

**Draft Minutes of 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2019  
Co-hosted by GT&T  
Guyana Marriott Hotel

The 35th Annual General Meeting commenced at 1.25pm.

**Present:**

Mr. Julian Wilkins	-	Chairman - Digicel, Trinidad & Tobago
Mr. David Cox	-	Vice Chair – Cable & Wireless Grenada
Mr. Charles Carter	-	Director -TSTT, Trinidad & Tobago
Mr. Lyrio Gomez	-	Director – UTS, Curacao
Ms. Melesia Sutherland	-	Director- Cable & Wireless Antigua & Barbuda Ltd.
Mr. Delreo Newman	-	Director - Guyana Telephone & Telegraph
Mr. Mike Antonius	-	Director – TELESUR, Suriname
Mrs. Desha Clifford	-	Director - Digicel, Turks & Caicos Ltd.
Mrs. Teresa Wankin	-	Secretary General - CANTO

**Excused:**

Mrs. Helma Etnel	-	Treasurer – TELEM, St. Maarten
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**Opening Remarks**

The Chairman, Mr. Julian Wilkins, officially welcomed all participants to the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on behalf of the Board of Directors and the Secretariat.

The Chairman reported that the Notice convening the 35th Annual General Meeting was circulated on 14th December 2019 and proposed such as being read by all members in attendance.

Members in attendance were reminded that only Full Members were entitled to vote and hold office in the Association. Any member in arrears for more than six months was not considered financial, and therefore the Directors may order the name be struck off the list of members, whereupon that member shall cease to be a member of the Association. The Secretariat had informed the members whose subscription payments were not up to date and advised that these members would not be able to vote. Only registered members or their appointed proxies or representatives may move or second motions, ask questions and vote.

## **Introductions & Apologies**

The Chairman introduced each Director present at the meeting, asking them to stand. He further advised the membership that Mrs. Helma Etnel of Telem would not be present and sent her regrets. The Chairman also noted that in Mrs. Etnel's absence, Mr. Denelle Richards of APUA would present the Financial Report and Budget.

## **Proxies Received and Quorum**

The Chairman reported to the meeting that the Secretary General would function as Secretary for the meeting and would confirm the required quorum for the meeting. The Secretary General confirmed that in accordance with the By-laws, a quorum was established for the commencement of this meeting.

The Secretary General reported that they received twenty-seven (27) proxies and fourteen (14) full members were present. The Secretary General announced that this totaled forty-one (41) full members representing 84% of the membership. The Secretary General confirmed that the required quorum of thirty percent (30%) of the active members of the company - being either a member entitled to vote or a duly appointed proxy holder or representative of a member so entitled - had thus been satisfied.

## **ITEM 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The Chairman advised all present that they would have received the minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and as such it was taken as being read. He then asked if there were any suggested changes to the text. Since there were no changes, he moved a motion to confirm the minutes of the 34th AGM. On a motion moved by ATNI US Virgin Islands and seconded by TELESUR, Suriname; the minutes were approved as presented.

## **ITEM 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The Chairman opened the floor to members for questions on matters arising. There being no questions on matters arising, this Agenda item was closed.

## **ITEM 3: Presentation of Committee Reports**

### **1. Disaster Risk Management Committee**

The Committee Chair, Ms. Heather Wallen-Bryan reported on 2018 Activities of the committee as follows:

#### **Activities for the last 6 months**

- Held monthly meetings
- Participated in CDEMA's Regional response mechanism and deployment protocol - 2 training sessions
- Developed CANTO Emergency Response Team (ERT)

- Amended CANTO DRM Plan to include:
  - When to activate CANTO EOC
  - Responsibilities of participating entities-CDEMA, ERT, CANTO, DRM, Receiving Organization
- Re-submitted amendments of MOU CANTO-CDEMA for CDEMA sign-off
- Implemented the 2018 Hurricane Awareness Program as follows:
  - Ad in Cancion
  - Flyer on “We are affected” Facebook, Instagram,
  - “How to Prepare” Alert–Facebook, Instagram
  - Blasts on “How to Prepare” to entire CANTO database

