

**DRAFT REGIONAL DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (RDDS)
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF ACTION – PHASE 1**



**THIRTY-SIXTH SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COTED) - INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)**

**St. George's, Grenada
24-27 May 2011**



DRAFT REGIONAL DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (RDDS) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF ACTION – PHASE 1

RDdS Implementation Plan of Action – Phase 1			
	Developing the CARICOM Single ICT Space <i>Strategic Objective 1: To fully establish its modern regional regulatory and open telecommunications infrastructures with affordable networks using converged technologies, to provide affordable and ubiquitous access.</i>		
<i>Regional Benefit</i>	<i>Region as single Caribbean space, to deepen market and competition, reduce cost of access (single broadband market; single numbering plan; no mobile roaming charges or termination for data and voice; common regional spectrum space);</i> <i>Affordable access to quality information and knowledge through a regional infrastructure which is managed to achieve measurable digital inclusion and enable universal, sustainable, ubiquitous and affordable access to smart technologies.</i>		
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES
	Coordination: Appoint one Agency to manage the Partnership.	CARICOM SECRETARIAT	Ongoing
	Formalise the Regional Partnership Network of Agencies and agree on a process to sustain the collaboration. Establish reporting and monitoring process.	CARICAD, CANTO, CKLN, CTU, ECTEL, Governments, RICTSC, Universities, OCCUR	<i>Short</i> <i>Ongoing</i>
	Agree on regional policy to promote transformation and modernisation of regional governments (to assure transparency, open access and ongoing collaboration with civil society and private sector partners).	CARICOM SECRETARIAT, CARICAD, Regional labour, civil society and private sector organisations.	<i>Short / Ongoing</i>
	Establish Regional Policies/strategies for freedom of entry to knowledge markets; and for access to information through relevant	CARICOM SECRETARIAT, CKLN, Governments.	<i>Medium / ongoing</i>

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	affordable and open technologies.		
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES
	Monitor , the development and management of the Region's ICT markets, including wireless spectrum and other such assets.	CARICOM SECRETARIAT, CTU, ECTEL, <u>Governments</u> , <u>OCCUR</u>	<i>Medium / ongoing</i>
	Establish and harmonise Laws/regulations to support competition liberalisation, sustainable living, working practices, human rights, and to build trust (i.e. Security).	CARICOM SECRETARIAT, CTU, CARICAD, <u>Governments</u> , <u>CANTO</u>	<i>Medium/ongoing</i>
	Collectively negotiate reduced cost of technology and services, including landing rights, etc, that enter the Regional market. Lobby for treatment of the Region as one economic block for cost advantage.	CARICOM SECRETARIAT, CTU, CARICAD, CKLN, ECTEL, <u>Governments</u> , <u>OCCUR</u>	<i>Short/ongoing</i>
	Capacity-Building		
	Strategic Objective 2		
<i>Regional Benefit</i>	<i>Larger labour market pool of qualified professionals; 'crowd sourcing' may be used to advantage. Reduced cost of access to quality information and training, by leveraging a collaborative learning model, information storage and sharing at regional level, using outsourcing technologies and models for boosting expertise for training.</i>		
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES
	Provide technology support at affordable cost, for increased participation in education, knowledge and research networks.	CKLN, Governments.	Short-Medium
	Expand curriculum based, skills oriented technology literacy training and education models, to <u>include</u> knowledge deepening competency based models.	CARICOM SECRETARIAT, CXC, CKLN, regional universities and tertiary training institutions, primary,	Medium

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	Provide regional training on design methodology and product development at Community level.	secondary schools; Community level institutions, Development Partners.	
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES
	Adapt curriculum in teacher training colleges, and retrain teachers in application based digital solutions and pedagogy, to suit curriculum changes.	CARICOM SECRETARIAT, Universities and tertiary teacher training institutions.	Medium
	Support research on future and emerging technologies by networking research communities for enhanced, academic and industrial collaboration and innovation.	Governments, Universities, <u>Private Sector.</u>	Medium
	Adopt a community based Regional strategy approach, with the development of a network of community ICT linked learning centres. Promote an ICT focus on cultural/indigenous issues, and partnership with the private sector. Possible Quick Win? (e.g. Young people teaching elderly persons).	Governments, Universities, private sector, communities. (P/P/P)	Short/ <u>Ongoing</u>
	Establish regional student placement projects between the academic institutions and the public and private sectors, to provide students with an opportunity to solve real problems in industry or government.	Universities and tertiary training institutions; private sector and governments.	Medium
	Review all areas/sectors with a view to determine the capacity needs (e.g., Statistics and Legal).	<u>CARICOM Secretariat,</u> <u>Governments and Private</u>	<u>Short/Ongoing</u>

