



**Caribbean Telecommunications Union**

## **36<sup>th</sup> Executive Council Meeting**

*Theme: Internet Imperatives for the Single ICT Space*

Beachcombers Hotel, St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
19<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

# **Secretariat Report**

## **September 2017 to March 2018**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Prepared by: **Secretary General**

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

# Secretariat Report

September 2017 to March 2018

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## Caribbean Telecommunications Union

# Secretariat Report

September 2017 to March 2018

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This reporting period commenced with the passage of a series of storms and hurricanes, (two of which were Category 5), which resulted in widespread devastation. Nine of the CTU's 20 Member States were adversely affected. As a result, a Commission was established to examine the cause of failure of communications networks in the affected States and to make recommendations for minimising such failures in the future.

ICT Week – The Bahamas was successfully executed in November following a postponement brought about by the weather challenges. Antigua and Barbuda and the British Virgin Islands were elected as President and Vice President of the General Conference of Ministers and The British Virgin Islands and Jamaica elected as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Executive Council.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda hosted the CTU's Summit and Symposium on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government. The CTU Secretariat conceptualised the concept for 21st Century Government and the framework for the Summit. The events were executed at the request of the ICT Minister in Antigua and Barbuda for assistance for the Symposium. The events exceeded all expectations.

The CTU Secretariat continued to build cooperative working relationships. The Caribbean Court of Justice launched its non-profit ICT Organisation in ICT Week – the Bahamas and the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) has endorsed and is supporting the CTU's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government initiative as one of the partners involved.

Much of the rest of the time of the Secretariat staff was devoted to planning activities for the year 2018.

## 2 SECRETARIAT OVERVIEW

### 2.1 *Headquarters*

A budget for the outfitting of the CTU Secretariat was submitted some time ago to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, along with invoices representing outstanding payment for services and utilities.

Other than some discussions, there has been no further word from the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications on the outfitting of the CTU Secretariat and the outstanding invoices.

## **2.2 Finances and Financial Accounting**

The CTU Secretariat has been streamlining its financial reporting and execution of the annual financial audits. The 2017 Audit was completed in February 2018 and the Audited Financial Statements for 2017 will be presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> Executive Council.

The Secretariat's financial position has been improving slowly because of the herculean efforts of the staff in securing funds for its work and the payment by some Member States of part of their arrears. As a matter of urgency, members are urged to re-double their efforts to address their arrears.

## **2.3 IT Network**

The many failures of the IT network and end user terminals is impacting negatively on the Secretariat's productivity. Without the necessary finances, the CTU cannot upgrade its IT infrastructure to enable it to fulfill its work obligations in a timely manner. As an institution that is actively promoting ICT, the network and client terminal failures are an embarrassment to Secretariat staff.

The ITU has committed to assist in replacing the core network facilities. The equipment is to be provided in due course.

## **2.4 Human Resources**

The present complement of staff is as follows:

Mr. Nigel Cassimire	Consultant - Telecommunications Specialist
Mr. Selby Wilson	Telecommunications Strategist
Mr. Trevor Prevatt	Consultant and Contracts Administrator
Mr. Junior McIntyre	CARCIP - Project Coordinator
Mr. Gary Kalloo	ICT Consultant
Ms. Michelle Garcia	Communications Specialist
Ms. Sonja Johnson	Consultant – Publications and Promotions
Mr. Richard Feveck	Network Security Analyst
Ms. Brenda Julien	Manager - Administration
Ms. Mary Pouchet	Executive Assistant

Other staff are recruited on an occasional basis for events and projects.

More technical staff are required but cannot be recruited until the CTU's financial position improves.

## **2.5 Strategic Plan**

No further work has been done on the Strategic plan in the area of institutional strengthening.

### 3 CTU PROJECTS

- **Implementation of the Caribbean Spectrum Management Strategic Plan**

The CTU has been pursuing comprehensive implementation of the Strategic Plan as resources have permitted. In particular, we have been collaborating with the ITU in work and meetings to mitigate cross border radio frequency (RF) interference, consistent with the relevant objectives of the strategic plan. A successful meeting of the Spectrum Management Task Force was also held in Port of Spain from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018. A work plan for 2018 was developed, inclusive of activities towards achievement of strategic plan goals, and regional preparations for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19).

