### Draft Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting Tuesday 7th February 2023 Co-hosted by TELESUR The Royal Torarica Hotel Paramaribo, Suriname

The 39th Annual General Meeting commenced at 1:30 p.m.

**Board of Directors Present**

Mr. David Cox -Chairman Cable & Wireless Grenada Ltd.

Mr. Mike Antonius -Vice Chairman TELESUR, Suriname

Mrs. Helma Etnel -Treasurer TELEM, St. Maarten

Dr. Delreo Newman -Director ATN International

Mrs. Desha Clifford -Director Digicel, Turks & Caicos Limited

Ms. Melesia Sutherland -Director Cable & Wireless, Antigua & Barbuda Ltd.

Mr. Mark Reynolds -Director Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company (GTT)

Mr. Gerard Cooper -Director Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT)

Mrs. Teresa Wankin -Secretary General CANTO

**Excused**

Mr. Ramadhar Maharajh -Director Digicel, Trinidad and Tobago

Full Members Present:

1. ATN International
2. Antigua Public Utilities Authority
3. C&W Antigua & Barbuda
4. C&W Grenada
5. Cable Bahamas
6. Datasur - Suriname
7. Digicel Trinidad &Tobago
8. Digicel Turks & Caicos Islands
9. GT&T Guyana
10. SETAR - Aruba
11. TELEM - St Maarten
12. TELESUR – Suriname
13. TSTT – Trinidad & Tobago

Members Represented by Proxies:

1. BTC – Bahamas
2. C&W Anguilla
3. C&W Barbados Ltd.
4. C&W BVI Ltd.
5. C&W Cayman Islands
6. C&W Communications USA
7. C&W Dominica Ltd.
8. C&W Jamaica Ltd.
9. C&W Panama Ltd.
10. C&W St. Kitts & Nevis Ltd.
11. C&W St. Lucia Ltd.
12. C&W St. Vincent Ltd.
13. C&W Turks & Caicos Ltd.
14. Columbus Communications Trinidad Ltd.
15. Aliv Ltd.
16. Digicel Anguilla Ltd.
17. Digicel Aruba Ltd.
18. Digicel Bermuda Ltd.
19. Digicel Bonaire Ltd.
20. Digicel BVI Ltd.
21. Digicel Cayma Islandés Ltd.
22. Digicel Dominica Ltd.
23. Digicel Granada Ltd.
24. Digicel St. Kitts & Nevis Ltd
25. Digicel St. Lucia Ltd
26. Digicel St. Vincent Ltd
27. Innovative Telephone Corporation (Viya) - USVI
28. UTS Curacao

**Opening Remarks**

Chairman David Cox welcomed all delegates to the 39th Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Chairman indicated that Notice convening the 39th Annual General Meeting was circulated on December 16th, 2022 and therefore proposed that the minutes be taken as being read by all members in attendance.

For record taking purposes, the Chairman advised that delegates to the AGM must rise to speak and state their names and the company they represent, before making their contribution.

Delegates were reminded that only Full Members were entitled to vote and hold office in the Association. Any members in arrears for more than six months are 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.

**Introduction and Apologies**

The Chairman introduced the members of the Board of Directors seated at the head table followed by the other Directors present on the floor.

Mr. Mike Antonius - Vice Chairman TELESUR, Suriname

Mrs. Helma Etnel - Treasurer TELEM, St. Maarten

Dr. Delreo Newman - Director ATN International

Mrs. Desha Clifford - Director Digicel, Turks & Caicos Limited

Ms. Melesia Sutherland - Director Cable & Wireless, Antigua & Barbuda Ltd.

Mr. Mark Reynolds - Director GTT

Mr.Gerard Cooper - Director TSTT

The Chairman also advised that Director Mr. Ramadhar Maharajh, Digicel Trinidad and Tobago gave notice that he would not be present at the proceedings and that he had sent his regrets.

**Proxies Received and Quorum**

The Chairman introduced Mrs. Teresa Wankin, the Secretary General of CANTO, whom he advised would perform the function of Secretary to the Annual General Meeting and would confirm the required quorum for the meeting.