### **Next Steps - 6 Months**

- Finalize MOU with CANTO & CDEMA signing
- Finalize and seek approval for CANTO DRM Plan
- Explore possibilities of VSAT as alternate communication
- Request funding for SAT phone from ISOC (Foundation) and others
- Continue support of CDEMA regional response mechanism - Regional Partners meetings
- Finalize Best Practices on DRM for Telcos members
- HOST BCM segment at CANTO conference July 2019
- Integrate Ham Radio operators in the Caribbean in the CANTO regional communications response mechanism
- Monthly Conference Calls with membership- 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays each month

### **Comments**

Mr. Euan Fannell commented on the SAT phones as recommended for the CANTO Secretariat and suggested that VSAT Technology is very reliable and more affordable than satellite phones.

## **2. Financial Advisory Committee**

The Chairman, Mr. Denelle Richards, introduced the core members of the committee and commenced his presentation by stating the responsibilities of the committee, which are;

- Advise the Board on the Financial Operations
- Review annual reports, including the budget
- Identify any new investment opportunities
- Ensure the internal controls are adequate to safe guard assets
- Recommend new sources of funding
- Work with other committees to increase revenue and cash flow

Mr Richards noted that the Income Statement had shown a reduction of revenue and created an overall impact of a deficit for the financial year 2018:

- Concerns for the Organization were expressed
- Significant reduction in the Annual Conference and Exhibition income were noted.

**Recommendations for Revenue Increase:**

- Diversification of member organizations
- Airtime Hub Online Top Up opportunity

**Balance Sheet:**

- Collection of accounts receivable needed continued attention
- The Organization has no long-term liabilities

**Income Statement:**

- Continuous monitoring of Exhibitor’s Income and addressing the issues they face to curb the reduction of the revenue category
- New income generating ideas are needed
- Maintenance of expense control

In concluding his presentation, the Chair stressed on the need to get CANTO back on healthy financial ground and increase the conference and exhibition revenue. He mentioned the need to diversify membership, to include other ICT solutions industries such as Education, Health and Aviation. Top Up services is another option the Secretariat is reviewing to increase the revenue.

He emphasized that the receivables due to delinquent accounts needed to be considerably reduced and stressed on the need to develop a strategy to improve this area. He reported that there was some improvement, as the Secretariat used a more direct approach and contacted members, which proved to be successful.

**Questions:**

Mr. Euan Fannell enquired whether there are any special organizations that could help, volunteer or consult to improve the revenue. He suggested that Microsoft, Netflix, Google and Amazon are organizations which may be consulted and suggested that consultants from these organizations can be approached to assist in bringing the revenue up. The Secretary General responded that they were definitely engaging some of these organizations, noting that Google and Facebook were present at the conference in Panama and they are discussing this at the Board level.

**3. Marketing and Communications Committee**

Committee Chair, Anushka Sonai, SpangMakandra NV reported as follows:

**Regular Work Assessment / Solutions**

- Improve presence on Social Media
- Post on Facebook/twitter/LinkedIn
- WTISD Competition
- CSR Project Highlight
- DRM Project
- Personal touch to communications with Stakeholders

### **Stakeholders Feedback**

- Work on the profile of our audience
- Make CANTO even more dynamic
- Look into options to increase ROI
- Add new flavors to the concept of our events
- The agenda needs topics and speakers who will attract a more diverse audience
- We are one big CANTO FAMILY and we need to keep that
- CANTO is offering an effective network

The Chair reported that a motto was developed for CANTO: **“If you want different results than what you’re getting, you have to try different approaches.”**

### **Solutions**

- Position CANTO as the international platform for everything Digital - everything ICT

### **Proposed Ideas**

- *Digitize our Communications*
- Save money, Save the planet by digitizing CACION, Annual Report and Directory
- *Digital/Online Summit*
- A virtual summit brings massive results while generating business revenue
- *Digital Expo Space*
- Contemporary & Innovative ways to reach CANTO’s network

The Chair recommended a CEO’s Forum at the AGM and Conference; source diverse companies and determine how ICT can improve our sector to get larger audience. In closing members were invited to join the committee.

