**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 application  Plan and undertake database population work based on software recommendation and data availability | Q2 2022  Q3 2022  Q4 2022 | CTU Secretariat  SMA Jamaica / CTU Secretariat  CTU 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/innovation  Development and consideration of harmonisation proposals  Review 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 2022  Q2 2022  Q1 2022  Ongoing | Working Group  SMTF Members  Working Group  CTU 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 contacts  Compile list of the contacts received and those outstanding for general reference; post on a special SMTF partition on the CTU web site  Obtain focal points for Cuba, Haiti & Dominican Republic | Ongoing  Q2 2022  Q2 2022 | SMTF Members  CTU Secretariat  CTU 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 Members  SMTF 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 available  ECTEL 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 contacts  Post contact list on a new SMTF partition on CTU web site | Ongoing  Q2 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 Convention  Issue 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 2022  Q2 – Q3 2022  Q3 2022  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing | CTU Secretariat  CTU Secretariat  CTU Secretariat  CTU Secretariat / SMTF Members  CTU Secretariat  SMTF 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 2022  Ongoing  Q3 2022 | IARU and CTU Secretariat  IARU, CTU Secretariat, SMTF Members  CTU Secretariat |
| 3.4  Harmonisation of Band Plans for Emergency Communications  Working 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 2022  Q2 – Q3 2022 | ECTEL, TATT  Working 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 2022  Q2 2022 | CTU Secretariat  SMTF Members |
|  | 3.6  Baseline 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 2022  Q1 2022  Q1 – Q2 2022  Q3 2022 | UWI / CTU Secretariat  UWI  SMTF 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 - 2018  Agree revised strategic thrusts and determine specific actions to be taken in 2022 | Q1 - Q2 2022  Q2 2022 | SMTF Members  SMTF Chair |
| 4.2  Fostering common pricing guidance for advice to regional regulators  Working Group:  **SMA Jamaica** (Lead), TATT and Digicel | Regulators to share current pricing methodologies  Consider 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 2022  Q2 – Q4 2022  Q2 – Q4 2022 | SMTF Members  Working 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 focus  Agree primary items for Caribbean attention | Q1 – Q2 2022  Q2 2022 | SMTF Chairman / SMTF Members |
|  | 5.2  Formulating harmonised Caribbean positions for proposal to WRC-23 | Identify item coordinators and vice-coordinators for relevant priority WRC-23 agenda items  Collaborate with Task Force members and engage with key stakeholder groups to inform the formulation of harmonised Caribbean positions  Liaise with CITEL and ITU as appropriate to inform and advance harmonised Caribbean positions | Q2 – Q3 2022  Q1 – Q4 2022  Q1 – Q4 2022 | SMTF Chair / SMTF Members  SMTF Members / CTU Secretariat  SMTF Members / CTU Secretariat |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 6.0  Planning Digital Broadcasting Switchover | 6.1  Develop and promote harmonised approaches to digital transition | Establish best practice guidelines to assist countries in DSO strategy planning  Collaborate with broadcast sector (e.g. the Caribbean Broadcasting Union et al) to undertake regional awareness campaign and facilitate harmonised approaches | Q2 – Q3 2022  Q2 2022 & ongoing | SMTF Members  CTU Secretariat / SMTF Members |