosein, Minister of Land and Legal Affairs and Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, has delivered the national statement on behalf of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the 68th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

This significant presentation marks Trinidad and Tobago's first representation at the high-level event since 2014. In his address, Minister Hosein highlighted the country's recent election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2027 to 2028 term, underscoring a renewed commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism.

The Minister detailed substantial advancements in the national intellectual property framework, focusing heavily on agricultural innovation and legislative modernisation. Under Minister Hosein's leadership, the Ministry has prioritised advancements for the country's world-famous fine flavour Trinitario cocoa through the registration of a dedicated certification trademark. The Government is now actively exploring similar intellectual property protections for local rice, peppers, and pineapples to support and diversify the domestic agricultural sector.

Further legislative developments are also underway to strengthen Trinidad and Tobago's creative and scientific industries. The country recently passed the Copyright Amendment Act 2026, which extends the term of protection for creative works and sound recordings from 50 to 70 years, safeguarding local music genres such as soca, calypso, and chutney. Additionally, the Government is progressing reforms to facilitate accession to the Hague Agreement, the Riyadh Design Law Treaty, and the UPOV 1991 Convention for plant variety protection.

To ensure local creators can fully capitalise on their work, the Government has completed the first phase of the WIPO-led Creative Economy Data Model National Report. With the second phase on track for completion by the end of 2026, officials are actively considering commercial IP valuation and IP-backed financing schemes. These initiatives will allow local artistes to secure funding by using their talent and creative output as collateral. Through these measures, Trinidad and Tobago continues to solidify its role as an intellectual property leader in the Caribbean, driving regional collaboration and patent examination cooperation alongside OECS Member States

The full official text of the country statement is attached.

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