- **Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Project (CARCIP)**

Digicel was selected to deploy a regional broadband network of undersea fibre cable, Government Wide Area Networks and public access wireless infrastructure for Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Negotiations between representatives of the Governments of the three participating countries and Digicel for the establishment of a contract commenced in August 2017 and continued during the reporting period. The negotiations have been protracted, resulting in four extensions to the validity of Digicel's bid sought and obtained for the signing of the contract. It is hoped that the contract will be finalised in March 2018.

- **ICT4PWD - CVAS**

In Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, Tobago IT Limited and the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) have pledged support for the Secretariat's Caribbean Video Assistance Service for the Deaf and Blind.

While the network operators were enthusiastic in their spoken support for CVAS, the Secretariat has been experiencing great difficulty advancing the work because of the seeming reticence of the operators generally to respond to its request for their concrete support.

The Secretariat redoubled its efforts in January to secure a commitment from Digicel. As a result, there has been some movement towards implementing the pilot, but progress has been slow. The Secretariat is working to have the Pilot initiated in April 2018, in line with the timing of TATT's launch of its Universal Service Fund project providing free or subsidised smart phones to PWDs, with which CVAS is highly complementary. It is hoped that CVAS will be available in the second quarter 2018.

- **Caribbean Centre of Excellence**

***Anguilla***

The Government of Anguilla has engaged the CTU Secretariat to assist in the development of a National ICT Policy, Strategy and Implementation Plan, with an emphasis on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government and disaster management and recovery. The Secretariat is currently in the process of preparing a proposal for this work. Once there is agreement on the scope, and terms and conditions of the engagement, the project will commence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

***Belize***

Belize expressed an interest in having the CTU assist in reviewing and updating its National Innovation Policy and Strategic Plan. The CTU Secretariat is awaiting feedback from Belize on its proposal submitted for undertaking this exercise.

***Dominica***

The final report of the assessment and evaluation of the government wide area network (GWAN) was submitted to the Government of Dominica on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017, following comments received from the Government in September 2017 on the draft final report. This GWAN report is now expected to provide invaluable guidance to the Government in its efforts to rebuild its communications infrastructure to a higher standard of resilience following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Maria in September 2017.

Feedback is still being awaited from the Government on a contract proposal for updating Dominica's National e-Government Strategy and preparing an implementation work plan. The proposal was issued on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

***Montserrat***

The CTU Secretariat proposes to work with the Government of Montserrat to help accelerate its progress to be a citizen-centric, seamless government. The CTU proposes to incorporate this work in a sub-regional project to establish 21<sup>st</sup> Century Governments in the British Overseas Territories.

***St. Kitts and Nevis***

The Secretariat has completed the work to develop a design for the St. Kitts and Nevis' Government Wide Area Network (GWAN). The CTU will be engaging the Government in discussions to accelerate the adoption of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government.

***Grenada***

Grenada expressed interest in having the CTU assist with developing an ICT Policy. The Secretariat is still awaiting the official request.

***British Virgin Islands (BVI)***

The BVI accepted a proposal from the Secretariat to prepare its ICT Policy, Strategy and Implementation Plan. The Contract was executed in August 2017. However, the passage of Hurricane Irma and the resulting destruction has delayed this work to date and may even impact the scope and priority areas for immediate attention and intervention. The CTU proposes to incorporate this work in a sub-regional project to establish 21<sup>st</sup> Century Governments in the British Overseas Territories.

***Internet Exchange Points (French and Dutch Territories)***

The CTU Secretariat, in collaboration with Dauphin Telecom, submitted a proposal for European Union funding for the establishment of three internet exchange points in the French territories of Saint Martin, Guadeloupe and St. Barthelemy. The approval of the project and funding is currently on hold, pending a decision of the INTERREG Committee meeting scheduled for April 2018.

