**Caribbean Telecommunications Union**



**Spectrum Management Task Force (SMTF)**

**Action Plan 2022**

**25th February 2022**

**Spectrum Management Task Force Action Plan 2022**

**(To be endorsed by the Spectrum Management Steering Committee)**

Plan for work of the SMTF with focus on the following thematic areas:

1. RFAT (Harmonisation of Priority Bands: IMT, Emergency Communications, IOT/Innovation bands e.g. Wi-Fi, DSA, TVWS etc.)
2. Cross-Border Interference
3. Emergency Communications
4. Spectrum Pricing
5. WRC-23 Preparations
6. Planning Digital Broadcasting Switchover

| **Thematic Area** | **Initiative** | **Comments/Actions** | **Time Frame** | **Lead** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.0 Regional Frequency Allocation Table (RFAT) | 1.1 Collation of National FATs in requested format at central location (CTU). | National FAT updates are in train to also incorporate changes required following WRC-19. Jurisdictions to ensure that their current NFATs are communicated to the CTU Secretariat.  | Ongoing | SMTF Members |
| 1.2 Population of a software database with NFAT data from each jurisdiction | Establish a technical statement of need for the automated database. Statement to describe * Field structure
* File structure
* Functionality

Research and recommend database software appropriate to this applicationPlan and undertake database population work based on software recommendation and data availability  | Q2 2022Q3 2022Q4 2022 | CTU SecretariatSMA Jamaica / CTU SecretariatCTU Secretariat |
|  | 1.3 Harmonisation of priority bands. Working Group (addressing IMT and IOT/innovation bands e.g. Wi-Fi, DSA, TVWS etc.):**TATT** (Lead), C&W, Belize, ECTEL | Priority bands identified as those for IMT, emergency comms and IOT/innovationDevelopment and consideration of harmonisation proposalsReview ANFR Proposal for harmonization in TDD 3400 – 3800 MHz for 5G:Indicate ability/willingness to accommodate ANFR request/proposal Survey of SMTF members to collect info on current assignments and plans for identified priority bands (Consider CITEL template)Approach ITU for providing assistance in regional 5G Band harmonization Assessment of regional bands for regional authorisation (e.g. Auction) | Ongoing Q2 2022Q2 2022Q1 2022Ongoing | Working GroupSMTF Members Working GroupCTU Secretariat CTU Secretariat & SMTF Members |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.0 Cross-Border Interference | 2.1 Focal Contact Points | Identify annually and as required, contact info for functional/technical and higher level (Ministerial) coordinators/ key contactsCompile list of the contacts received and those outstanding for general reference; post on a special SMTF partition on the CTU web siteObtain focal points for Cuba, Haiti & Dominican Republic  | Ongoing Q2 2022Q2 2022 | SMTF MembersCTU SecretariatCTU Secretariat |
| 2.2 Frequency Registration | Seize opportunities for capacity building and practice on frequency reporting.Member States to provide status updates on their progress with registrations on the MIFR | Ongoing At SMTF meetings | SMTF MembersSMTF Members |
| 2.3 Coordination Agreements | Circulate sample agreements (TATT advised of new coordination agreement with ANFR for French territories. Agreement to be placed on TATT’s website and TATT members to advise SMTF when availableECTEL also in coordination agreement discussions with ANFR) | ongoing | SMTF Members |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.0 Emergency Communications | 3.1 Focal contact points for emergency communications | Reach out to CTU member states beyond Task Force/ Steering Committee members for contactsPost contact list on a new SMTF partition on CTU web site | OngoingQ2 2022 | CTU Secretariat |
| 3.2 Accession to the Tampere Convention | Sustain awareness campaign to encourage universal sign on to Tampere Convention. (Concerns of potential signatories to be addressed)Identify and highlight implementation considerations re the ConventionIssue to be raised again at the CTU’s GC for coordination with Foreign Affairs Ministers Advocate for Caribbean countries to accede to Tampere Convention Foster coordination among CDEMA and stakeholders like CANTO.SMTF members to work with local Disaster Management offices to promote initiative | Q2 – Q3 2022Q2 – Q3 2022Q3 2022OngoingOngoing Ongoing  | CTU SecretariatCTU SecretariatCTU SecretariatCTU Secretariat / SMTF Members CTU SecretariatSMTF Members  |
| 3.3 Adoption of IARP (Advocated by the IARU for mobilising and expediting telecom relief efforts in disaster response) | Foster universal acceptance and adoption of IARP via an awareness campaign.Call on Caribbean countries to accede to amended IARP Convention, which is open for signing at the OAS. Accession to the amendment to the IARP Convention to be raised at CTU Ministerial meetings | Q2 – Q3 2022OngoingQ3 2022 | IARU and CTU SecretariatIARU, CTU Secretariat, SMTF MembersCTU Secretariat |
| 3.4 Harmonisation of Band Plans for Emergency CommunicationsWorking Group:**ECTEL** (Lead), TATT, SMA, UWI and Grenada | Establish list of bands used in each jurisdiction (To be used to inform international /regional agencies); Examine bands available and make harmonisation recommendations accordingly. | Q1 – Q2 2022Q2 – Q3 2022 | ECTEL, TATTWorking Group |
| 3.5 Network Resilience | Establish best practice policy recommendations for network resilience for regulators to develop country policies.SMTF members to review the CCCR report on the CTU web site (Resources/Document Repository) and provide any feedback on policy recommendations | Q2 – Q3 2022Q2 2022 | CTU SecretariatSMTF Members |
|  | 3.6Baseline data gathering on emergency communications in the maritime bands | Conduct a survey of marine communications to include infrastructure and national Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) arrangements, relevant national policy and regulatory provisions, channel use, operations and associated capacity:* Develop Survey instrument
* Data gathering
* Analysis & presentation

