

ANNEX 8

ROLE OF THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT

The decision of the Conference of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

“to present the CARICOM ICT/Connectivity Strategy for consideration at its Fourteenth Inter Sessional meeting scheduled for early 2003”

was based on the unanimous agreement of the Conference that development of a regional ICT policy required attention at the highest level, and subsequently the need to formulate and roll out CARICOM ICT/Connectivity Agenda 2003, a detailed framework for the process of ICT development in the Region in the short, medium and long term, came the mandate that the CARICOM Secretariat, under high-level supervision of the Secretary General, shall coordinate that process on its behalf bearing in mind activities and programmes already in progress at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

To this end, the CARICOM Secretariat is fitting and positioning itself to undertake the following:

- Solidly support, to what extent possible, national, sub regional and regional ICT efforts to strengthen connectivity and minimize digital divide
- Work with relevant indigenous institutions and agencies that are engaged in the various strands of ICT Policy development in the Region to ensure viable positions in the area and the roll out of implementation
- Participate in regional and international activities on behalf of the Caribbean Community, e.g. in the hemispheric process under CITELE, the EU-LAC programme under @lis and the WSIS Task Force as set up by the United Nations Secretary General and where appropriate, coordinate regional positions in external fora.
- In the name of the Secretary General, prepare submissions and report on major ICT developments, impacting on the Community, to the appropriate organs of the Caribbean Community and ultimately to the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government.
- Work with other countries, regional and international institutions and agencies for effective implementation of the regional policy on ICT and facilitate appropriate channels for feedback to guide further decision making and action

At anytime, each Member State of the Community may identify other activities or programmes which it may see as necessary for the further development and advancement of the **CARICOM ICT/Connectivity Agenda 2003**.

CARICOM Secretariat
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