
Legal Reform and Digitalization of Global Trade

Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda

Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 9:00am-12:00 AST

Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica

ANNOTATED AGENDA

9.00 – 9.10	Welcome & Housekeeping Announcements
9:10 -9:20	Opening Remarks: Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda , Economic Development, Trade and Investment Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat
SESSION I: Launch of Commonwealth Model Law on Digital Trade	
9:20 – 9:40	During this Session a Presentation will be made by on the Commonwealth Model Law on Digital Trade. The Model Law on Digital Trade offers transformative benefits for governments, businesses and consumers across by providing legal certainty for electronic communications, records, signatures and contracts. This presentation will provide an overview of the Model law and outline its benefits in enabling faster, more efficient transactions, reducing delays and administrative burdens, and improving overall trade performance.
9:45- 9:50	<u>Session will be conducted by Vashti Maharaj, Adviser Digital Trade Strategy</u>
SESSION II: Multi-Sectoral Regional Panel Discussion: Prime Movers for Catalysing Trade & Investment in the Caribbean	
9:50 – 10:20	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 sensitization and change management.
10:20-10:30	<u>Session moderated by Vashti Maharaj, Adviser Digital Trade Strategy</u>
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break
SESSION III: Impact of Legal Reform and Digitalisation in Boosting Global Trade	
10:45-11:15	During this Session a Presentation will be made by Niels Strazdins, Trade Specialist, presenting findings on the updated <i>Report on the Quantitative Analysis of the Move to Paperless Trade</i> , with economic analysis that takes into account recent global shocks as well as developments within global markets and their impact on digital economy development within the Caribbean region. <u>Session will be conducted by Niels Strazdins, Trade Specialist</u>
SESSION IV: Interactive Session	
11:15-11:45	Regional Roadmap: Strategic Path Forward 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. The discussion will address:-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of Current Priorities in advancing Digital Trade within CARICOM - What areas for legal reform in advancing trade and investment - Identification of key pillars in the development of regional roadmap <p>Outcomes will assist participants in identification of keys areas for further legislative development as well as alignment with Commonwealth Model Law on Digital Trade and potential areas where technical assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat can be provided.</p> <p>[Conducted by Vashti Maharaj]</p>
11:45-12:00	Vote of Thanks and Closing
LUNCH	