Smart Seas Project being initiated with the ITU in T&T with possible future benefit to the wider Caribbean. | Q1 – Q2 2022Q1 2022Q1 – Q2 2022 Q3 2022  | UWI / CTU SecretariatUWISMTF Members /CTU Secretariat UWI / CTU Secretariat |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.0 Spectrum Pricing | 4.1 Reassessment of spectrum pricing actions proposed in Strategic Plan 2016-2018 | Review pricing thrusts from Strategic Plan 2016 - 2018Agree revised strategic thrusts and determine specific actions to be taken in 2022 | Q1 - Q2 2022Q2 2022 | SMTF Members SMTF Chair |
| 4.2 Fostering common pricing guidance for advice to regional regulatorsWorking Group:**SMA Jamaica** (Lead), TATT and Digicel | Regulators to share current pricing methodologiesConsider appropriate interim pricing arrangements and recommend appropriate approaches for emerging broadband mobile and satellite applications, e.g. 5G, HAPS & LEO services. Capacity building seminar(s) and activities. | Q1 – Q4 2022Q2 – Q4 2022Q2 – Q4 2022 | SMTF MembersWorking Group CTU Secretariat  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.0 WRC-23 Preparations  | 5.1 Identifying priority WRC-23 agenda items of Caribbean relevance | Group discussions and proposals on agenda items for priority focusAgree primary items for Caribbean attention | Q1 – Q2 2022Q2 2022 | SMTF Chairman / SMTF Members |
|  | 5.2Formulating harmonised Caribbean positions for proposal to WRC-23 | Identify item coordinators and vice-coordinators for relevant priority WRC-23 agenda itemsCollaborate with Task Force members and engage with key stakeholder groups to inform the formulation of harmonised Caribbean positionsLiaise with CITEL and ITU as appropriate to inform and advance harmonised Caribbean positions | Q2 – Q3 2022Q1 – Q4 2022Q1 – Q4 2022 | SMTF Chair / SMTF MembersSMTF Members / CTU SecretariatSMTF Members / CTU Secretariat |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 6.0Planning Digital Broadcasting Switchover | 6.1 Develop and promote harmonised approaches to digital transition  | Establish best practice guidelines to assist countries in DSO strategy planningCollaborate with broadcast sector (e.g. the Caribbean Broadcasting Union et al) to undertake regional awareness campaign and facilitate harmonised approaches | Q2 – Q3 2022Q2 2022 & ongoing | SMTF MembersCTU Secretariat / SMTF Members |