



ICT Week - Suriname

Theme:

Digital Transformation – Do it!



Overview of Caribbean Ministerial Simulation Exercise in Collaboration *for advancing the CARICOM Single ICT Space*

1. Context

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have been driving the social and economic development of many nations across the globe. Even as the 4th Industrial Revolution (the convergence of the digital, physical and biological media) progresses, Caribbean states have yet to make pervasive use of ICT to transform their economies, promote national development and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In February 2017, Heads of CARICOM Governments approved a plan to establish the CARICOM Single ICT Space as the digital layer for the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. In order for the Caribbean to realise the vision of the Single ICT Space, CARICOM leaders need to think strategically and work collaboratively both at the national and regional levels.

It is essential therefore to create programmes to promote changes in mindsets and provide mechanisms that will allow Governments to collectively maximise the use of the region's limited human and financial resources to drive national and regional ICT-enabled Caribbean Development.

2. Objectives of the Simulation Exercise

- i. To explore the collaborative inter- and intra-governmental processes that are necessary to build seamless, citizen-centric governments and the Single ICT Space;
- ii. To demonstrate the real benefits to be derived from meaningful national and regional collaboration; and
- iii. To encourage collaborative approaches in order to minimise duplication of efforts and the inefficient use of resources, both nationally and regionally.

3. Methodology

The Caribbean Ministerial Simulation Exercise in Collaboration will commence with the Caribbean FutureScape experience to demonstrate the potential of ICT to transform Caribbean life. Thereafter relevant examples will be used to explain and develop the collaborative processes and mechanisms necessary to establish 21st Century Governments – governments that are citizen-centric, seamless, use ICT effectively for the delivery of government services and are fit for purpose in the 21st Century. The simulation will also consider the collaborative processes that are required to establish the CARICOM Single ICT Space, of which 21st Century Governments are a key element.

4. The Simulation Exercise

The exercise seeks to identify the governmental stakeholders that must be involved in planning and implementing 21st Century Government services. It walks participants through the thought processes for engaging Ministries of ICT, Public Administration and other

Government ministries and departments in the planning and execution processes for introducing the new ICT-enabled services. The exercise also addresses the implementation of regional ICT projects to support the establishment of the Caribbean Single ICT Space.

In both cases, the simulation will enable the development of systematic mechanisms for collaboration in planning and execution of national and regional ICT projects.

The simulation will require participants to consider the scenario of a ministry wishing to utilise ICT to dramatically improve service delivery. The ministry must evaluate multiple considerations and options relevant to achieving a successful and cost-effective outcome e.g. the availability of a Government Wide Area Network, the ministry's own IT department resources, HR considerations and concerns, implementation time constraints, ensuring that services are available and supported nationally across a single platform.

Among other things, participants would have to consider the value of issues such as:

- Reaching out to the ministry responsible for ICT;
- Considering other similar government projects that have been implemented or are planned;
- Engaging the Ministry of Public Administration to examine the public service transformation implications for introduction of the service; and
- Contacting other regional government that have implemented or are planning a similar service soliciting expertise and advice.
- Examination of legislative changes to give effect to the new service processes and procedures

Participants will then develop the mechanisms to facilitate the intra- and inter-governmental collaboration mechanisms that are necessary.

5. Desired Outcomes

- i. Greater collaboration and cooperation at the national level among government ministries and at the regional level among governments;
- ii. Identification of and commitment to a project that will accelerate the pace of implementing the CARICOM Single ICT Space in support of the CSME; and
- iii. Enhanced commitment to the effective use of ICTs in support of the aspirations of the Heads of CARICOM Governments to advance the social and economic development of Caribbean states as active participants in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

6. Audience

This Simulation is open to Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and other senior officials of Caribbean Governments.

7. Date and Venue

The Ministerial programme will take place on 18th September 2019, as follows:

- The Caribbean FutureScape Experience will be held in the Royal Ballroom Torarica;
- The Caribbean Ministerial Simulation Exercise in Collaboration for advancing the CARICOM Single ICT will be held in the Banquet Hall of the Torarica Hotel.