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		<u>Sector</u>	
	Information Management, Local Content and Media <i>Strategic Objective 3: '...build a digital Community culture and increase the value and volume of the regions trained ICT workforce that can create with, develop and use ICT to improve life style and otherwise add personal and economic value..'</i>		
Regional Benefit	Consistent rules <u>for</u> copyright and <u>other</u> IPR controls <u>for</u> CARICOM, Promote diversity of cultural expression, indigenous knowledge and traditions, and build value added businesses using local content. Embrace cultural and linguistic diversity, while stimulating respect for cultural identity, traditions and religions, as an important factor for sustainable development; through policies that support the respect, preservation, promotion and enhancement of cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage within the Information Society and promote the production of cultural, educational and scientific content.		
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES
	Agree on policies and laws that identify libraries, archives, museums and other cultural and educational institutions and post offices <u>and</u> other public places, as open access content providers and providers of recorded/digitised information in the Information Society, and sustainable multi-purpose community public access points.	<u>Governments and Civil Society</u>	Medium
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES
	Provide <u>and promote</u> affordable access for citizens to the various communication resources.	<u>Governments, Private Sector and Civil Society</u>	Medium/Long

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	Encourage research and promote awareness among all stakeholders of the possibilities offered by proprietary, open-source and free software models, in order to increase competition, freedom of choice and affordability.	<u>Governments, Private Sector and Civil Society</u>	<u>Medium / Ongoing</u>	Deleted: Short
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING / IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES	
	Foster the creation of varied local and national content, including that available in the language of users.	<u>Governments, Private Sector and NGOs</u>	<u>Medium / Ongoing</u>	Deleted: Public/ private / people partnership.
	Preserve natural, educational, scientific and cultural heritage (archived digital information and multimedia content in digital repositories, archives, cultural collections and libraries).	<u>Governments and the Regional Bodies for Librarians and archivists</u>	Medium	
	Encourage the media – print, broadcast, new media - to continue to play an important role in the Information Society.	<u>CBU, CANA</u>	Short/Ongoing	Deleted: Medium/Long (Deleted:)
	Encourage media professionals to establish partnerships and networks, especially in the field of training.	<u>Public/ Private / International partners, CBU and CANA</u>	Medium/Ongoing	Deleted: Short/ Deleted: Long (Deleted:)
	Encourage traditional media to bridge the knowledge divide and to facilitate the flow of cultural content, particularly in rural areas.	<u>Governments and National Stakeholders</u>	Short/Ongoing	Deleted: Medium/Long (Deleted:)
	<u>Establish and harmonize laws /regulations to support, Copyright and other IPR controls</u>	<u>Governments and CARICOM Secretariat</u>	Medium/Ongoing	Deleted: Work on Deleted: (CARICOM SECRETARIAT)

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	Regional policy direction, leadership and governance <i>Strategic Objective 4: To manage and use ICT to demonstrate good governance and increase efficiency in operations</i>		
Regional Benefit	Allows for interactive and participatory involvement of the region's citizens, and is driven by consumer needs and public sector efficiency and effectiveness. It supports collaboration between agencies at various levels to avoid duplication, to minimise expenditure and to properly support effective implementation by providing tangible deliverables.		
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING / IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES
	Advise on and establish an for effective structure for implementation supported by <u>ICT base mechanisms</u> for monitoring and measuring the results of programmes and aimed at improving accountability.	<u>Governments, Regional Organisations and Regional Institutions</u>	Short/ <u>Ongoing</u>
	Use the regional concept of functional cooperation to strengthening partnerships at sectoral, national and regional network levels.	<u>Governments, Regional Organisations and Regional Institutions</u>	Short/ <u>Ongoing</u>
	<u>Identify</u> ICT Ministers be identified, and resources committed for implementation.	<u>Governments</u>	Short
	<u>Identify</u> ICT champions to be identified for each critical sector to support rollout of the Regional Plan.	Agencies / Governments	Medium
	Develop an inclusive strategy with the involvement of, and in consultation with those who would use the infrastructure (a bottom up approach). <u>Public/Private/People/ Partnership (PPPP)</u>	<u>Governments, Private Sector, NGOs and Civil Society</u>	Medium/ <u>Ongoing</u>
	Encourage infusion of ICT in business development.	<u>Governments and Private</u>	Short/ <u>Ongoing</u>