## **4. Corporate Social Responsibilities**

Committee Chair, Jennis Asraf introduced core members and reported as follows:

### **Activities for 2018:**

- Held monthly meetings
- Focused on persons with disabilities and limited access to Telecom/ICT
- C7: CANTO in collaboration with Trip Wireless started an initiative to distribute school bags in Antigua & Barbuda to the affect areas in the aftermath of hurricane and flood in Trinidad & Tobago.
- CSR: Ask members to share CSR projects, share ideas and get more project our country
- Environmental Program, members were requested to share projects; recycling of plastic to be included
- Continue with CSR awards

### **Plans for 2019**

- C7 Initiative
- Persons with Disabilities & Limited Access to Telecom/ICT
- Environmental Take Back Program
- CRS Fridays
- Recycling plastics
- Community Network (ISOC)

In closing, the Chair urged members to share information on their CSR projects. The committee will include recycling of plastic and work on a community network to get people with brilliant ideas to develop ICT Projects.

## **5. Technology Trends**

Committee Chair, Vincent Kenswill reported on behalf of Chair, Shurmel Elias (UTS) who could not attend due to unforeseen circumstances. He reported as follows:

### **Progress**

#### **Blog and Collaboration platform**

- The Blog and Collaboration platform was implemented. It is still in testing mode; [groups.canto.org](http://groups.canto.org)
- Workshops are scheduled for other working committees in July 2019

### **Priorities**

- Improve our platform
- Publish 3 new white videos
- Collaborate with other working committees
- Support the CANTO BRAND
- Position CANTO as THE international platform for EVERYTHING Digital - EVERYTHING ICT

## Next Steps

- **Improve our Platform**

Start from within. Trends and Technology members will make use of the platform.

In July 2019 workshops will be scheduled for members of all Working Committees.

- **Publish our next White video**

*How Technology is Disrupting Politics*

- **Collaborate closely with the Secretariat**

In closing he reported that the committee would work closely with the Secretariat and recommend topics of interest to members for consideration in the Annual Conference Program. Members were asked to assist in this area.

## 6. Regulations Committee

The Committee Chair, Ms. Melesia Sutherland, reported that CANTO has as its tagline, *To Lead Engage and Advocate* and this is what the Committee incorporates to engage stakeholders.

She reiterated the Terms of Reference of the Committee:

- To keep abreast of developments in member countries
- To prioritize issues and concerns of members related to regulatory developments and emerging technologies
- Develop CANTO's position on emerging issues for approval by the Board
- Identify areas for capacity development

At this point the Chair recognized the members of the committee and asked them to stand. She reported on committee activities as follows:

### **2018 Committee Activities Report:**

#### **TOP THREE ISSUES:**

- **Net Neutrality / OTTs**
  - Creation of a level playing field for OTTs/edge providers/ online platforms and traditional telecommunications providers. The OTT phenomena is really supported by the Net Neutrality principles that basically say - *put as much traffic as you wish over a network; use my network for as much traffic you want to put on it and never pay a cent to do so*. Asymmetric regulation reduces incentives for OTTs to share costs and affects the ability of operators to sustain investment in infrastructure
  - Collaborated with CTU's Caribbean ICT Collaboration Committee.

- Explored approaches to address asymmetric regulation for OTTs and traditional operators. Draft document done but very little progress made to date.
  - Presented on infrastructure investment at IIC in May 2018. Linked to non-payment by OTTs.
  - Further to the FCC Decision of December 2017 which introduced Paid Prioritisation, the Committee through the Board published a Press Release in May 2018 for ECTEL Council of Ministers meeting, encouraging the Ministers to consider market realities in the Region that would facilitate investment in infrastructure.
  - Submitted a response to Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad & Tobago (TATT) '*Discussion Paper on Net Neutrality and OTT Services in Trinidad and Tobago*' on October 12, 2018. The response thanked TATT for recognising the work that CANTO has been doing on this issue and for reviewing and referencing CANTO's Paper '*OTT Services - Balancing Innovation, Investment and Competition*' (2014) in the Discussion Paper.
- **Universal Service Funding (carried over from 2017 agenda):**
    - Sparked by ECTEL 2016 consultation on increasing Universal Service contribution by 1%
    - 1% increase implemented in ECTEL markets in 2017
    - Completed the review of Use of and Accountability for USF for the Region. Call to Action letter submitted to the Board for approval.
  - **Cyber security**

Management of risk is needed as more devices are connected to the internet and more services and data are accessed and reside on the internet.

