



CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

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Dear Internet Stakeholder,

Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT)

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union, in association with the International Telecommunication Union, will be convening a Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) from 17th to 19th October 2012 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. You are cordially invited to attend this important meeting, which will be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, with the support of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.

The current International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs), which serve as the binding global treaty outlining the principles that govern the way international voice, data and video traffic are handled, will be reviewed at the **World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT12)**, scheduled to take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 3rd to 14th December 2012. These regulations were last negotiated in 1988. Given the rapid pace of technological innovation and the convergence of information and communication technologies (ICT), there is broad consensus that the ITRs need to be updated to reflect the new landscape of the 21st century.

Of particular importance to the Caribbean are the issues relating to telephony, VoIP, and security of networks as well as those relating to Internet governance, which will impact on how the ITRs are revised. There have also been serious concerns expressed by various parties that some proposals for revision of the ITRs could have deleterious effects on the operations and evolution of the Internet as we know it.

The purpose of the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting therefore is to bring together all Caribbean stakeholders with an interest in the development of information and telecommunications networks and services, in order to:

- Understand the perspectives of the diverse stakeholders on the scope and requirements for updating the ITRs;
- Formulate Caribbean consensus on the issues; and
- Develop a strategy for representing Caribbean views at the WICT12.

Caribbean Governments have signalled their intent to migrate to knowledge societies and economies and the deliberations of WCIT12 can have implications for the realisation of their plans. It can also impact on ICT development as well as the growth of the Internet and the availability of its resources. It is imperative therefore that the region's policy makers, service providers and all ICT stakeholders be very much involved in the proceedings of WCIT12 and to ensure that their concerns are heard, considered and taken into account in the ITR revision



process. We hence urge you to make every effort to participate in this important forum or to send a representative to convey your concerns.

Attached for your consideration are the preliminary agenda and the registration form for the Meeting. Further details will be provided on the CTU's website at www.ctu.int in due course.

We look forward to your attendance at the Caribbean preparatory meeting.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Lewis

Bernadette Lewis
Secretary General