- **Caribbean Single ICT Space: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government**

The Secretariat launched its 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Initiative, which represents the element of the Vision and Roadmap for the CARICOM Single ICT Space that addresses common frameworks for enabling the delivery of e-government services.

The CTU will be working with the e-Governance Academy of Estonia and the Caribbean Centre for Administration Development (CARICAD) and other strategic partners to implement the initiative.

- **Open Data Project**

The World Bank had requested the CTU to coordinate an Open Data Project for the Caribbean. The Secretariat collaborated with the University of the West Indies and the Mona School of Business to develop a proposal, which was accepted by the World Bank. However, despite numerous requests for information, we are still awaiting further details from the World Bank as regards the implementation process.

- **Other CTU Projects**

In response to Compete Caribbean's and the IADB's requests for proposals, the CTU Secretariat submitted several projects for funding consideration.

Compete Caribbean recently responded positively to one such project which seeks to undertake a Digital Skills Assessment for the Caribbean. Discussions are still ongoing with Compete Caribbean to determine the scope, project details and funding opportunities for the project.

## 4 INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

### 4.1 *Relations with Members*

The Communications Specialist continues to keep Members informed of the CTU's activities by sharing media releases and making Facebook and Twitter posts.

The Secretary General will formalise the Cabinet Roadshow, continuing to hold them when possible in States that host CTU meetings and reaching out to re-engage State Members that are not actively involved in the work of the CTU.

The CTU will be re-launching the second phase of its Caribbean ICT Roadshow from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in Guyana.

### 4.2 *External Relationships*

To achieve the goals of the CTU, concerted efforts will continue to develop additional strategic alliances with external organisations both regionally and internationally, as appropriate. Details of work in this area are as follows:

- ***Cooperation Agreements***

- **e-Governance Academy (eGA)**

- The CTU signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Estonia e-Governance Academy (eGA). The MoU provides the framework for collaboration between the CTU and eGA with a view to establishing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Governments in the Caribbean.

- The Estonia government has provided €30,000.00 (Euro) towards the implementation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government programme.

- ***Pending Cooperation Agreements***

- **VTCSecure: Regional ICT Services for PWDs**

- VTCSecure of the USA is a global company that provides On-Demand, Video, Voice & Text Call Center Services that are secure and accessible from any device. It is one of the key collaborators on the Caribbean Video Assistance Service.

- ***Cooperative Work Arrangements***

- **VTCSecure, TATT and DIGICEL**

- The CTU will be collaborating with the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago and Digicel to launch the pilot for Caribbean Video Assistance Service, which is being facilitated by VTCSecure.

- **FAO and ITU**

- The CTU will be collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Telecommunication Union to convene an E-Agriculture Forum in association with the Caribbean ICT Roadshow in Guyana in July 2018.



## CCJ

The Secretariat has been supporting the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in their efforts to use ICT more effectively in the Justice sector. APEX, a not-for-profit agency established by the CCJ, was launched during ICT Week – The Bahamas. The CCJ established APEX in 2016 to deliver technology-based solutions for Caribbean courts, law offices and Justice sector bodies.

## CARICAD

The CTU is working collaboratively with the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration to deliver its 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Programme to Caribbean Countries.

### 4.3 Courtesy Visits

- **Maria Cristina Capelo, Facebook Public Policy and Government Relations Department**, visited the Secretariat on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to discuss deepening the collaboration with the CTU. The Secretary General thanked her for Facebook's support of the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum and invited the company to partner with the CTU on the re-launched CTU Caribbean ICT Roadshow.
- **Mr. Barton Clarke, Executive Director Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)**, and several members of his staff visited the Secretariat on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 with a view to establishing a working relationship with the CTU in the area of ICT in agriculture and to seek support for using ICT effectively in executing CARDI's mandate.
- **Mr. Sergio Pengel, Founder and CEO Piedata**, and several members of his team visited the Secretariat on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 to discuss the disaster management capabilities of their SONAR application.
- **Mr. Shola Taylor, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO)**, visited the Secretariat on 29<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the CTO's 2018 Work programme. The CTU Secretary General shared the CTU's programme. Both parties are committed to continue to work collaboratively.

