



Caribbean Telecommunications Union

4th Caribbean ICT Regulators' Forum

Virtual

23rd September 2020

Theme: Accelerating Digital Transformation

Overview

Regional Roundtable Discussion for the Caribbean and Latin American Regulators Regulation for Digital Transformation in the Post COVID-19 era

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union's (CTU) 4th Caribbean ICT Regulators' Forum will be convened virtually during the CTU's signature ICT Week from 21st to 23rd September 2020.

The forum which is scheduled for Wednesday 23rd September 2020 will have a format of a Regional Roundtable Discussion on the subject: Regulation for Digital Transformation in the Post COVID-19 era. The Forum will be open to Caribbean and Latin American Regulators, and policy makers.

The objective of the Forum is to engage representatives of the Caribbean and Latin American National Regulatory Authorities, as well as other stakeholders to advance discussions on regulation for digital transformation and to prepare the region for the 4th Industrial Revolution.

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised, as nothing else could have, the vital importance of connectivity and of extending affordable access to as many people as possible, as fast as we can. We must, therefore, explore the use of new technologies and regulatory practices that can accelerate the bridging of the digital divide.

In a GSR-20 discussion paper, it was reported: "In many global markets, Work from Home and School from Home due to the coronavirus has been a catalyst to seismic shifts in inter alia social media group interactions, online streaming of content and distribution, learning and online commerce. It has also resulted in profound regulatory changes in many countries. (See Appendix B.) Such changes allow online banking and financial transactions, legal hearings, telehealth, pharmaceutical dispensation and more. In March and April 2020, in many countries, through a range of quick policy and regulatory changes, things moved instantly online, affecting forever, the scope, level and nature of online activity."

As the famous quote states: ***'there are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen.'*** Early 2020 was one of those times where decades happened in weeks as activities that could go online did. We must maintain this momentum.

The ITU, World Bank, World Economic Forum and GSMA Call for Action outlined five key objectives:

1. Increasing bandwidth, strengthening resilience and security of networks, and managing congestion;
2. Connecting vital services and ensuring the continuity of public services to safeguard the welfare of populations
3. Powering Fintech and digital business models to support the most impacted businesses and communities
4. Promoting trust, security and safety online: and
5. Leveraging the power of mobile big data.

Also, the following eight initiatives and reforms were identified to facilitate the COVID-19 recovery phase in addressing both the pandemic issues directly and mitigation of the adverse economic impacts:

1. COVID-19 Contact Tracing Apps;
2. Accelerate the assignment of globally harmonized IMT spectrum
3. Accelerate 4G and in future 5G deployment and transition from legacy 2G/3G networks
4. Deployment of Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) as complementary and substitute broadband networks;
5. Facilitate innovative and future technologies to bridge the digital divide;
6. Misinformation and COVID-19; and
7. Big data responses/data processing.

The GSR-20 discussion paper concludes as follows: “It is important to note that, from an economic perspective, the cost of delays increases in deploying new technologies and services. Because telecommunications and ICT services are now more valuable to society, each year of delay in providing better and increased levels of service now means the opportunity cost of this delay is materially greater. It is now socially optimal and arguably imperative to urgently bring forward deployment of new digital infrastructure. By the assignment of in-demand IMT spectrum and new generations of technological standards, for example, moving more rapidly to 4G and 5G as well as addressing the COVID-19 specific challenges around contract tracing and COVID-19 fake news.”

Considering these developments and trends, we must reflect on the readiness of regulatory authorities to address the requirements to catapult the region into the 4th Industrial Revolution and to capitalize on the opportunities. Check your country’s standing as determined by the ITU Regulatory Tracker in Appendix A.

We solicit your participation in this regional webinar that will provide the opportunity for sharing and learning from your fellow regulators. As we go forward, we must collaborate with regulatory authorities and across sectors to ensure that the right policies and regulatory frameworks are adopted.



