



**Statement by Jamaica to the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO
58th Series of Meetings
24th September to 2nd October 2018**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your appointment to preside over this session of the WIPO General Assembly. We look forward to an engaging and productive session under your Chairmanship.

Congratulations are also in order for Director General Gurry, the management and staff of the Bureau for their vision and excellent stewardship of the resources of the Organization

Further, let me join others in expressing my sincere condolences to the Government and people of Vietnam on the passing of President Tran Dai Quang.

Jamaica also wishes to place on record its support for the statement by the distinguished delegate from El Salvador on behalf of GRULAC.

Mr. Chairman,

The past year has been very active for Jamaica and its Intellectual Property Office (JIPO), as we continue to strive for the right legislative balance regarding intellectual property rights, in a manner that will redound to the benefit of our country and its people.

At present, the Patent and Designs Bill, is in its final stages and it is anticipated that it should be tabled in Parliament before the end of 2019.

At the regional level, we recognize the work of WIPO in providing expert assistance towards the establishment of a Caribbean Patent Convention and note that in February 2018, Jamaica chaired a meeting that addressed the issue. In July at the meeting of Heads of IP Offices and Ministers with responsibility for Intellectual Property, support was reiterated for the establishment of the convention.

Amendments are also being made to the Copyright Act to provide for cross-border copyright transactions and to add to the list of authorized bodies which can make accessible formats for visual and print disabled persons to allow for accession to the Marrakesh Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

The Trade Marks Act and Rules have been updated to provide for the international registration of trademarks under the Madrid Protocol, and are awaiting review prior to being tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Protection of Geographical Indications Act and Regulations have also been amended to provide the higher level of protection afforded to wines and spirits to all goods as well as to establish a Geographical Indications Advisory Committee.

In addition, Jamaica is currently drafting legislation for the protection of new varieties of plants and in that regard has been working closely with the (UPOV) Secretariat here in Geneva to ensure that the law will adequately protect the rights of breeders in a manner consistent with the UPOV Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica recognizes the growth of WIPO's Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs) and their contribution to development and innovation in Developing Countries.

This has contributed to our decision to sign the Service Level Agreement which will result in the establishment in Jamaica, of the first TISC in the English-speaking Caribbean. We therefore would like to thank WIPO for the support and training that has facilitated this establishment.

WIPO has also been supportive of Jamaica's push to increase the level of national IP awareness as well as for Jamaica's commitment to promoting gender and women's empowerment in IP issues and policies, in line with its own vision. It is against that back drop that WIPO supported JIPO in its annual IP Week activities which were held from 23rd to 27th April 2018 under the theme "Women in IP".

The participation and contribution of an expert from WIPO, who presented on several topics covering all areas of intellectual property rights protection, was invaluable.

The seminars were attended by a wide cross-section of stakeholders from civil society, academia, the private and public sector and resulted in an increase in registration and renewed interest in intellectual property rights protection.

The WIPO expert also participated in the enforcement activity which included members of the Customs and Police force.

Mr. Chairman,

WIPO has always facilitated capacity building in CARICOM, and during the period August 13-16, 2018, Jamaica hosted a WIPO-JIPO Regional Training programme on IP for Caribbean Countries which included presentations by representatives from the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office, WIPO and other international speakers.

In collaboration with WIPO, a National Consultative Workshop on issues and Options in Developing a National Policy and Legislation on Intellectual Property and the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources, was held in Jamaica in October 2017 with able and dedicated support from the Global Issues Division.

We are pleased that following that meeting drafting commenced on a national law that will protect Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Cultural Expressions and Genetic Resources in Jamaica. This drafting process will also benefit from the ongoing deliberations and text-based negotiations at the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC).

We continue to work with our colleagues and look forward to the continuation of the work of that committee and the early convening of a diplomatic conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica attaches great importance to the work which is being undertaken by the WIPO Standing Committee on Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), relating to the protection of country names.

In the vast majority of WIPO member states, a trade mark applicant who wants to register a trade mark which comprises or contains a country name and thereby unfairly free-ride on the

goodwill and reputation of a country's name, can simply stylize the country name or add other words and/or figurative elements in the trade mark.

In that regard, Mr. Chairman, the proposed Draft Joint Recommendation which Jamaica has tabled at the SCT seeks to establish a coherent and consistent framework to guide IP offices and other competent authorities and international traders, in their use of trade marks, domain names and business identifiers which consist of or contain a country name. We look forward to progress being made in the SCT on this issue.

In closing Mr. Chairman, I wish to highlight that Jamaica has benefitted greatly from its cooperation with WIPO in several areas in the past year. Apart from direct support to our Office and our work, we have actively participated in WIPO's Professional Development Programmes and we have been included as speakers, facilitators and participants in international conferences and meetings hosted by the Organization.

Therefore, we take the opportunity to thank WIPO for its continuing support to the development of intellectual property rights in Jamaica. In that context, we place on record our appreciation to the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Bureau. We wish to assure D/G Gurry, his team and our fellow member states, of Jamaica's continued support for the work of the Organization.

Thank You.