## 5 NATURAL DISASTERS

Nine of the CTU's 20 member countries were ravaged by the passage of several violent storms and hurricanes including two Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria, in September 2017. Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica and St. Maarten experienced the worst of the devastation.

In response, the Secretariat:

- Provided relief supplies totaling US\$5,000.00 to the hardest hit country;
- Publicised the plight of the affected Caribbean countries at international fora;
- Established a Commission to examine the failure of the Communications Networks in the affected countries with a view to making recommendations for mitigating the

effects of such natural disasters (The Commission's work will be completed by June); and

- Embarked on a programme to cultivate a new generation of HAM Operators.

The Secretary General and staff of the Secretariat extend their deep condolences to the members of the Executive Council and the citizens of the region who were adversely impacted by the storms and hurricanes.

## 6 SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

The following are the activities undertaken by the Secretariat in this reporting period:

Date	Activity
30 <sup>th</sup> October to 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	<p><b>CARCIP Broadband Negotiation Meetings</b> Radisson Hotel, Barbados</p> <p>Negotiations were conducted for the contracts for the Broadband Networks Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Representatives from these participating countries and Digicel, along with the CTU, represented by Mr. Selby Wilson, Telecommunications Strategist and, remotely, Mr. Junior McIntyre the CARCIP Project Coordinator; and Regional Lead Negotiator and Country Lead Negotiators participated in the negotiations.</p> <p>In spite of the progress made, some outstanding action items and issues remain, which were described and minuted. The negotiating teams of all three countries confirmed their intention, subject to satisfactory resolution of the remaining issues, to recommend the PPP transactions to their respective Cabinets in November 2017, with the objective of signing contracts by 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017.</p>
23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017	<p><b>CARCIP Broadband Negotiation Meetings</b> Virtual/St. Lucia</p> <p>Negotiations continued with the Digicel team; the Regional Lead Negotiator and Country Lead Negotiators; select members of the Saint Lucia negotiating team; and the Government consultants. Apart from the St. Lucian officials, all other participants, including the CTU CARCIP Coordinator, participated remotely. It was noted that the preliminary agreements reached were subject to review and approval by Governments, the World Bank and the Board of Digicel.</p> <p>There was a request from the Governments that the signing date for the contracts be moved to January 31, 2018, which they stated was achievable and realistic given their constraints.</p>

Date	Activity
<p><b>ICT Week – The Bahamas, 27<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017</b>  <b>Theme: <i>Internet Imperatives for the Single ICT Space</i></b></p>	
27 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<p><b>35<sup>th</sup> Executive Council</b></p> <p>CTU's Permanent Secretaries and Technical Officers discussed the business of the CTU. The highlights of the Meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretariat's presentation of its 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Programme, which was accepted.</li> <li>• The election of the new: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman – British Virgin Islands, represented by Mr. Anthony Mc Master and</li> <li>• Vice Chairman – Jamaica, represented by Ms. Wahkeen Murray.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
28 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<p><b>Joint Meeting of the 35<sup>th</sup> Executive Council and 20<sup>th</sup> General Conference</b></p> <p>This Meeting sought to raise awareness of the projects being executed by the CTU Secretariat, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caribbean Video Assistance Service,</li> <li>• Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Program (CARCIP),</li> <li>• Caribbean Internet Governance and</li> <li>• Caribbean ICT Collaboration Forum.</li> </ul>
28 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<p><b>Developing a Caribbean IT-Enabled Services (ITES) Industry Workshop</b></p> <p>This Workshop, an activity under CARCIP, explored the present opportunities for developing an IT-enabled Services (ITES) industry; discussed the policy and regulatory frameworks and considered perspectives on regional collaboration for encouraging private sector investment. A model strategic plan for developing IT-enabled services was presented to delegates.</p>
29 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<p><b>Caribbean ICT Collaboration Committee</b></p> <p>This meeting of trans-disciplinary stakeholders considered the outcomes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean ICT Collaboration Forum.</p>
29 <sup>th</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<p><b>16<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Ministerial Strategic ICT Seminar</b></p> <p>The 16<sup>th</sup> Seminar addressed the significant role that the Internet will play in laying a technological foundation and in supporting the development of the Single ICT Space. It presented the latest developments in the Internet, its technologies and its resources, and their implications for social and economic development. The Seminar also explored the tremendous opportunities for growth and development available in cyberspace and the challenges currently experienced by Caribbean users in seizing them. The risks in cyberspace and the need for cyber security intelligence were also addressed, along with the respective roles of governments and the private sector in building a secure Caribbean Internet eco-system for the Single ICT Space.</p>