    - A seminal paper was presented to the Board in 2017 at the annual conference in Dominican Republic. The Board provided a directive to the Committee to re-work the paper.

## **Work plan for 2019**

- **Attend World Radio Conference (WRC-19)**
  - World Radiocommunication Conferences are held every three to four years.



- WRC-19 has an extensive agenda on spectrum items dealing with mobile, IMT, broadband, scientific research, satellites etc. There are several objectives for countries and companies on the WRC agenda.
- **CANTO's focus is on advocating and supporting positions for more mobile spectrum for mobile services because the Caribbean, in general, is mostly mobile countries.**
- **Create an Ecosystem for Sustainable Telecoms Infrastructure**
  - Incorporating Net Neutrality, Cyber Security, Universal Service, and a Holistic approach to Net Neutrality/ OTTs

After a very detailed presentation the Chair reported that the committee will continue to work persistently to lobby on behalf of its members on regulatory issues. Members were invited to join the committee.

#### **ITEM 4: Secretariat Report 2018**

The Secretary General informed the members that the Secretariat Report was circulated to members via the 2018 Annual Report and assumed it as being read. The Secretary General commenced by reiterating the mission of CANTO. The following is the report of the Secretary General.

#### **1) What We Have Done in 2018**

- 34th Annual General Meeting, Trinidad & Tobago – February 2018
- Girls in ICT Day – April 2018, Trinidad & Tobago
- 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition- July 2018 (FCC Chair, A Pai, Feature Speaker)
- Speaking engagements and attendance at Regional and International Forums Puerto Rico, Cuba, Colombia, MWC Barcelona, MWCA California (representatives from Working Committees)

#### **2) Our Commitment to You ENGAGE**

- ***Improve the value proposition to attract all ICT business in the Region***
  1. Revitalize the Working Committees of the Board
  2. Redefine the Exhibition Hall to attract more electronic manufacturers
  3. Embrace other Industries
    - MoU with GSMA to build capacity in the Region
    - Cybersecurity Workshop with Internet Society

## **LEAD**

- ***Improve Governance and Administration***
  1. Conduct Governance and Administration audit
  2. Identify leadership and succession planning
  3. Introduce New Forums
    - CEO's Roundtable
    - Women's Forum
  4. Keep the lines of communication with all stakeholders open

## **ADVOCATE**

- ***Increase Visibility and Influence of CANTO***
  1. Raise the profile of the Association
    - Attend and speak at industry events
  2. Expand outreach programme through social media.
    - Engage the youths – Hackathon that is ongoing
    - Embrace young Animators – Gaming Zone
  3. Create and Maintain Strategic Alliances
    - CARILEC – Electricity Sector
    - Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization

### **3) What We Will Deliver in 2019**

#### **1. 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, Guyana – January 2019**

- Expanded the activities to give more time to mini exhibition and committee meetings and the inclusion of more technical content. New Committee Meeting Format

#### **2. Girls in ICT Day, Regional Celebrations – April 2019**

- Promote event in all CANTO member countries
- Deliver ICT Expo for Secondary Schools in Trinidad and Tobago
- Continue Tech for Girls Workshop in other CANTO Member countries

#### **3. 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition, Trinidad and Tobago – July 2019**

- Implement the recommendations from the surveys

#### **4. DRM Hurricane Awareness Exercise May 2019**

CANTO members and stakeholders will benefit from an awareness & promotion program that outlines the various stages in the preparation for and response to Hurricanes.

#### **5. CANTO Collaboration Platform April 2019**

Blogging and Collaboration space on the CANTO website to encourage dialogue and members to sign up

## 6. Vendor / Supplier Marketplace July 2019

CANTO Vendors/Suppliers area to promote companies, products and Services this will add value to members, governments and even regulators

## 7. Laureate Partnership

CANTO members have discounted access to universities – Walden, University of Liverpool and Roehampton

## 8. Publications

Cancion Magazine (published every quarter)

Readership base of over 10K

CANTO Connect Newsletter (published every 6 weeks)

Annual Directory – Annually

## It's a Partnership

- Our success as an Association is directly linked to your active participation in CANTO. In order for us to align the delivery of our services to properly serve the membership we need to hear from you.

