



CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION



Spectrum Management Task Force (SMTF)

Action Plan 2026

[To be endorsed by the Spectrum Management Steering Committee]

Draft 1



Spectrum Management Task Force Action Plan 2026 (To be endorsed by the Spectrum Management Steering Committee)

The work of the SMTF will focus on the following thematic areas for 2026:

Commented [NC1]: To be discussed.

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.	Ongoing	SMTF Members
		Secretariat to maintain collection of current Caribbean NFATs as a resource on the CTU web site	Ongoing	CTU Secretariat

Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	1.2 Population of a software database with a reference Regional Frequency Allocation Table	Document the specifications of the database for the reference Regional FAT. Recommend database software appropriate to this application Plan and undertake database population work based on software recommendation and data availability	Q2 2026 Q2 – Q3 2026 Q3 – Q4 2026	CTU Secretariat / UWI St. Aug / SMA Jamaica CTU Secretariat CTU Secretariat/SMTF Volunteers
	1.3 Harmonisation of band planning for priority bands (those NOT being addressed on the agenda of WRC-27). <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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status reports on developments from working group discussions on priority bands • Prepare harmonisation proposals/templates and 	Q1 – Q4 2026 At SMTF meetings Q3 – Q4 2026	Working Group Working Group Working Group

Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	TVWS, NTN's etc.); TATT (Lead), C&W, Belize, ECTEL	address coordination challenges Assessment of bands for regional authorisation (e.g., for auction or for unlicensed use) based on harmonisation recommendations	Q4 2026 & 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	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on 2025 workshop, propose text of current harmonized spectrum management policies to guide ongoing SMTF work • Formulate/update relevant implementation plan and schedule based on resource availability • Complete plan update 	<p>Q2 2026</p> <p>Q2 – Q4 2026</p> <p>Per schedule</p>	<p>CTU Secretariat</p> <p>SMTF Members</p> <p>CTU Secretariat</p>

Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	2.2 Develop regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies and services	<p>Assess feasibility of common approaches to market access, licensing and coordination e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework for broadband and direct-to-device satellite services • Blanket licensing to manage NGSO and GSO systems • Framework for non-terrestrial systems/services • Authorisation of ATC services 	Q1 – Q4 2026	SMTF Chair
3.0 Emergency Communications	3.1 Country status dashboard for emergency communications	<p>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.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a repository of Caribbean NETPs and relevant ITU documents or templates 	Ongoing	CTU Secretariat

Commented [NC2]: Being addressed in the WG on Harmonisation.

Jamaica also consulting on licensing frameworks. Expect to have a report by mid-December 2025.

SMTF could decide on more specific outputs/frameworks and time frames than currently drafted here.

Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	3.2 Accession to the Tampere Convention	Sustain awareness campaign to encourage universal sign on to Tampere Convention.	Q1 – Q4 2026	CTU Secretariat
		Identify and highlight implementation considerations re the Convention	Q2 2026	CTU Secretariat
		Facilitate implementation of the resolution of the CTU’s GC advocating accession to the Convention through coordination with Foreign Affairs Ministers	Q2 – Q4 2026	CTU Secretariat / SMTF Members
		Foster coordination among CDEMA and stakeholders like CANTO.	Ongoing	CTU Secretariat
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Accession to amended IARP Convention (Advocated by the	Sustain awareness campaign to foster universal acceptance and adoption of amended IARP.	Q1 – Q4 2026	IARU and CTU Secretariat

Commented [NC3]: Also make representation to CARICOM HoGs on this matter.

Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	IARU for mobilising and expediting telecom relief efforts in disaster response)	Facilitate implementation of the resolution of the CTU's GC advocating accession to the amended IARP Convention	Q2 – Q4 2026	IARU, CTU Secretariat, SMTF Members
	3.4 Harmonisation of Band Plans for Emergency Communications <u>Working Group:</u> ECTEL (Lead), TATT, SMA, UWI St. Aug and NTRC Grenada	<p>Establish list of bands used in each jurisdiction (To be used to inform international /regional agencies);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey report (including CDEMA requirements) and paper discussing harmonization options <p>Examine bands available and make harmonisation recommendations accordingly</p> <p>Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Repository: Collect and centralize resources on early warning systems for member states' reference</p> <p>Establish a directory of satellite phones and other emergency communications devices</p> <p>Emergency Communications Advocacy: Engage regional</p>	<p>Q1 2026</p> <p>Q2 – Q3 2026</p> <p>Q2 – Q4 2026</p> <p>Q3 2026</p> <p>Q2 – Q4 2026</p>	<p>ECTEL, TATT</p> <p>Working Group</p> <p>Working Group / CTU Secretariat</p> <p>Working Group</p>

