



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED BETWEEN CTU AND A4AI

PRESS RELEASE

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), represented by Secretary General Rodney Taylor, and the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), represented by Executive Director Sonia Jorge, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Wednesday 5th May 2021.

The signing marks their commitment to coordinate efforts and promote joint activities with the goal of expanding meaningful and affordable Internet access through policy and regulatory reform.

The scope of this collaboration will include hosting presentations, seminars and hands-on workshops to support government officials to modernise their policy frameworks to achieve universal affordable and meaningful connectivity in the Caribbean region, leaving no one behind. This will assist them to design or upgrade national ICT policy and regulatory instruments and frameworks; and undertake joint research activities (including data collection, surveys, development of case studies, etc.) to increase research outputs and their usefulness for the Caribbean countries.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Taylor expressed his enthusiasm to collaborate with A4AI as both organisations share a similar vision. He stated, “During the pandemic, as more activities are being conducted online, many Caribbean citizens still lack the quality of Internet access needed to attend online school, work remotely or facilitate e-commerce services. The synergies established between both organisations will accelerate our steps towards achieving our goal to make Internet access more affordable.”

Ms. Sonia Jorge said, “cooperation is key to advance digital equality, and we see this important partnership as a critical step in that direction. We will work to challenge and support each other on the path to secure affordable and meaningful connectivity to everyone in the Caribbean, including women, rural, poor and marginalized populations. I ask you all to keep us accountable, so we can collectively work to secure affordable access to citizens in the Caribbean.”

The CTU is an inter-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting and supporting the development of the Caribbean ICT sector for the socio-economic development of the region.

[A4AI](#) is a global coalition that brings together businesses, governments, and civil society actors from across the globe to deliver the policies needed to reduce the cost to connect and make universal, affordable Internet access a reality for all.

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The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) is an inter-governmental organisation dedicated to supporting the development of the Caribbean information and communications technologies (ICT) sector. The CTU also promotes coordination of ICT at the regional level, identifies and removes roadblocks to ICT development, keeps track of industry progress and responds to the needs of the ICT sector, all with the aim of creating a cohesive regional approach to an ICT agenda which embraces the needs of all stakeholders. The CTU is committed to ICT development that reaches the citizens of the region, creating affordable access to ICT and helping citizens to use ICT effectively to transform their lives.

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The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), an initiative of the World Wide Web Foundation, is the world's broadest technology sector coalition working to drive down the cost of internet access in less developed countries. With over 100 member organizations from across the globe, A4AI brings together businesses, governments, and civil society actors to deliver the policies needed to reduce the cost to connect and make universal, affordable internet access a reality for all. Learn more at www.a4ai.org.