CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

HARMONISED CARIBBEAN SPECTRUM PLANNING & MANAGEMENT

Spectrum Management Task Force (SMTF)

Action Plan 2025

[to be endorsed by the Spectrum Management Steering Committee]

Version: v1

2025-02-21

Spectrum Management Task Force Action Plan 2025 v1
(To be endorsed by the Spectrum Management Steering Committee)

The work of the SMTF will focus on the following thematic areas for 2025:

1. RFAT (Harmonisation of Priority Bands: IMT, Emergency Communications, IoT/Innovation bands e.g. Wi-Fi, DSA, TVWS etc. for bands NOT being addressed at WRC-27)
2. Harmonising spectrum management policies to facilitate new and emerging technologies and services for socio-economic development
3. Emergency Communications
4. Spectrum Pricing
5. WRC-27 Preparations
6. Planning Digital Broadcasting Switchover
7. Maintaining Current Information for Operational Coordination (to support Cross-border interference coordination and emergency communications)

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).	Jurisdictions to ensure that their current NFATs are communicated to the CTU Secretariat. Secretariat to maintain collection of current Caribbean NFATs as a resource on the CTU web site	Ongoing Ongoing	SMTF Members CTU Secretariat

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Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	1.2 Population of a software database with NFAT data from each jurisdiction	Agreed to evaluate the use of Spectrum-E software, CITEL and ITU resources for this purpose Report on evaluation of relevant database software	Q2 2025	CTU Secretariat
		Recommend database software appropriate to this application	Q2 2025	CTU Secretariat
		Plan and undertake database population work based on software recommendation and data availability	Q3 – Q4 2025	CTU Secretariat/SMTF Volunteers
	1.3 Harmonisation of priority bands (those NOT being addressed by WRC). <u>Working Group</u> (addressing IMT & IOT/innovation bands e.g., Unlicensed, DSA,	Priority bands identified as those for IMT, emergency comms and IOT/innovation Development and consideration of harmonisation proposals for IMT and IOT/innovation bands ● Status report on developments from working group discussions on priority bands	Q1 – Q4 2025 Q2 2025	Working Group Working Group

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Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	TVWS, NTNs etc.): **TATT** (Lead), C&W, Belize, ECTEL	• Review ANFR Proposal for harmonization in TDD 3400 – 3800 MHz for 5G:	Q2 - Q3 2025	Working Group
		• Indicate ability/willingness to accommodate ANFR request/proposal	Q3 2025	SMTF Members
		• Prepare harmonisation proposals/templates and address coordination challenges in TDD bands	Q3 – Q4 2025	Working Group
		Assessment of bands for regional authorisation (e.g., for auction or for unlicensed use) based on harmonisation recommendations	Q4 & Ongoing	CTU Secretariat & SMTF Members
2.0 Harmonising Spectrum Management Policies to Facilitate New and Emerging Technologies and Services for socio-economic development	2.1 Update the regional Spectrum Management Strategic Plan (2016-2018) to assure ongoing sufficiency and remedy policy gaps	Review of existing strategic plan in light of the range of new and emerging technologies and services e.g., ESIMs, 5G/6G, NGSO services, IOT, HIBS, non-terrestrial networks (NTNs), system/services integration. • Assessment of policy gaps (Workshop) and the scope of work for updating the strategic plan (2025-2028)	Q2 2025	SMTF Members CTU Secretariat

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Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
		• Formulate update implementation plan and schedule • Complete plan update	Q3 2025 Per schedule	SMTF Members
	2.2 Develop regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies and services	Assess feasibility of common approaches to market access, licensing and coordination e.g., • Framework for broadband and direct-to-device satellite services • Blanket licensing to manage NGSO and GSO systems • Framework for non-terrestrial systems/services	Q1 – Q4 2025	SMTF Chair
3.0 Emergency Communications	3.1 Country status dashboard for emergency communications	Maintain a dashboard of emergency communications policy best practices showing the status for each country (e.g., national emergency telecoms plans (NETPs), Tampere and IARP Conventions etc.)	Ongoing	CTU Secretariat / UWI (St. Aug)

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Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
		• Include a repository of Caribbean NETPs and relevant ITU documents or templates		
	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)	Q1 – Q4 2025	CTU Secretariat
		Identify and highlight implementation considerations re the Convention	Q1 - Q3 2025	CTU Secretariat
		Formulate a resolution of the CTU's GC and draft a Cabinet brief advocating accession to the Conventions for coordination with Foreign Affairs Ministers	Q2 – Q3 2025	CTU Secretariat
		Advocate for Caribbean countries to accede to Tampere Convention	Ongoing	CTU Secretariat / SMTF Members
		Foster coordination among CDEMA and stakeholders like CANTO.	Ongoing	CTU Secretariat