Commented [NC4]: Online survey instrument created

Commented [NC5]: Recommended establishing a directory of satphones and other emergency comms devices

Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
		broadcasters and agencies e.g., CBU, CDEMA, to enhance disaster preparedness.		SMTF Members / CTU Secretariat
	3.5 Baseline data gathering on emergency communications in the maritime bands	Track and report the number of List IV submissions by CTU Member States Encourage List IV Notification by CTU Member States, if only through SMTF members	Q1 2026 Q1 2026 and ongoing	CTU Secretariat / SMTF Members SMTF Members / CTU Secretariat
4.0 Spectrum Pricing	4.1 Fostering common pricing guidance for advice to regional regulators <u>Working Group:</u> 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect and analyse regional pricing data to facilitate benchmarking (IMT, backhaul, satellite, broadcast bands) 	Q2 – Q4 2026 Q1 – Q3 2026	Working Group Working Group

Commented [NC6]: Consider additional actions under 3.5 for 2026

Commented [NC7]: WG to review/update actions for 2026.

Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore experiences/strategies for successful auctions <p>Coordinate with ITU, SMTF and others to provide capacity building seminar(s) and activities.</p>	<p>Q2 - Q4 2026</p> <p>Q2 – Q4 2026</p>	<p>Working Group</p> <p>CTU Secretariat</p>
5.0 WRC-27 Preparations	5.1 Identifying priority WRC-27 agenda items of Caribbean relevance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Working Group:</u> Dominica, Jamaica, C&W, T&T, Grenada, The UWI, CMO (with Industry support – ACES, GSMA et al) 	<p>Build knowledge and understanding of WRC-23 outcomes and major issues for WRC-27 (Conferences, workshops, meetings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CITEL PCC-II Regional Seminars SMTF Meetings <p>Working Group discussions and proposals on WRC agenda items for priority focus</p> <p>Agree primary items for Caribbean attention</p>	<p>Q1 – Q3 2026</p> <p>Apr, Dec 2026</p> <p>Jun/July 2026</p> <p>May/Aug/Nov 2026</p> <p>Q1 – Q4 2026</p> <p>Q1 – Q4 2026</p>	<p>SMTF Chairman / SMTF Members</p> <p>Working Group</p> <p>SMTF Chair & Members</p>

Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	5.2 Harmonising Caribbean positions on items of priority interest	Formulate and propose common positions for SMTF consideration Agree common Caribbean positions	Q1 – Q4 2026 Q1 – Q4 2026	Working Group SMTF Chair and Members
6.0 Planning Digital Broadcasting Switchover	6.1 Develop and promote harmonised approaches to digital transition	Develop best practice guidelines to assist Caribbean countries in DSO strategy planning taking into account CITEL guidelines and practical regional experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal document for SMTF consideration Collaborate with broadcasting sector (e.g., the CBU et al) to undertake regional awareness campaign and facilitate harmonised approaches	Q2 – Q4 2026 Q2 – Q4 2026 & ongoing	TATT/SMA Jamaica / Broadcaster? CTU Secretariat / SMTF Members

Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
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	Q1 annually	SMTF Members
		Compile list of the contacts received and outstanding; post on a special SMTF partition on CTU web site	Q2 annually	CTU Secretariat
		Obtain focal points for Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic & Venezuela	Q1 2026 & annually	CTU Secretariat
	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



Thematic Area	Initiative	Comments/Actions	Time Frame	Lead
	7.4 Focal contact points for emergency communications	Maintain database of current contacts, reaching out beyond Task Force/ Steering Committee members for contact info Post contact list on a new SMTF partition on CTU web site	Ongoing Ongoing	CTU Secretariat

