

**Statement by
Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations Office
and Other International Organisations in Geneva
at the
3rd Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent**

Panel 3: Culture and Recognition

Thursday 18 April 2024

Thank you, Moderator.

The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago thanks the panellists for their insightful perspectives on how the rich and diverse cultures of People of African Descent can be increasingly recognised, promoted and protected.

In reflecting on the last decade, and as highlighted by some speakers over the past few days, there has been increasing recognition of the influence and impact of our varied cultures on the global landscape. One such example relates to the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago – the steelpan. As the birthplace of the steelpan, which is the foremost acoustic instrument invented in the 20th century, we wish to highlight the adoption, in July 2023, of UN General Assembly resolution 77/316 entitled *World Steelpan Day*, which resulted in the proclamation of August 11 as World Steelpan Day, to be observed annually.

We also recognise the important contribution of pertinent ongoing work in other multilateral spaces, such as work in the context of UNESCO on cultural heritage, including intangible cultural heritage. We also take this opportunity to point to the imperative for meaningful engagement in negotiations within the context of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, as a means of securing due recognition and protection with respect to the traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions of People of African Descent across the globe. On this note, we wish to highlight our valuable partnership with WIPO on Trinidad and Tobago Carnival and works of mas, including with respect to an IP management strategy for the IP assets of Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival Museum.

Time allotted: 2 minutes

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In closing, as we look toward a second decade, our efforts to amplify, promote and protect cultural heritage must remain steadfast.

I thank you.

Time allotted: 2 minutes