Date	Activity
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2017	<p><b>Capacity Building Programme: Internet of Things (IoT)</b></p> <p>Conducted by the GSMA, this course provided an in-depth look at the emerging trend of the Internet of Things, the slew of Internet-enabled intelligent devices being deployed for a variety of “smart” applications.</p>
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	<p><b>TV6 Interview</b> <i>Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p>The Secretary General and Mr. Gary Kalloo, ICT Consultant, appeared as guests on the TV6 Morning Edition programme in Trinidad and Tobago to discuss public service transformation and to promote the CTU’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Summit and Symposium on 21st Century Government.</p>
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	<p><b>CNC3 Television Morning Brew Interview</b> <i>Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p>Secretariat staff, the ICT Consultant and Ms. Sonja Johnson, Publications and Promotions Specialist, appeared as guests on the Morning Brew programme in Trinidad and Tobago to promote the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Summit and Symposium. They were joined via telephone by Mr. Daryl Jackson, Advisor to Minister Melford Nicholas of Antigua and Barbuda.</p>
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	<p><b>Antigua and Barbuda Today Television Interview</b> <i>Skype</i></p> <p>The Secretary General participated via Skype in the Antigua and Barbuda Today television programme to promote the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Summit and Symposium.</p>
16 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	<p><b>21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Summit and Symposium</b> <i>Antigua and Barbuda</i></p> <p>The Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), in collaboration with the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), hosted a Summit on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the St. James’s Club in Antigua.</p> <p>The Summit was the first activity of a programme conceived by the Secretariat to establish Caribbean 21<sup>st</sup> Century Governments, an element of the Caribbean Community’s (CARICOM) vision for establishing a Single ICT Space in the Caribbean by 2022.</p> <p>A three-day Symposium, designed to prepare public sector practitioners for the work that has to be done to establish 21st Century Governments, followed the Summit from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018.</p> <p>Both of these activities exceeded expectations in terms of their objectives, participation and engagement.</p>