*Tell us what you want from us through the following:*

- Working committees of the Board
- Evaluation Forms
- CANTO website
- Direct contact with the Secretariat

In closing the Secretary General asked members present to complete the 2018 AGM evaluation form which will be used to assess the work of the Secretariat.

The Chairman then asked the members if there were any questions to the report as presented. There being no questions, the Chairman then put the following resolution to the meeting: **Be it resolved that the Secretary General's Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 be received and adopted.** The report was accepted on a motion moved by UTS and seconded by TSTT, which was carried unanimously.

## ITEM 5: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018

The Chairman handed over the proceedings of the meeting to Mr. David Cox, Vice Chairman. The Chairman, Mr. Julian Wilkins was then introduced and invited to present his report.

The Chairman reported that at this 35<sup>th</sup> AGM in Guyana, he will step down as Chairman having served two consecutive terms. He thanked the members of CANTO for the honour to serve them as Chairman. He stated that he was most grateful for having this opportunity and wished the new Chairperson and the CANTO members success in the future. Special thanks were extended to the Secretary General and her team at the CANTO Secretariat, noting it was a pleasure working with them.

He reported that 2018 commenced with the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in Trinidad where Mr. Mike Antonius was admitted to the Board. Ms. Rochelle Cameron resigned from Cable and Wireless and stepped down as Vice Chair. He congratulated her for her contributions to the Association. Subsequently, Mr. David Cox was appointed as Vice Chairman representing Cable & Wireless, Grenada. Ms. Desha Clifford of Digicel Trinidad & Tobago replaced Mrs. Corinne Phillips who resigned from Digicel Turks & Caicos.

At the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual CANTO Conference and Exhibition held in July 2018 in Panama; the Feature Address was delivered by Mr. Ajit Pai, who noted that this was the first time an FCC Chairman addressed the CANTO Conference. ICT Ministers were in attendance and participated in the Ministerial Panel covering a wide range of key issues. There were also forty (40) Regulators in attendance as well as network operators and suppliers of the Region.

The Board had four (4) meetings where they focused on the business of the organization and the overall performance of the Secretariat. Their focus throughout the years was to bring more value to the membership and strive for good corporate governance.

Based on the success of the Panama Conference, he stated that their goal is to continue to improve the Annual General Meeting, Conference & Trade Exhibition and maintain their number one position as the premier Telecoms & Trade Exhibition in the Caribbean.

In conclusion, he reported that in 2019 the Board of Directors will continue to Lead, Advocate and Educate the Caribbean ICT Industry, with greater focus on deliverables from our working committees and must seek new ways to maximize value to the membership.

He wished God's blessings for the New Year 2019.

There being no comments following the presentation, the Vice Chair handed over the duties to the Chairman.

## **ITEM 6: Presentation of Audited Financial Statements - 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018**

Mr. Denelle Richards, Vice Chair of the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) was invited to present the Audited Financial Statements as reported in the Annual Report. He reported on:

### **Balance Sheet**

Current Assets decreased in 2018 from 1.5m to 1.3m

Deficit for the year - \$269,670

Non-Current assets decreased by \$5,401.

The main reasons for the decreases are conference revenue short fall due to a decrease in exhibitors, sponsorship, advertisements and registration.

The Vice Chair of the FAC stated that he expects a turn-around in exhibition booths sales and

sponsorship at the 2019 Conference in Trinidad. He reported that they are working on new ways to increase revenue as mentioned in the Financial Advisory committee report.

The Secretary General then read the following resolution to receive and adopt the Financial Statements. **Be it resolved that the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be received and adopted.** The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **ITEM 7: Auditors Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The Chairman invited Mr. Jimmy Rodrigues, Financial Manager of CANTO, in the absence of a representative from Audit firm, Pannell Kerr Forster (PKF); to read the Auditor's Report as presented in the 2018 Annual Report.

