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# Legal Reform and Digitalization of Global Trade

## Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 at 9:00am-12:00 AST

Zoom Meeting Platform. Hybrid Meeting

9.00 – 9.10	<b>Welcome &amp; Housekeeping Announcements</b>
9:10 -9:20	<b>Opening Remarks by Suresh Yadav, Senior Director (a.i.)</b> Trade Oceans and Natural Resources Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat
<b>SESSION I: Impact of Legal Reform and Digitalisation in Boosting Global Trade</b>	
9:20 – 9:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>During this Session a Presentation will be made by Niels Strazdins, Trade Specialist, on the Report on the Quantitative Analysis of the Move to Paperless Trade, outlining the impact of legal reform. The presentation will elaborate on the establishment of the Commonwealth Working Group on Legal Reform and development of the Commonwealth Model Law on Digital Trade.</li></ul>
9:45- 9:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Q &amp; A will be conducted by Niels Strazdins</u></li></ul>
<b>SESSION II: Multi-Sectoral Regional Panel Discussion: Prime Movers for Catalysing Trade &amp; Investment in the Caribbean</b>	
9:50 – 10:20	<p>This session showcases the multi-sectoral perspectives of representatives from the Government, private sector as well as the Commonwealth in relation to the integration of technology, into trade processes and its transformative impact. The panel will also outline some of the bottlenecks, such as antiquated laws, procedures and the need for adequate sensitisation and change management.</p> <p>The Panel will comprise the following representatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Moderator: Adviser, Digital Trade Policy:</b> Vashti Maharaj</li><li><b>International Chamber of Commerce, UK, Secretary General:</b> Chris Southworth</li><li><b>E-Commerce Legal Specialist:</b> John Gregory</li><li><b>Minister of ICT &amp; Digital Transformation [tbc]</b></li><li><b>Private Sector ICT Business Representative [tbc]</b></li></ol>
10:20-10:30	<u>Q &amp; A will be conducted by Moderator</u>
10:30-11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:00-11:45	<b>Interactive Participant Session: Regional Path Forward</b> Facilitated interactive activity to engage audience on key focus areas and priorities in transitioning to paperless trade specifically, as well as in digital transformation more generally.

	<p>The discussion will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of Current Priorities in advancing Digital Trade</li> <li>- What are the current legal challenges faced</li> <li>- What would be the greatest impact in advancing trade and investment in the Caribbean</li> <li>- Key Next Steps and the Way Ahead</li> </ul> <p>Outcomes will assist participants in articulating and outlining these issues, as in aligning potential areas where technical assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat can be provided.</p> <p><i>[Conducted by Niels Strazdins &amp; Vashti Maharaj]</i></p>
<b>11:45-12:00</b>	<b>Vote of Thanks and Closing</b>
<b>LUNCH</b>	