Date	Activity
18 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	<p data-bbox="418 218 1430 289"><b>CARCIP Broadband Negotiation Meetings</b> <i>Courtyard by Marriott, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p data-bbox="418 310 1430 499">Negotiations continued with the Digicel team; the Regional Lead Negotiator and Country Lead Negotiators; select members of the Saint Lucia negotiating team; and the Government consultants for CARCIP Broadband Networks Public Private Partnerships for St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The CTU CARCIP Coordinator represented the CTU.</p> <p data-bbox="418 541 1430 772">The parties reached agreement on the main outstanding issues but some matters were still subject to negotiation. If these could have been resolved to the satisfaction of the respective Governments' Cabinets, they would have been in a position to provide Digicel with letters by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 confirming that the Governments approve the Contracts, subject to World Bank approval. The letters have been issued.</p> <p data-bbox="418 814 1430 968">The Governments have submitted the draft contracts and appendices to the World Bank for advance review. Once the World Bank approves the contract, the Final contract will be issued by Grenada, as the lead procurement country. It is anticipated that the contracts will be signed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.</p>
31 <sup>st</sup> January to 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018	<p data-bbox="418 1010 1430 1081"><b>Workshop and Meeting of the Spectrum Management Task Force (SMTF)</b> <i>Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <p data-bbox="418 1102 1430 1486">Telecommunications Specialist, Mr. Nigel Cassimire, and the ICT Consultant, with logistical support from Ms. Brenda Julien, Manager Administration; Mr. Richard Feveck, Network Security Analyst; and Ms. Tiffany George, temporary staff; collectively managed this meeting on behalf of the Secretariat. This very successful meeting was the first gathering of the SMTF for more than a year and was attended by 37 participants from 11 Caribbean territories plus the USA, Canada and the ITU Headquarters in Switzerland. The SMTF formulated its work plan for 2018 including activities aimed at achieving the goals of the Caribbean Spectrum Management Strategic Plan and proper preparation for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19).</p>
28 <sup>th</sup> February to 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	<p data-bbox="418 1528 1430 1600"><b>Caribbean ICT Roadshow – Guyana Preparatory Meeting</b> <i>Georgetown, Guyana</i></p> <p data-bbox="418 1642 1430 1911">The Secretary General; Ms. Michelle Garcia, Communications Specialist; Ms. Sonja Johnson, Publications and Promotion Specialist; along with Mr. Bevil Wooding, ARIN Caribbean; and logistics personnel travelled to Guyana to promote the new CTU Caribbean ICT Roadshow. The CTU team met with staff members of the Ministry of Public Telecommunications to explain the purpose and structure of the Roadshow and to develop a programme that would meet the needs of the Government of Guyana and its citizens.</p>

## 7 REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL FORA AND ATTENDANCE AT ICT MEETINGS

A significant element of the CTU's mandate is the representation of the region at international ICT fora. During this reporting period, the Secretariat represented the Caribbean at the following:

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Forum</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> October to 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017	<b>60<sup>th</sup> International Policy Meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) – ICANN 60</b> <i>Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates</i>

The Telecommunications Specialist represented the CTU at this meeting, participating fully in the CTU's observer member role of ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) in support of CTU Member States present (Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago) and those absent.

The CTU offered to work with GAC's Underserved Areas Working Group and ICANN's Global Stakeholder Engagement team to enable Internet governance capacity building events to be held in the Caribbean area in 2018 for the benefit of Government stakeholders. The CTU will also assist in planning for the next proposed High Level Governmental Meeting in Barcelona in October 2018.

14 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<b>CTO Forum on Human Resources and ICT 2017</b> <i>Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago</i>
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The Telecommunications Specialist, represented the CTU at this meeting and moderated the session entitled "Impact of Technology on Human Resources" on 14<sup>th</sup> November. The CTU's participation in this event was in pursuance of the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation signed in 2014 between the CTU and the CTO.

21 <sup>st</sup> to 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017	<b>Accessible Americas IV: Information and Communication for ALL</b> <i>Hotel Barceló San José Palacio Costa Rica</i>
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Mr. Trevor Prevatt, CTU Consultant, attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Accessible American event, the main goal of which was to raise awareness among Governments of measures to be taken to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities (PWD). The Workshop also addressed planning and implementing national ICT accessibility policies.

Caribbean representatives who participated in this event were able to build a good rapport, which will be useful in the future for further developing the CTU's ICT4PWDs initiative.

26th January 2018 **Trinidad and Tobago Internet Governance Forum 2018 (TTIGF 2018)**  
*Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, West Moorings  
 Trinidad and Tobago*

The Secretary General, the Telecommunications Specialist, the Communications Specialist and the Network Security Analyst participated in the second Trinidad and Tobago IGF, which had as its theme: *Shape Your Digital Future*. TTIGF addressed topics including Digital Financial Services, online gender activism and blockchain technology.

4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>  
 February 2018 **CANTO's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Mini Exhibition**  
*Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.*

CTU Secretariat staff participated in the information sessions of this event and on 6<sup>th</sup> February, the Telecommunications Specialist presented a status update of the CTU's work in Caribbean spectrum management harmonisation and preparations for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19).

