

Welcome Address

**Ms. Simone Joseph, CARICOM Secretariat
Second Consultation Workshop of HIPCAR Working Group 1 – Stage A
St. Kitts & Nevis, 19-22 July 2010**

Chairperson – Mr. J.P Morgan

**Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports, Information Technology,
Telecommunications and Post – Honourable Glen Phillip**

CARICOM representative of the ITU – Mr. Philip Cross

Other officials of the ITU

Delegates

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Members of the Media

It gives me great pleasure to bring to you warm greetings on behalf of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary – General of the Caribbean Community.

I would like to thank the ITU for again providing me with the opportunity to say a few words to you.

When I had the privilege to share a few thoughts with you at your first meeting in March – I firstly encouraged you to work hard and consciously to ensure that both national and regional issues are discussed during the course of your meeting. I am happy to see that you took that request seriously – since we have received and had the chance to review some of the reports and document emanating from that first meeting. I would therefore like to both thank and congratulate you for this achievement.

There are a couple of requests which I will make for you as you participate in the meeting this week. One of them is that you continue to work as hard as you did in March to ensure a successful outcome for the region. If you have been listening to the recent regional debates you will have heard that a lot of it centred on governance. We are all well aware of the role the legal and regulatory framework plays towards good governance.

Even as we all strive to bring this project to a successful finish – let us be well aware that the Region has not yet decided on how these particular laws should be crafted, We have examples of laws coming out of the European Union, the United states and the Asian countries. We have a further work to do in the region to determine which set of laws or maybe which combination of laws best suits our needs as members of the integration movement –CARICOM.

The second request is that you take account in your deliberations the fact that there is now a draft ICT4D Strategy prepared over the last six months and available as both a guide and support for the work before you. That draft strategy will be tabled before the Ministers of ICT before the end of November this year.

My third request is that you ensure that one of the recommendations from this group is that the work of this and the other working groups be tabled before the Ministers of ICT at their afore mentioned meeting planned for this year.

My last request is that you use your individual and collective influences when you return to your home countries to ensure that the synergies necessary for making this project a success are developed and maintained by you. By this I mean- please ensure that the experiences, challenges and outcomes are shared widely with the relevant ministries and personnel (including the Legal Affairs Ministry). Most of you are aware that before regional laws are adopted – they

are first approved by the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC) – so it is important that your Legal Affairs Ministry is aware of the project and all the relevant issues.

Maybe a sub-request to this one is that you all be very sure of how the work undertaken by this working group and the project benefits and supports the work being undertaken to bring full implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSM&E).

As always, my sincere wish, for this and future meetings, is that you not take lightly the opportunities to (1) work together for the common cause of ensuring that all the countries in our Region reap the benefits of this particular project which will ultimately improve the quality of life of our people.

Another wish is that you make full use of the opportunity to deepen friendships and business relationships formed as an off-shoot of the working group. I am confident that these friendships will be part of the 'glue' that binds our wonderful region together and moves it forward and will spawn its own social network with countless positive benefits.

As you work this week take your responsibility seriously but not so seriously that you cannot be open to listening and considering each other's opinions. I am confident that you will have fruitful discussions in your meetings this week and I look forward to receiving the output documents soonest. Thank you.