



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref. BDT/AMRO-Brasilia/141

Brasilia, 13 August 2014

«State Members/Organisation»

«Address»

Subject: **Conformance and Interoperability Assessment Study for the Caribbean Region**

Excellence,

I am pleased to advise that the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering of the University of the West Indies and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) will conduct a Conformance and Interoperability Assessment Study of the Caribbean during the period August – October 2014 and subsequently, will jointly host a regional workshop in December 2- 4th 2014 to present and discuss the results of the study.

Having regard to the expressed objective of the CARICOM Heads of Government in January 2014 to establish the Caribbean region as a Single ICT Space, the interoperability of products, networks and services as promoted by the ITU is essential to its success. Products developed in accordance with ITU standards should provide the interoperability needed for users of these products to make use of them anywhere in the world.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-2010) Resolution 47 instructed the BDT Director to assist developing countries in building their capacity, in collaboration with ITU-T, so as to be able to perform conformance testing of equipment and systems, relevant to their needs, in accordance with the relevant Recommendations.

To this end, ITU-BDT is conducting Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) Assessment Studies on Regional and Sub-regional Basis: Collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for establishing a common C&I Regime and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs). This project aims at identifying the necessary elements and promotes the Collaboration among Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for establishing a common C&I Regime and Mutual Recognition Agreements, seeking to present possible scenarios to meet the needs and interests of Member States and Regions.

I therefore have the pleasure to announce that for the Caribbean region the BDT is going to conduct an Assessment study on C&I on the current situation (in terms of Laboratories, Regulatory regimes, MRAs in force, among other elements) as specified in the attached Terms of Reference.

The ITU has recruited Ms. Michelle Marius (mmarius@ict-pulse.com) as main Expert to conduct this study and Mr. Alvin Augustin (alvin_r_augustin@yahoo.com), who will support and work under the coordination of Ms. Marius. Therefore, to ensure a timely and successful project outcome I would appreciate if you can give your usual kind assistance and support by responding to their requests for information or clarification during the study period.

Based on the result of the study, a common and integrated approach for establishing appropriate C&I regimes in the Caribbean will be proposed, e.g. building additional labs for C&I Domains (mobile, EMC, NGN, broadband, etc.) and/or encouraging the establishment of Mutual Recognition Agreements - MRAs between countries in the region.

Please find attached the Questionnaire for completion and return to above referred ITU Experts.

The results and proposals will be submitted for consideration to Caribbean countries and also presented during a Workshop scheduled to be held for those countries 2nd to 4th December 2014. The results will be used to inform a discussion paper first issued by the CTU in April, 2014 entitled Principles for a Single ICT Space. Under separate cover an invitation to this workshop will be circulated to regional administrations.

Representatives from the Caribbean will be kindly invited to present the current situation of the C&I regime in their countries, in a slot that will be allocated in the programme for this purpose. The slot will allow maximum five presentations that will be allocated on first arrival, first served basis. All other contributions received will be posted on the web and may be taken into consideration during the concerned discussion among the participants. . Example of similar presentations can be found http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Technology/Pages/Events/CI_Training_AFR_Tunis_June14/CI_Training_AFR_Tunis_June14_Presentations.aspx.

Please save the date 2-4th December 2014, and plan to attend this important event that will take place in Trinidad and Tobago

Yours faithfully,

Bruno Ramos
Regional Director for the Americas

Annexes:

1. Term of Reference of the Assessment Study
2. Questionnaire