The Secretary General then read the following resolution to receive and adopt the Financial Statements. **Be it resolved that the report of the Directors and Audited Financial Statements for the year ending September, 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 be received and adopted.** UTS, Curacao moved that the resolution be accepted and was seconded by C&W Antigua & Barbuda. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **ITEM 8: Resolution to Appoint Auditors 2018/2019**

The Chairman invited the Secretary General to read the resolution to appoint PKF as Auditors for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. **Be it resolved that PKF be reappointed as the Auditors and that the Directors be authorized to fix their remuneration for the ensuing year.** The Chairman then invited a proposer and a seconder to the resolution. TSTT moved that the resolution be accepted and APUA seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **ITEM 9: Presentation of the 2018/2019 Budget**

Mr. Denelle Richards presented the 2018/2019 Budget to the members and reported on the following:

##### **Income Statement**

Total Income	- \$1,033,324 (decrease)
Expenditure increase	- \$86,656 compared to 2017
Deficit	- \$269,670

##### **Income Key Points**

- Membership Growth (7 new Affiliate members)
- Annual Conference to be held in Trinidad
- AGM in Guyana
- Sales & Marketing strategies into areas that fell behind in 2018

The expected conference income \$735k – 400k more compared to 2018.

The breakdown:

Sponsorship	\$385k
Registration	\$120k
Exhibition	\$170k
Advertising	\$38k
Other	\$25k

### **Expense Key Points**

- Annual Conference to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Trinidad
- AGM in Guyana
- Other costs stable

### **Focus Areas:**

- Increase Advertising
- Increase Sales
- Increase Registration & Exhibition

### **Summary**

- Surplus Budget of \$65k
- Dependence on Conference success remains key thought for strategic outlook.
- Membership Fees important contributor
- Expenditures should target important need areas to accomplish annual goal.

### **Questions / Answers**

Mr. Euan Fannell questioned whether the seven (7) new members targeted are from telecom organizations and enquired what are the strategies for soliciting new members.

The FAC Chair responded that the target is for five affiliate and two full members. Mr. Fannell further asked if the current membership includes Home Box Office, he mentioned that companies like Google, Netflix, HBO and Amazon should be targeted. The Secretary General reported that their intention is to get them to join. He felt that the Association should look at a consultant sales personnel to bring in new members noting that there are opportunities out there. The Secretary General noted they are now soliciting a sales agent.

Member G. Pitt of Aliv stated that given the figures for the previous years, she felt that it is over-ambitious for an increased income of \$735K. She suggested a review the cost and finding a cheaper way to host these events. She suggested pooling the AGM and Conference as one event to reduce cost.

The FAC Chair stated the need to have direct dialogue with members to encourage engineers to attend to increase revenue from the exhibition.

**ITEM 10: Tell us what you think**

The Chairman invited the session participants to complete the online survey in order to advise on improvements to the work of the Association.

**ITEM 11: Election of Directors**

The Chairman then handed over the proceedings to the Presiding Officer, Mr. Linus Rogers; who informed the members that there were presently nine (9) positions, noting all three (3) officers are up for elections namely: Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. Technically there will be 3 director's positions in the event a director is elected as an officer, which will be dealt with if this occurs.

He explained that the current situation is that there are thirteen (13) members present to vote and 28 represented by proxies.

Ms. Melesia Sutherland, Cable & Wireless Antigua & Barbuda would have fifteen (15) ballots because she has proxies. Mr. Julian Wilkins has fourteen (14) ballots due to proxies and would receive the respective amounts of ballots. All other members will receive one ballot.

He reported to the membership that there are forty-one (41) votes available therefore only 41 ballots will be given out.

***Election of Officers***

The Presiding Officer declared all seats vacant for the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. They were subsequently asked to vacate their seats. Members were invited to make nominations for the following positions:

***Chairman***

Digicel Trinidad & Tobago proposed David Cox, Cable & Wireless, Grenada - seconded by ATNI. There being no further nominations, Mr. David Cox was declared Chairman unopposed.

***Vice Chairman***

Digicel Trinidad & Tobago proposed Mike Antonius, TELESUR – seconded by SETAR. There being no further nominations, Mr. Mike Antonius was declared Vice Chairman unopposed.

