## **Caribbean Telecommunications Union**



**Spectrum Management Task Force (SMTF)**

**Draft Action Plan 2023**

**[To be endorsed by the Spectrum Management Steering Committee]**

**2023-02-08**

**Spectrum Management Task Force Action Plan 2023**

**(Endorsed by the Spectrum Management Steering Committee)**

The work of the SMTF will focus on the following thematic areas for 2023+:

1. RFAT (Harmonisation of Priority Bands: IMT, Emergency Communications, IOT/Innovation bands e.g. Wi-Fi, DSA, TVWS etc.)
2. Harmonizing spectrum management policies to facilitate new and emerging technologies and services
3. Emergency Communications
4. Spectrum Pricing
5. WRC-23 Preparations
6. Planning Digital Broadcasting Switchover
7. Maintaining Information for Operational Coordination (e.g. re Cross border interference and emergency communications)

Regulatory Facilitation of New Technologies (e.g. regional harmonization, blanket licensing etc.)

Spectrum for flexible access solutions

Facilitating new and emerging technologies in the region

Bridging the connectivity gap and connecting the unconnected

Harmonizing spectrum management policies to facilitate new and emerging technologies and services

Harmonised QOS regulations

| **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 undertaken from time to time. Jurisdictions to ensure that their current NFATs are communicated to the CTU Secretariat.  Secretariat to deposit collection of Caribbean NFATs as a resource on the CTU web site | Ongoing  Q2 2023 | SMTF Members  CTU Secretariat |
| 1.2  Population of a software database with NFAT data from each jurisdiction | Research and report on options for establishing such a database e.g. via CITEL, ITU or CTU facilities  If via new CTU facilities, establish a technical statement of need for the automated database 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 2023  Q3 2023  Q3 - Q4 2023  Q3 – Q4 2023 | CTU Secretariat  CTU Secretariat  CTU Secretariat  CTU Secretariat |
|  | 1.3  Harmonisation of priority bands.  Working Group (addressing IMT & 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)  Assessment of bands for regional authorisation (e.g. for Auction or for unlicensed use) based on harmonisation recommendations | Ongoing. Specific deliverables to be considered in Q1 2023 meeting  Q4 2022  Q3 2022  Q4 & Ongoing | Working Group  SMTF Members  Working Group  CTU Secretariat  CTU Secretariat & SMTF Members |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.0  Harmonizing Spectrum Management Policies to Facilitate New and Emerging Technologies and Services | 2.1  F | Identify |  |  |
| 2.2  F | Seize |  |  |
| 2.3  C | M |  |  |
|  | 2.4  Address operational coordination matters arising | Common approach to coordination with satellite service operators | Q3 and ongoing | SMTF Chair |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.0  Emergency Communications | 3.1  Country status dashboard for emergency communications | Develop and post a dashboard of emergency communications best practices showing the status for each country (e.g., national emergency telecoms plans, Tampere Convention, IARP Convention etc.) | Q1 2023 | CTU Secretariat / UWI (St. Aug) |
| 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 | Q3 2023  Q3 2023  Q3 2023  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 | Q3 2023  Ongoing  Q3 2023 | 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 St. Aug 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  Baseline data gathering on emergency communications in the maritime bands  [Smart Seas Project in progress with the ITU in T&T with possible future benefit to the wider Caribbean.] | 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 | Q1 2022 and ongoing  Completed  Q2 – Q3 2022  Q3 2022 | UWI St Aug / CTU Secretariat  UWI St Aug  SMTF Members /CTU  UWI St Aug/CTU Sec |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.0  Spectrum Pricing | 4.1  Fostering common pricing guidance for advice to regional regulators  Working Group:  **SMA Jamaica** (Lead), TATT and Digicel | Consider appropriate interim pricing arrangements and recommend appropriate approaches for emerging broadband mobile and satellite applications, e.g. 5G, HAPS & LEO services.  Coordinate with ITU, SMTF and others to provide capacity building seminar(s) and activities. | Q2 – Q4 2022  Q2 – Q4 2023 | 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 2023  Q2 2023 | 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 | Q1 2023  Q1 – Q4 2023  Q1 - Q4 2023 | 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   * Proposal document for SMTF consideration   Collaborate with broadcast sector (e.g. the CBU et al) to undertake regional awareness campaign and facilitate harmonised approaches | Q1 2023 & ongoing  Q?  Q3 – Q4 2022 & ongoing | SMTF Members  Volunteer/broadcaster?  CTU Secretariat / SMTF Members |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 7.0  Maintaining Information for Operational Coordination (e.g. re Cross border Interference and Emergency Communications | 2.1  Focal Contact Points for Cross-border Interference | 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 CTU web site  Obtain focal points for Cuba, Haiti & Dominican Republic | Q1 annually  Q2 annually  Q1 2023 & annually | SMTF Members  CTU Secretariat  CTU Secretariat |
|  | 2.2  Frequency Registration | Member States to provide status updates on their progress with registrations on the MIFR | At SMTF meetings | SMTF Members |
|  | 2.3  Coordination Agreements | Member States share their frequency agreements  CTU to maintain a centralised record of regional agreements shared | Ongoing  Ongoing | SMTF Members  CTU Secretariat |
|  | 2.4  Focal contact points for emergency communications | Maintain database of current contacts, reaching out to CTU Member States beyond Task Force/ Steering Committee members for contact info  Post contact list on a new SMTF partition on CTU web site | Ongoing  Q3 2022 | CTU Secretariat |