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Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
		• Target awareness-building programmes for Q1 and Q2 annually SMTF members to work with local Disaster Management offices to promote initiative	Ongoing	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 amended IARP via an awareness campaign. Call on Caribbean countries to accede to amended IARP Convention, which is open for signing at the OAS. Formulate a resolution of the CTU's GC and draft a Cabinet brief advocating accession to the amendment to the IARP Convention	Q1 – Q4 2025 Ongoing Q3 2025	IARU and CTU Secretariat IARU, CTU Secretariat, SMTF Members CTU Secretariat
	3.4 Harmonisation of Band Plans for Emergency Communications	Establish list of bands used in each jurisdiction (To be used to inform international /regional agencies); • Survey instrument (include CDEMA requirements)	Q1 2025	ECTEL, TATT

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Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	Working Group: **ECTEL** (Lead), TATT, SMA, UWI St. Aug and Grenada	● ECTEL to circulate a paper discussing harmonization options	Q2 – Q4 2025	Working Group
		Examine bands available and make harmonisation recommendations accordingly	Q2 – Q4 2025	Working Group
		Early Warning Systems Repository: Collect and centralize resources on early warning systems for member states' reference	Q2 – Q4 2025	Working Group / CTU Secretariat
		Emergency Communications Advocacy: Engage regional broadcasters and agencies e.g., CBU, CDEMA, to enhance disaster preparedness.	Q2 – Q4 2025	SMTF Members / CTU Secretariat
	3.5 Baseline data gathering on emergency communications in the maritime bands	Encourage List IV Notification by CTU Member States, if only through SMTF members	Q1 2025 and ongoing	UWI St Aug / CTU Secretariat / SMTF Members
		Track the number of List IV submissions by CTU Member States as at January/ February 2025	Q1 2025	SMTF Members, UWI St Aug/CTU Sec

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Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
4.0 Spectrum Pricing	4.1 Fostering common pricing guidance for advice to regional regulators Working Group: **SMA Jamaica** (Lead), Belize PUC, 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. ● Collect and analyse regional pricing data to facilitate benchmarking (IMT, backhaul, satellite, broadcast bands) ● Explore experiences/strategies for successful auctions Coordinate with ITU, SMTF and others to provide capacity building seminar(s) and activities.	Q2 – Q4 2025 Q1 – Q3 2025 Q2 - Q4 2025 Q2 – Q4 2023	Working Group Working Group CTU Secretariat CTU Secretariat

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Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
5.0 WRC-27 Preparations	5.1 Identifying priority WRC-27 agenda items of Caribbean relevance • Working Group: Dominica, Jamaica, C&W, T&T, Grenada, The UWI (with Industry support – ACES, GSMA et al)	Build knowledge and understanding of WRC-23 outcomes and major issues for WRC-27 (Conferences, workshops, meetings) • CITEL PCC-II • Caribbean SM Conference • ITU RRS • SMTF Meetings Working Group discussions and proposals on agenda items for priority focus Agree primary items for Caribbean attention	Q1 – Q3 2025 Jun, Nov 2025 May 2025 Jun 2025 May/Aug/Nov 2025 Q1 – Q4 2025 Q1 – Q4 2025	SMTF Chairman / SMTF Members Working Group SMTF Chair & Members

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Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
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 2025 & ongoing Q2 – Q3 2025 Q2 – Q4 2025 & ongoing	SMTF Members TATT/SMA Jamaica / Broadcaster? CTU Secretariat / SMTF Members
7.0 Maintaining Current Information for Operational Coordination (to Support Cross-Border Interference Coordination and Emergency Communications)	7.1 Focal Contact Points for Cross-border Frequency Coordination	Identify annually and as required, functional/technical level contact info and higher level (Ministerial) coordinators/ key contacts Compile list of the contacts received and outstanding; post on a special SMTF partition on CTU web site Obtain focal points for Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic & Venezuela	Q1 annually Q2 annually Q1 2025 & annually	SMTF Members CTU Secretariat CTU Secretariat

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Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	7.2 ITU MIFR Frequency Registration	Member States to give status updates re their MIFR registrations	At SMTF meetings	SMTF Members
	7.3 Coordination Agreements	Member States to share their frequency agreements	Ongoing	SMTF Members
		CTU to maintain a centralised record of regional agreements shared	Ongoing	CTU Secretariat
	7.4 Focal contact points for emergency communications	Maintain database of current contacts, reaching out beyond Task Force/ Steering Committee members for contact info	Ongoing	CTU Secretariat
		Post contact list on a new SMTF partition on CTU web site	Ongoing	

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