***Treasurer***

UTS, Curacao proposed Mrs. Helma Etnel, TELEM – seconded by ATNI. There being no further nominations, Mrs. Helma Etnel was declared Treasurer unopposed.

The Presiding Officer informed the membership that there were now five positions for Directors due to the appointment of Mr. Mike Antonius appointment as Vice Chair and an additional Director position was needed to complete the nine directors

The Presiding Officer declared that the following Directors had completed their two-year terms in office and in accordance with the by-law were eligible for re-election for another term:

1. Delreo Newman – GTT
2. Lyrio Gomez – UTS
3. Melesia Sutherland – C&W Antigua Ltd

The Presiding Officer reported that members were entitled to exercise the option for two additional Directors.

Nominations were opened for the five Directorship positions:

<b><u>Proposer</u></b>	<b><u>Nominee</u></b>
TSTT	D. Newman – ATNI
Digicel Turks & Caicos	“
APUA	“
TELESUR	“
SETAR	L. Gomez
TSTT	M. Sutherland
C&W Grenada	Digicel Trinidad & Tobago

Cable & Wireless Grenada and Digicel Trinidad & Tobago seconded Delreo Newman and ATNI seconded M Sutherland.

The results were - only four (4) nominees, for the five positions. In light of these circumstances the Presiding Officer explained the election would proceed via secret ballots and he would need to appoint two observers to ensure that the process was fair.

The Presiding Officer reported that there were forty-one ballots, M. Sutherland would receive 15 ballots and J. Wilkins would receive 14 and all other members would receive one ballot. Ballot papers were then distributed to the members.

All members present were given their ballot paper and were instructed on the election procedure. The ballot papers were distributed and members proceeded to vote.

On completion, the Presiding Officer reported that forty-one (41) ballots were received; this was confirmed by the Observers. He reported that there was one (1) spoiled ballot and moved a motion to destroy same. The motion was moved by TSTT, Trinidad & Tobago and seconded by Cable & Wireless Grenada.

**Election Results were as follows:**

- ATNI received 38 votes
- GTT received 39 votes



- UTS received 4 votes
- Digicel Trinidad & Tobago received 38 votes
- C&W Antigua & Barbuda received 37 votes

In closing this segment, the Presiding Officer thanked the observers for their assistance. The Secretary General congratulated the new Board and the elected Chairman, Mr. David Cox, took over and thanked the members for their support.

Mr. Cox informed the members that this was his initial presentation as Chair. He reported he was deeply humbled to be elected as the new Chairman of CANTO and considered it a remarkable honour for this opportunity. He assured the membership that he will do everything to assure the trust and confidence they have reposed in him with this result.

He publicly acknowledged Mr. Julian Wilkin and thanked him for this support, generosity with his time, his advice and that he was personally honored that he agreed to nominate him for the position of Chair.

To his fellow Board members, he reported that he was excited to work with them noting that they have a strong, diverse, amazing team, which represents a microcosm of the incredible talent available in the region.

He expressed that his outlined goals for the association are:

- Continuity
- Growth

By focusing on these two broad objectives, he hoped to be a bridge to CANTO's future. He believes they can become the largest and most influential forum for everything related to the Caribbean and technology. His focus will be on diversifying CANTO's content, chasing after new members, perhaps with deeper pockets, who are leaders in the field of ICTs and technology.

In closing, newly instated Chairman Cox remarked that members should consider CANTO is a unique intellectual engine on ICT issues for the Caribbean. There is simply no other institution in the Caribbean, which brings together operators, vendors, entrepreneurs, regulatory personnel, policy-makers, academics, international development partners and leaders in the public technology sphere, to dialogue about how technology can transform the lives of millions of people in a developing part of the world. Because of that mix, the intellectual capital generated by CANTO, is robust.

His ending words "if not CANTO, who else can? If not CANTO, what are the alternatives?" resonated deep within the attendees.

## **ITEM 12: Presentation of New Board and Photo Session**

The new Board Members was presented to the membership and invited for a photo session.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Chairman reported that this concluded the formal business of the Association. He thanked Lyrio Gomez for his contribution on the Board. The Chairman also announced that the next AGM will be hosted by ETECSA, Cuba.

The Closing event would commence at 5.00pm in this room

The meeting ended at 4.00pm.