Caribbean Telecommunications Union

4th Caribbean ICT Regulators' Forum

Wednesday 23rd September 2020

AGENDA 9:00 am to Noon

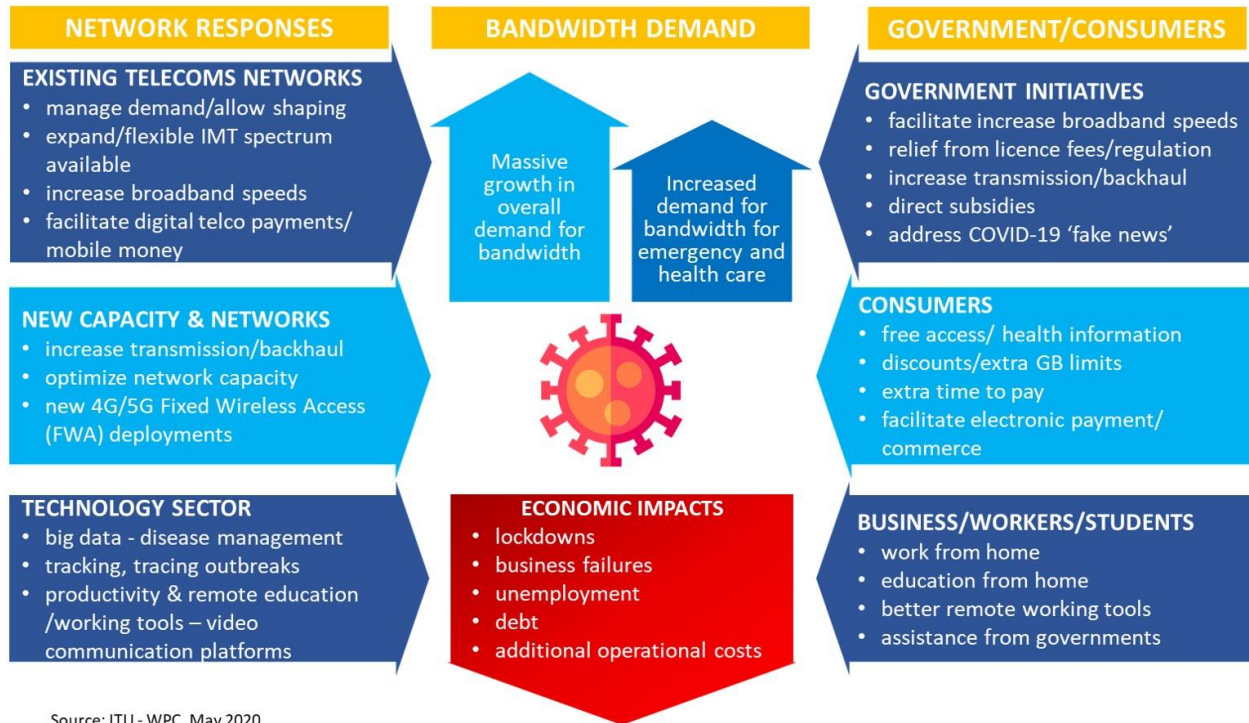
Session	Time	Presenter
Introductory Remarks	9:00am – 9:10am	Selby Wilson, Telecom Strategist, CTU
Invocation		
Moderator		Cleveland Thomas, ITU Caribbean Representative
A Message from the President of CTU	9:10am – 9:20am	Hon. Melford Nicholas, Minister of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Information Technology Government of Antigua and Barbuda
Feature Address Institutional Governance and Regulatory Independence in a Digital World	9:20am – 9:35AM	Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin Director of the Telecommunications Development Bureau, ITU
Executive Highlights of GSR-2020 and Presentation of Best Practice Guidelines	9:35am – 9:50am	Ms Sofie Maddens, Head of the Regulatory and Market Environment, ITU-BDT
The Regulatory Response to COVID-19 Pandemic and Lessons Learned	9:50am – 10:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECTEL • FairTrading Commission, Barbados • Instituto Dominicano de las Telecomunicaciones, Dominican Republic • Superintendencia de Telecomunicaciones, Costa Rica
National Regulatory Approaches for Digital Transformation to advance the CARICOM Single ICT Space	10:30am - 11:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago • Office of Utilities Regulator, Jamaica • Bureau Telecommunicate en Post, Curacao • BEREK
Discussion, Questions and Answers	11:30am – 12:00	

APPENDIX A

ICT Regulatory Tracker 2017						
Cluster	C1: Regulatory Authority	C2: Regulatory Mandate	C3: Regulatory Regime	C4: Competition Framework	Overall Score	Regulatory Generation
Maximum Score	20	22	30	28	100	
Country						
CARIBBEAN						
Cuba	2	10	14	5	31.00	G1
Antigua and Barbuda	8	11.5	8	13.33	40.83	G2
Barbados	17	12.5	18	21	68.50	G2
Belize	17	18.5	20	7.33	62.83	G2
Guyana	18	17.5	6	9	50.50	G2
Haiti	14	15.5	10	14.33	53.83	G2
Suriname	15	17	18	9.67	59.67	G2
St Kitt and Nevis	5	15	6	20	46.00	G2
Dominica	11	15.5	20	26	72.50	G3
Jamaica	19	12.5	19	28	78.50	G3
St Vincent & Grenadines	17	18	18	27	80.00	G3
Saint Lucia	16	18	24	27	85.00	G4
Bahamas	19	18.5	26	25.33	88.83	G4
Trinidad and Tobago	18	19	22	26.33	85.33	G4
LATIN AMERICA						
Guatemala	13	12.5	8	18.67	52.17	G2
Paraguay	17	15.5	12	16.33	60.83	G2
Uruguay	17	17	20	13	67	G2
Chile	14	20	18	27	79	G3
El Salvador	19	14.5	14	26	73.5	G3
Honduras	17	19	26	20	82	G3
Nicaragua	18	18	12	26	74	G3
Venezuela	20	19.5	16	25	80.5	G3
Argentina	17	20	21	28	86	G4
Brazil	16	18.5	26	28	88.5	G4
Costa Rica	19	16	26	24	85	G4
Dominica Republic	19	19.5	26	28	92.5	G4
Ecuador	20	18.6	21	26	85.6	G4
Mexico	19	17	26	28	90	G4
Panama	19	21	20	26	86	G4
Peru	18	13	28	28	87	G4

APPENDIX B

COVID-19: TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT SECTOR RESPONSES



Source: ITU - WPC, May 2020