



Resolutions and Recommendations of the 29th Executive Council

RESOLUTION 1: Establishment of a Forum for Meaningful Collaboration between Regional Regulators and engagement of Operators

Preamble

The Executive Council noted that technology and industry trends to consolidation were having an impact on the competitive environment. The Council was of the firm view that in such an environment there should be greater collaboration and cooperation among regional regulators to harmonise approaches to these developments. The Council noted the joint venture arrangement between Flow and Lime on the fibre systems serving the Caribbean and Digicel's response in its acquisition of international links.

Recognising

That telecommunication regulators are also members of OOCUR, a multi-regulatory forum including Water and Sewerage, Electricity and Transport and

That OOCUR does not provide dedicated and specialized attention to the Telecommunications and ICT sectors

Considering

That these developments could have serious consequences for competition and consumer welfare

That new issues would arise as technological developments would always outstrip the regulatory environment

Be it Resolved

That the Secretariat of the CTU establish a forum for Regulators to engage in healthy discussions on the changing environment and to develop common positions to address these development and as a basis to engage the Service Providers to achieve the best outcomes for consumers.

RESOLUTION: 2 - Promoting the work of the CTU and presenting ICT perspectives to Members

Preamble

At the 28th meeting of the Executive Council, held in Suriname on the 8th April 2014, the Council noted and congratulated the Secretary General on the scope of work accomplished in 2013 and took note of the vision of the organisation for 2015 and beyond. The Council was of the opinion that this was not known by all the Member States and in particular by the respective Cabinets of Member States. In addition, the executive saw the need to present ICT issues to Cabinet Ministers to enhance their understanding on developing an ICT ecosystem and how ICT may be leveraged to foster development

Considering

The considerable and important work being accomplished by the CTU, the Council is of the opinion that the Secretariat should embark on an awareness building programme to educate the governments of Member States on ICT issues and the meaningful work being undertaken by the CTU.

That such knowledge may indeed be useful for Member States to justify why priority should be given to the prompt payment of their annual fees to the CTU.

Be It Resolved

That the Secretariat develop a programme of visits in collaboration with the Ministers of Telecommunications and ICT to address the Cabinets of Member States on ICT, the CTU's accomplishment and the value of the work undertaken on behalf of the Member States.

RESOLUTION: 3 – To Recognise that an Escrow Account established at the Unit Trust Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago is for the purpose of settling the arrears of emoluments due to the Secretary General.

Considering

That in the arrears of emoluments due to the Secretary General is reflected in the table below:

Amount due as at 31 st December 2013	US\$	300,016.00
Less: Special Fund at Unit Trust		81,488.00
Total Due at 31 st Dec 2013 TT Dollars		
Total Due at 31 st Dec 2013 US Dollar Equivalent	US\$	218,528.00

The Secretariat has opened an account at the Unit Trust Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago and has set aside the sum of US\$81,488.00 as special fund to partially settle the debt due to the Secretary General pending the resolution of a taxation matter. The Secretariat will continue to set aside amounts in this account from time to time as its cash flows permit until the fund equals the amount of the debt owed to the Secretary General.

BE IT RESOLVED

That the General Conference of Ministers recognizes that the Account at Unit Trust Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago is an escrow account established into which amounts have been paid to settle the arrears of emoluments due to the Secretary General in accordance with the terms and conditions of her employment contract dated August 2004.

That the General Conference of Ministers mandates that the UNIT Trust of Trinidad and Tobago Deposit account is held in trust for and on behalf of the Secretary General and is to be used only for the purpose of settling the arrears of emoluments to the Secretary General.

That the General Conference of Ministers further agrees that further amounts should be placed in this account from time to time as cash flows permit to provide for the ultimate settlement of the benefits due to the Secretary General. At least US\$50,000 of the costs

reimbursed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, for renovation of the new CTU Headquarters should be added to the account.

Recommendation 1: Audited Financial Statements 2013

The Executive Council recommends that General Conference of Ministers accept the Audited Financial Statement 2013.

Recommendation 2: Revision to Staff Regulations

The Executive Council recommends that General Conference of Ministers to authorize the Secretary General to amend the Staff Rules and Regulations to reflect the current provisions for the Public Service in Trinidad and Tobago.

Recommendation 3: Terms of Office /Election Procedures

The Secretariat recommends the adoption of the following rules in order to ensure the effective operations of the CTU.

Terms of office for elected Officials.

Officer Holders at the end of their 2-year term limits would continue to hold office until the next Executive Council Meeting or General Conference of Ministers following the expiration of their terms.

Conduct of meetings

- **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Executive Council Meetings are normally presided over by the Chairman or in the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman. In the unfortunate circumstance where neither the Chairman nor Vice Chairman is available, then the members in attendance may agree to elect one of their numbers to preside over the meeting.

- **GENERAL CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS**

The General Conference of Ministers' Meeting is normally presided over by the President or in the absence of the President, the Vice President. In the unfortunate circumstance where neither the President nor Vice President is available, then the members in attendance may agree to elect one of their numbers to preside over the meeting.

Recommendation: 3 – Declaration on Regional Approaches to Number Portability

The Executive Council recommends that the General Conference of Ministers accept the declaration outlining a regional approach for Number Portability.

DECLARATION of GRENADA

ON NUMBER PORTABILITY

16th January, 2014

Preamble

The liberalisation of the telecoms market and the introduction of new players was a critical step in making telecommunications services more affordable to consumers in the Caribbean over the last 10 years. Number portability is a mechanism through which the market can be made more competitive and innovative in that it offers consumers greater choice through their ability to switch service provider without changing their telephone numbers. At the Ministerial Seminar in Jamaica held on 6th December, 2014, Ministers in attendance agreed that in the interest of regional consumers that the CTU should explore of regional approaches to facilitate the implementation of Number Portability in the Caribbean.

IN PURSUANCE OF THIS MANDATE

The CTU Secretariat developed a Concept Paper on Number Portability to inform the proceedings of a Ministerial Seminar on regional Number Portability in Grenada on 16th January 2014.

The Concept Paper identified the following benefits that will accrue through regional collaboration and cooperation that aligns with the principles of functional cooperation outline in the Declaration of Needham Point in 2007 resolves to establish a framework for the coordination of telecommunications policy and to develop within the Community a single domestic space for telecommunications.

RECOGNISING THAT the potential benefits of a regional approach are as follows:

1. Economies of scale – cost of implementing number portability solutions must be minimised. A centralized, neutral facility could reduce the cost of implementing for each country, if centralized porting is desired; a regionally centralized facility might reduce unit costs even more.
2. Simplicity – new players can be brought on to the system from any market at any time through a simplified process.
3. Increased capacity – intra-regional resources and expertise could be more optimally utilized

RECOGNISING that the elements of a possible solution are:

1. Nationally and/or regionally centralized clearinghouse for porting of numbers
2. Provisions for differences in regulatory regimes from county to country
3. Easy for new entrants to access
4. A platform physically based within the Caribbean region
5. Provisions for local jurisdiction of national data on the regional platform
6. Provisions for cost recovery mechanisms for Operators (big issue in Europe)
7. Reviewing Numbering Plans (local and regional)

8. Appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks

RECOGNISING that:

1. The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) represents 6 sovereign states
2. The OECS has established mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration and is a microcosm of the Caribbean region
3. The OECS governments have committed to NP in their legislation
4. The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority, which represents 5 OECS countries has embarked on a process to introduce Number Portability

RECOMMENDS:

That a multi-stakeholder group lead by the CTU work with ECTEL to examine the feasibility to establish a single data base and clearing house to implement Number Portability for its member countries and other OECS States.