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		<u>Sector</u>	
	Innovation and efficiency <i>Strategic Objective 5: To establish a culture of innovation and quality, and to enable sustainable production of Regional digital goods and services, the development of cultural industries and the inclusion of local content in delivery of information.</i>		
<i>Regional Benefit</i>	<i>Research and development of the design of useful instruments for all stakeholders and research on future and emerging technologies by networked research communities for enhanced, academic and industrial collaboration and innovation. Implement projects at regional community levels using the models already in train in Region, and partner with private sector and academia to broaden the scale across the Region.</i>		
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING /IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES
	Establish a community of interest. Agree on a process to sustain the collaboration, and appoint one Agency to take ownership and manage the Regional Partnership Network.	Diaspora community, National and Regional Universities and tertiary institutions, Private Sector.	<u>Short/ongoing</u>
	Provide and promote access to technology support at affordable cost, for increased participation in education, knowledge and research networks.	<u>Governments, CKLN, tertiary and research institutions</u>	Medium
	Provide and promote regional training on design methodology and product development.		Medium
	Establish and sustain a regional invention/innovation Centre, and seek funding support for key <u>inventions/innovations</u> and develop the process for implementing the factors <u>for invention/innovation</u> .	<u>CARICOM Secretariat, Governments and Development Partners</u>	<u>Medium/Long/Ongoing</u>
	Make provisions for regional training and research programmes	<u>Universities, Tertiary and</u>	<u>Medium/Long/ongoing</u>

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	that support innovation; creation of new products and services.	<i>Training Institutions</i>	
	Functional Cooperation <i>Strategic Objective 6: To guide businesses and governments to use ICT for sustainable growth and support social development objectives through partnerships that use networked technologies...'</i>		
Regional Benefit	<u>Regional cooperation to result in enhanced transparency, accountability and efficiency at all levels of government.</u> <u>NB: New Regional Benefit</u>		
	Actions	Collaborating/ Implementing Partners	Timelines
	Adopt a regional cooperation model with a regional network platform, and based on successes at national levels, for implementation in region. Ensure quick wins in interactions/transactions with citizens to gain support for full e-government, and encourage infusion of ICT in business development.	CARICOM SECRETARIAT Member States, Regional Media, Private Sector Organisations.	<i>Medium/Ongoing</i>
	Sectoral Solutions <i>Strategic Objective 5: To guide businesses and governments to use ICT for sustainable growth and support social development objectives through partnerships that use networked technologies.</i>		
Regional Benefit	<u>ICT is an enabler across all sectors and collective action in finding solutions and proving 'home grown' ICT applications can support sustainable development, in the fields of public administration, business, education and training, employment, health, environment, agriculture and science. Regional solutions (in health, education, agriculture and security) being applied in Member States could form the basis for regional projects.</u>		
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES

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	Government – Use e-government applications to promote innovation and transparency, improve efficiency and deepen citizen inclusion.	CARICAD, <u>Governments</u> , Universities	<u>Short/Ongoing</u>	Deleted: Member States
	Provide services for citizen and business needs, and demonstrate a more effective allocation of resources and public goods.	CARICAD, <u>Governments</u> ,	<u>Short/Ongoing</u>	Deleted: Member States
	Accelerate the adoption of videoconferencing <u>and</u> similar applications by government agencies <u>and offices</u> to increase productivity and reduce costs and travel.	CARICAD, <u>Governments</u> , CARICOM Secretariat, Development Partners, Diaspora	<u>Short/Ongoing</u>	Deleted: Regional cooperation to result in enhanced transparency, accountability and efficiency at all levels of government. ¶ NB: New Regional Benefit¶ Deleted: CARICAD, Deleted: Member States Deleted: Governments, CARICOM Secretariat Deleted: or Deleted: Member States Deleted: . Deleted: ¶ Deleted: Member States
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES	
	Health – Develop Policy <u>and harmonised legislation</u> (governments, planners, health professionals, relevant agencies, international organisations) for creating reliable, high quality and affordable Regional health information systems for promoting continuous medical training, education, and research through the use of ICTs <u>and</u> ; to provide alerts and to monitor and control the spread of communicable diseases.	CARICOM Secretariat, <u>Governments</u> , <u>Regional and</u> <u>International Health</u> <u>organisations,</u> <u>Health</u> <u>professionals,</u> <u>Medical</u> <u>Institutions, laboratories,</u>	Medium	Deleted: . Deleted: month - 1
	Use ICT solutions to improve and extend health care and health	CARICOM Secretariat,	Medium	

