COMMUNIQUE

2nd Consultation Workshop for Caribbean ICT Harmonization (HIPCAR Project) Working Groups 2&3

PARAMARIBO, SURINAME
April 15, 2010

The 2nd Consultation Workshop of Working Groups 2 & 3 of the HIPCAR Project[1] for Caribbean ICT Harmonization, which took place in Paramaribo, Suriname from April 12 – 15, 2010, was opened by Hon. Richel Apinsa, Minister of Transport, Communication and Tourism of Suriname. The Minister expressed her support for regional harmonization of information and communications policies to facilitate increased investments in the sector. The opening ceremony was also attended by Dr Thelma Douglas – Pinas, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism and Ms Jettie Olff, Director of the Telecommunications Authority of Suriname, as well as over thirty senior representatives of the Caribbean national governments, regional organizations, national regulators, operators and civil society.

The Working Groups were established within the context of a region-wide project that embraces CARICOM countries and the Dominican Republic, and has been made possible through a collaboration between CARICOM and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and facilitated by funds provided through the European Union and the ITU under the Project **"Enhancing Competitiveness in the Caribbean Through the Harmonization of ICT Policies, Legislation and Regulatory Procedures"** (HIPCAR)..

During the Workshop, participants finalized a set of Model Regulations on Universal Access/Service, Interconnection and Licensing based on Policy Building Blocks that had been defined by the Working Group Members during a previous meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago in October 2009. Working Group Members are committed to implementing the outcomes of the harmonization project in their respective jurisdictions because of the obvious benefits that can be derived from the creation of a seamless information and communications space in the region, thus facilitating investment flows to develop the sector in the CARICOM member states.

The CARICOM Secretariat has undertaken to appraise the Fourth Meeting of CARICOM ICT ministers in May 2010 of the progress being made under the HIPCAR Project. Further funding will be available to countries under the HIPCAR Project to adapt their national legislation to their specific circumstances.

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[1] http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/projects/ITU_EC_ACP/hipcar/index.html