7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 **Cyber Seminar: 'Economic Development Through the Rise of Digital Dependency in the Caribbean and Suriname'**  
*Paramaribo, Suriname*

The Communications Specialist represented the CTU at this meeting and presented on "Running the Risk of being Disconnected in an Interconnected World." The presentation sought to raise awareness of the danger of losing the essence of human interaction and the ability to communicate with each other due to cyber dependency.

11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>  
 February 2018 **World Government Summit 2018**  
*Dubai*

Given the CTU's programme for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government, the Secretary General participated in this very informative dialogue designed to shape the future of governments and the lives of citizens. The event brought together prominent leaders from the global public and private sectors, as well as international thought leaders and pioneers. The discourses, which were thought provoking and future-focused, sought to define a new future for governments. The Summit made it clear to the Secretary General that the CTU's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Programme is not an innovation but an attempt to help Caribbean governments catch up.

19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 **ICANN's Virtual DNS Entrepreneurship Center of the Caribbean (VDECC) Launch**  
*Hilton Trinidad, Trinidad and Tobago*

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) launched their Virtual DNS Entrepreneurship Center of the Caribbean (VDECC). DNS (Domain Name System) automatically translates human-readable website addresses into the numeric machine addresses that computers use.

VDECC aims to open up new money-making opportunities in the DNS industry for Internet businesses and entrepreneurs across the region. In her opening remarks, the Secretary General commended ICANN for this initiative and noted that VDECC was in keeping with the tenets of its MoU with ICANN.

The Telecommunications Specialist, the ICT Consultant and the Communications Specialist also participated in the event.

10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March **ICANN 61**  
*San Juan, Puerto Rico*

The Secretary General and the Telecommunications Specialist attended the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers' (ICANN) 61<sup>st</sup> meeting in Puerto Rico. On 10<sup>th</sup> March, the Secretary General made a presentation on communications resilience in the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Capacity Building Workshop on Domain Name System (DNS) Resilience and Recovery. Both participated in the meetings of the GAC as observers.

## TRAINING

Every effort is made to keep the Secretariat current on ICT trends and to build its staff's expertise in the many aspects of ICT-enabled development. The following are the training seminars, workshops or programmes from which Secretariat personnel benefitted:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Training Workshop / Seminar / Programme</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Nigel Cassimire, Telecoms Specialist	<b>OAS Americas Cybersecurity Forum &amp; Symposium</b> <i>Montevideo, Uruguay</i>  This annual regional event of the OAS provides both a general forum and specific workshop tracks in various aspects of cybersecurity such as policy/strategy, operations, forensics, law enforcement, security standards and civil society issues. The Telecommunications Specialist focused on the policy/strategy track to better inform the Secretariat's future cybersecurity



Date	Participants	Training Workshop / Seminar / Programme
15 <sup>th</sup> November to 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Gary Kalloo, ICT Consultant	<p data-bbox="607 226 964 258">policy development efforts.</p> <p data-bbox="607 327 727 359"><b>Outcome</b></p> <p data-bbox="607 369 1451 478">The information and the methodologies learned will inform updates of regional cybersecurity policies, strategies and approaches in future projects of the Secretariat.</p> <p data-bbox="607 520 1304 590"><b>CARICOM Special Training on Electronic Government</b> <i>Seongnam &amp; Yangpyeong, Republic of Korea</i></p> <p data-bbox="607 642 1451 825">This event, hosted by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), was designed to build and increase capacity for planning and implementing various e-Government development strategies through an understanding of such development strategies and policies adopted by South Korea.</p> <p data-bbox="607 873 1451 982">The forum also provides an opportunity to strengthen cooperation in e-Government development among recipient countries of the CARICOM region.</p> <p data-bbox="607 1031 727 1062"><b>Outcome</b></p> <p data-bbox="607 1073 1451 1211">The information, exposure and the methodologies learned will enhance the Secretariat's capacity in digital government and support its thrust in the establishment of 21st Century Government, regionally.</p>

## 8 CONCLUSION

The devastation of the 2017 Hurricane season should be the impetus for accelerating the work of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Programme. The Secretary General is grateful for the commitment of the Secretariat's professionals and other staff, who continue to work diligently to execute the mandate of the CTU.