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	<p>information systems to underserved areas and vulnerable populations and communities. Promote the development of international standards for the exchange of health data, taking due account of privacy concerns <u>and ensure the interoperability of systems</u></p>	<p><u>Governments, Regional and International Health organisations, professionals, ICT Application developers, Medical Institutions, Regional and International Standard Bodies,</u></p>		Deleted: Member States
	<p>Apply ICT-based initiatives for medical and humanitarian assistance in disasters and emergencies.</p>	<p>CARICOM Secretariat, Member States, Regional and International Health organisations, CDEMA, Health professionals, ICT Application developers.</p>	Medium	Deleted: .
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES	Deleted: .
	<p>Employment – Provide avenues for continuous training for e-workers and e-employers at the local and regional levels.</p>	<p><u>Governments, Caribbean Congress of Labour, ILO, CARICOM Secretariat, CEC,</u></p>	Medium	Deleted: Member States
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES	Deleted: .
	<p>Use ICT solutions in organising work and business to increase productivity, growth and well-being of human resources.</p>	<p><u>Governments, Private Sector</u></p>	Medium	Deleted: Member States.

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	Develop and implement policies that promote tele-working to allow citizens to work 24/7 from anywhere, in order to increase employment opportunities for the marginalized and for those with disabilities.	<u>Governments, Caribbean Congress of Labour, ILO, CARICOM Secretariat, Private Sector,</u>	<u>Medium/Ongoing</u>	Deleted: Member States Deleted: Long
	Implement policies that encourage sharing of regional as well as diaspora ICT trained human resources, and which compensate ICT skilled workers adequately to support the retention of the skilled Regional working force.	Member States, Caribbean Congress of Labour, ILO, CARICOM Secretariat, Diaspora, <u>CEC and Private Sector,</u>	<u>Medium/Ongoing</u>	Deleted: . Deleted: Long
	Establish ICT work opportunity programmes for students in partnership with the private sector to allow for practical application of solutions developed/learned in the classroom.	Member States, Caribbean Congress of Labour, ILO, CARICOM Secretariat, Diaspora, Private Sector, Education institutions.	Medium / ongoing	Deleted: .
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING / IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES	
	Environment – Use ICTs to support environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources.	Governments, civil society, private sector.	Medium	
	Implement projects and programmes for sustainable production and consumption <u>of ICT</u> and the environmentally safe disposal and recycling of discarded hardware and components used in ICT.	<u>Governments,</u> civil society, private sector, regional organisations, Diaspora.	<u>Short</u>	Deleted: Member States Deleted: Medium Deleted: s
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES	

