ITU-EC HIPCAR Project

Enhancing Competitiveness in the Caribbean through the Harmonization of ICT Policies, Legislation and Regulatory Procedures

Presentation at the

Second Consultation Workshop for

Working Groups 2 & 3

Paramaribo, 12-15 April 2010

Kerstin Ludwig

HIPCAR Project Coordinator

ITU/Telecommunication Development Bureau

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Agenda

- Overall description of the HIPCAR project

- HIPCAR Working Groups 2 & 3:

  – Activities & achievements to date

  – This Second Consultation Workshop

  – Workplan for the future

HIPCAR Project objective

- To assist CARICOM/ACP countries in the Caribbean to harmonize their ICT policies, legislation and regulatory processes, and create an enabling environment for ICT development and connectivity

  - Aim: to enhance competitiveness and socio-economic and cultural development in the Caribbean region

Harmonization involves promoting the development of consistent and coherent ICT policies, legislation and regulations across the Caribbean that facilitate market integration, foster investment in improved ICT capabilities and services, and enhance the protection of ICT consumers' interests across the region.

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Background

- An effectively functioning ICT sector is a key driver for development, growth and employment

- Global ITU/EC project: Support for the establishment of harmonized policies for the ICT market in the ACP group of States

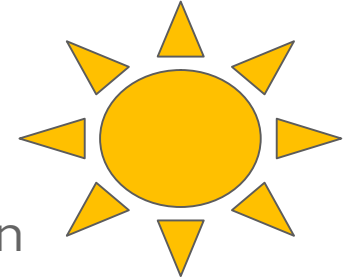- Composed of *3 regional sub-projects* addressing specific needs:

Sub-projects	Acronym	Duration
1. Support for harmonization of the ICT Policies in **Sub-Sahara Africa**	HIPSSA	3 years
2. Enhancing competitiveness in the **Caribbean** through the harmonization of ICT Policies, Legislation and Regulatory Procedures	**HIPCAR**	3 years
3. Capacity Building and ICT Policy, Regulatory and Legislative Frameworks Support for **Pacific Island States**	ICB4PIS	2 years
Project management (ITU HQ, Geneva)		*4 years*

- Caribbean context: Caribbean Single Market & Economy (CSME)
    Liberalization of services sector
    CARICOM Connectivity Agenda
    WSIS and MDGs

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Main HIPCAR partners currently active...

Country-level organisations

- Bodies responsible for ICT policy, legislation and regulation
- Organisations representing the ICT service industry & ICT consumers
- Organisations responsible for ICT capacity development (CoEs, etc.)

Regional & international organisations

- CARICOM Secretariat
- Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
- Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)
- Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organizations (CANTO)
- Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL)
- European Commission

Project implementation – two phases

Phase I - **Development of regional models**

(based on int'l best practices & <u>an assessment of the experiences</u> <u>and requirements of beneficiary countries in the Caribbean</u>)

a) ICT policy guidelines

b) Draft model legislation to support these policies

Phase II - **Country implementation**

Transposition of these models into national policies, laws & regulations, including implementation assistance & capacity building supported by the HIPCAR project

Working Groups

WG 1 – ICT Legislative Framework
(Information Society Issues e.g., eCommerce, Cybersecurity, etc.)

WG 2 – Telecommunications Acts
(Universal Service)

WG 3 – Telecommunications Acts
(Interconnection & Licensing)

WG 4 – eGovernment

HIPCAR Working Groups 2 & 3
Activities & achievements to date:

- Involvement of some members in the Project Planning Meeting (Grenada, 15-16 December 2008)

- Constitution of the Working Groups & hiring of the project experts*

- Preparation by the project experts of draft **Assessment Reports** & **Policy Guidelines** relating to the WGs' three work areas: universal service, interconnection & licensing

- Implementation of the **1st Consultation Workshop** to review these drafts, and follow-up finalization of the documents by the project experts based on the workshop recommendations

- Preparation by the project experts of draft **Model Legislation** covering the WGs' three work areas, based on the agreed Policy Guidelines (with thanks to those of you who sent comments on these drafts)

*Sofie Maddens, J Paul Morgan & Kwesi Prescod

…for discussion at this workshop

HIPCAR Working Groups 2 & 3
2nd Consultation Workshop
(Paramaribo, 12-15 April 2010)

Objectives:

With the support of all of you alongside the Project team of international and regional experts…

- Review, discuss, reach a consensus on and finalise the draft Model Legislation relating to Telecommunications Acts Review:

    (a) Universal Access/Service
    (b) Interconnection
    (c) Licensing in a Converging Environment

- Enhance participants' understanding of the issues & options on developing telecommunications legislation for the region, & sharing this understanding in your home countries

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HIPCAR Working Groups 2 & 3

2nd Consultation Workshop

(Paramaribo, 12-15 April 2010)

Modus operandi:

- Introductory presentations on the draft Model Legislation by the experts

- Discussions on specific topics by sub-groups and preparation of suggestions

- Reporting by sub-groups, and plenary discussion of sub-groups' suggestions and agreement on final proposals

- Plenary discussion on the way forward

- At each stage: **Q&A, comments** - your involvement is essential

- After the event: finalization of the documents by the experts taking account of the workshop discussions

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HIPCAR Working Groups 2 & 3

Your workplan for the future – key elements:

- **Follow-up to the current workshop:** disseminate the WG proposals on <u>Model Legislation</u> (& the <u>Policy Guidelines</u> on which these are based) in your countries to promote understanding & support, particularly by your relevant senior country authorities (who are expected to later participate in a project meeting to discuss and agree on the guidelines & models for the region)

- **Support & participate in the country transposition process** during Phase II of the project

THANK YOU

Kerstin LUDWIG
Project Coordinator HIPCAR
BDT/PRI/ITU-EC Project

kerstin.ludwig@itu.int

Phone: +1 (868) 627 0281
+ 1 (868) 627 0347

ITU c/o CTU
14-17 Victoria Square
Port of Spain
Trinidad, West Indies

Sandro BAZZANELLA
ITU-EC *Project Manager*
BDT/PRI/ITU-EC Project

sandro.bazzanella@itu.int

Phone: +41 22 730 6765

ITU Headquarters
Place des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/projects/ITU_EC_ACP/