



Caribbean Telecommunications Union

4th Caribbean ICT Collaboration Forum



Executive Summary

This 4th Caribbean ICT Collaboration Forum continued the process of developing collaborative working relationships between Caribbean governments, ICT organisations and other stakeholders to address the issue of digital transformation in the region.

Sixty persons from across the Caribbean attended the Forum. Ministers and senior officials from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas and Montserrat were active participants and contributed to the success of the event.

The Forum introduced participants to the pre-requisites and elements of successful collaborative relationships; explore strategic actions for facilitating digital transformation and share the different experiences in the region.

Mr. Anthony Watkins, Organisational Consultant from Odyssey Consultinc Inc. facilitated a capacity-building component on the opportunities and mechanisms for collaboration and overcoming the obstacles to effective collaboration.

On the conclusion of the Forum, participants had a better understanding of the need for greater collaboration at both the at the national and regional levels to advance the digital transformation of the Caribbean.

Forum Highlights

The President of the CTU Hon. Melford Nicholas, Minister of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Antigua and Barbuda welcomed the participants and Mr. Claudell McKellar, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of Sen. the Hon. Allyson West. Both spoke of the need for digital transformation and identified collaboration as an important step in achieving that goal.

Contributing to this understanding were presentation on the following topics:

1. The Digital Transformation Imperative: Perspectives from an Entrepreneur by Jean Th Arnell
2. Digital Financial Services by Marla Dukharan who spoke on the progress of Caribbean Settlement Network
3. Cyber Security Considerations by Earl Harris of CARICOM IMPACS
4. Intellectual Property and Innovation presented by Kavish Seetahal who outlined very clearly the value and challenges of intellectual property rights
5. A Session on Technology Supporting Transformation explored Internet exchange points, data centres and services and the cloud
6. A Panel discussion on Regulatory Imperatives for Digital Transformation gave perspectives on the need for regulatory reset in a technological age, collaborating to



address new spectrum requirements and the regulator's response to the changing technological landscape.

All presentations are posted on CTU's website: www.ctu.int

Launch of the Caribbean Internet Development Foundation

The CTU used the occasion of the Forum to launch its Caribbean Internet Development Foundation will now be responsible for convening the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) and executing the various mandates within the CIGF Policy Framework. It will also extend the impact of the CIGF's regional work nationally by supporting the establishment of national Internet governance fora (IGF). These would in turn implement national projects to build capacity; develop Internet infrastructure; mobilise communities of interest; train stakeholders to execute specific programmes for improving organisational efficiency, security and productivity; and critically, facilitating digital transformation and the growth of a digital economy.

The CIDF will coordinate the activities associated with the different facets of IG to engineer and ensure beneficial and sustainable outcomes for all and will ultimately foster the development of a thriving digital economy.

Outcomes

1. Endorsement of The Strategic Practice Roadmap for Digital Transformation presented by the CTU Secretary General, Ms. Bernadette Lewis
2. The Purpose of Collaboration Statement crystallised from the views expressed by participants is stated hereunder:

Caribbean collaboration on the adoption of ICTs is engendered by the overarching vision of positioning the CARICOM Region to participate and benefit from 4th Industrial Revolution to secure:

- *Improved **quality of life** for CARICOM Citizens*
- ***Opportunities** for CARICOM citizens in this borderless global village*
- ***Investments and Jobs** for CARICOM Citizens*
- ***Competitiveness** of CARICOM States in the global economy*

3. The Caribbean ICT Collaboration Committee held its 12th Meeting to consider the working Groups reports on: Connectivity, Convergence and Consumer Issues. At this meeting the definition of Roaming in the context of the CARICOM Single ICT Space was defined as: The Reduction or Abolition of Roaming Charges relates to CARICOM Citizens in CARICOM States served by Service providers operation in one or more CARICOM States. The Committee noted that DIGICEL and Cable & Wireless operated in 15 of the 20 CARICOM States. Digicel also operated in Bermuda, Guyana, Haiti, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. It is anticipated that DIGICEL and Cable & Wireless would continue to have roaming agreements with extra regional carriers whose customer visit CARICOM States.

The three working groups were given until 20th March 2020 to solicit their final comments and submit them to the CTU Secretariat for finalisation of the recommendations to be presented to the General Conference of Ministers in September 2020.