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	Establish <u>and/or enhance</u> monitoring systems to use ICT applications in disaster mitigation (i.e. to forecast and monitor in order to minimise the impact of natural and man-made disasters).	<u>Governments</u> , civil society, private sector, regional <u>organizations</u> (CDEMA), Diaspora.	<u>Short/Medium</u>	Deleted: Member States Deleted: Medium Deleted: organisations
	Agriculture – Use ICTs in a Regional programme, to share relevant information on agriculture; and to provide access to comprehensive, up-to-date and detailed knowledge and information to stakeholders in the industry.	Member States, Farmers Associations, Regional organisations, private sector.	<u>Short/Medium</u>	Deleted: Medium
	Develop and Implement Regional projects to use ICTs in improving production (quantity and quality) of agricultural goods and services.	Member States, Farmers Associations, Regional organisations, private sector.	Medium	
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING / IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES	
	Research and Science and Technology – Provide affordable and reliable high-speed Internet connection for the Region's tertiary and research institutions to work together in networks, to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge production, and to implement joint education, training and research programmes.	CKLN, <u>Governments</u> , Universities, <u>Telecoms providers and Private Sector</u>	<u>Short/Medium</u>	Deleted: (need to define high-speed) Deleted: / ongoing Deleted: Member States
	Develop and Implement a Regional project to support electronic publishing, and open access initiatives to make scientific information affordable and accessible in all Member States.	<u>Governments</u> , Copyright professionals, <u>Universities and Research Entities</u> ,	Medium / ongoing	Deleted: Member States Deleted: .
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	Promote the sharing of scientific knowledge under open commons licenses within the Region.	Universities, Research entities.	Medium / ongoing
	Establish a Regional database for key scientific and economic data, and maintain the process of collecting and sharing this in the Region.	Member States, Copyright professionals, Universities, CKLN.	Medium
	Facilitate Regional cooperation and effective use of collected scientific information and data for the conduct of scientific research.	Member States, Universities, Research entities.	Medium/Ongoing
Measuring, monitoring, follow-up, evaluation			
<i>Regional Benefits</i>	<i>Policy makers can determine the level of ICT readiness, formulate policy directives and compare ICT access, use and impact. In addition, Member States can assess the impact of ICT Policies and benchmark the results of their ICT Policies against other countries and regions.</i>		
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES
	Harmonise regional data measurement, collection and classification systems.	<u>Governments, National Statistical Offices, CARICOM Secretariat, International partnership on measurement, Regional and International Standard Bodies,</u>	<u>Short</u>
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING/ IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	TIMELINES

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	Agree on appropriate indicators and benchmark, including community connectivity indicators <u>for tracking progress</u> in the application of ICTs to achieve agreed development goals (WSIS, <u>Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</u> .)	<u>Governments, National Statistical Offices, CARICOM Secretariat, International partnership on measurement, Regional and International Standard Bodies.</u>	Short
	Develop a Regional Strategy, Framework and working methodology to treat with the speedy collection and analysis of ICT for Development Statistics.	<u>Governments, National Statistical Offices, CARICOM Secretariat International partnership on measurement, Regional and International Standard Bodies</u>	Short
	Launch a Regional website on ICT best practices and success stories, based on a compilation of contributions from all stakeholders. Maintain the website as a vehicle for sharing and benefitting from Regional experiences.	<u>Member States, National Statistical Offices, CARICOM Secretariat, International partnership on measurement.</u>	Short / Ongoing
	Sustaining the Caribbean Information and Knowledge Society: Financing and Resourcing		
<u>Regional Benefit</u>	<i>Sourcing financing at <u>the regional level</u> is an essential element of the strategy, and adequate resources for implementation should include private sector, governments and donor agencies financing. <u>Consideration should also be given to widening the scope</u> for investment and <u>deepening</u> the usage of the universal service/access fund. Sustainability should be built into the implementation plan.</i>		
	ACTIONS	COLLABORATING / IMPLEMENTING	TIMELINES

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		PARTNERS	
	Raise the priority of ICT projects at the national level and of ICT for development <u>as a priority</u> , in requests for regional cooperation and assistance on infrastructure development projects from developed countries and international financial organisations.	<u>Governments</u>	Short/Ongoing
	Establish an ICT Sustainability Fund to support ICT data collection, and statistics, analysis and benchmarking, as well as monitoring and evaluation of Regional activities (performance evaluation and benchmarking (both qualitative and quantitative)).	CDB, International development Partners, CARICOM Secretariat, Private Sector, Diaspora.	Medium/Ongoing
	Review existing financial mechanisms that could be exploited in meeting the challenges of ICT for development.	CARICOM Secretariat Member States, Development Partners.	Medium/Ongoing
	Explore new mechanisms to provide financing for the development of infrastructure, equipment, capacity building and content, which are essential for participation in the Information Society.	CARICOM Secretariat Member States, Development Partners.	Long
	Increase efforts to attract major private national and foreign investments for application of digital technologies by providing a transparent, stable and predictable enabling investment environment: Institution reform, education, quality of service, Fostering entrepreneurship, Infrastructure, High rate of new businesses.	CARICOM Secretariat, Member States. Relevant Regional organisations, Private sector, Diaspora.	Long

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