The Secretary General confirmed that in accordance with the bye-laws, a quorum was established for the commencement of the meeting.

The Secretary General reported that twenty-eight (28) proxies were received and thirteen (13) Full Members were present. This, the Secretary General stated totalled 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 company so entitled) had therefore been satisfied.

The Chairman hereafter proceeded with the business of the meeting as set out in the Notice beginning with Item 1 which related to the Confirmation of the Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting of CANTO.

**Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of 38th AGM**

The Chairman reported that Members would have received Minutes of the meeting via the CANTO website and recommended that the Minutes be taken as read unless there are requests for changes to the text. With no amendments, omissions, and changes proffered, the Chairman proposed a motion to confirm the Minutes of the 38th AGM of CANTO. The Chair recognised Director Mark Reynolds of GTT who moved the motion and Director Desha Clifford of Digicel Turks and Caicos Limited, seconded the motion.

The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes of the 38th AGM CANTO was put to the vote, and the Chairman declared the motion was carried, unanimously.

The Chairman moved to Item 2 on the agenda, which relates to Matters Arising from the Minutes.

**Item 2**: **Matters Arising from Minutes**

The Chairman enquired whether or not there were any members desirous of asking any questions related to matters arising out of the Minutes and informed that the Secretary General would respond to such queries. There being no questions on matters arising, the Minutes were taken as closed.

The Chairman moved next to the presentation of Committee Reports.

**Item 3:** **Presentation of Committee Reports**

1. **The Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Committee** represented by Ms. Kenisha Brown-Plunkettof Cable and Wireless Jamaica was invited to present. Taking the lectern Mrs. Kenisha Brown-Plunkett who indicated that she is the new Chair of the Committee, replacing Heather Wallen-Bran who is now retired, presented with the aid of a power point presentation. Ms. Brown-Plunkett presented on what took place in 2022 and the projections for 2023.

The DRM Committee comprises twelve (12) members.

**Initiatives for 2022 included:**

1. The Pacific region workshop on lessons learnt on Tongo disaster event;
2. Advancement of the agenda for improved communication during disasters with support of Amateur Radio Operators in the Caribbean;
3. Monthly meetings with DRM stakeholders;
4. Continuous collaboration and support of regional entities such as CDEMA, CARILEC, and FCC; and
5. Agreement with the Jamaica Amateur Radio Association.

**In 2023, the following is proposed**.

1. Change of the Committee’s name to Business Continuity in a bid to widen the Committee’s scope and enable the consideration and deliberation on a broader range of issues beyond simply risk and recovery;
2. Survey members and host a virtual disaster simulation in July 2023; and
3. Progress a mandatory roaming agreement post disaster. The Committee will be guided by what obtains in the USA by the FCC in this regard.

The Chairman requested Mrs. Brown-Plunkett to stay at the lectern to receive any questions.

**Comments & Questions**

Director Melesia Sutherland, Cable and Wireless Antigua and Barbuda rose to her feet to indicate that she would love to see some collaboration between the DRM and the Regulations Committee on the issue of national roaming, to which DRM Committee presenter Brown-Plunkett affirmed that the Committees will collaborate.

The Chairman enquired as to whether or not there were any further questions for the presenter.

Mr. Dwayne Davis, Cable Bahamas enquired with regard to the Caribbean’s roaming rates being among some of the highest, what is the nature of the proposal being proposed by the DRM Committee?

Responding Mrs. Brown-Plunkett said that it is a work in progress and that the DRM Committee is seeking to ensure that post disaster, the people of the Caribbean will be able to communicate and roam over each other’s networks.

Mr. Dwayne Davis, Cable Bahamas explained further that in 2019 when Bahamas experienced Hurricane Dorian, all inter-connection fees between telecommunications operators on the islands were removed and international roaming fees reduced significantly. He went on to indicate that this example may be a model that the DRM Committee can perhaps consider.

In responding the DRM Committee presenter indicated that a similar model as explained by the representative of member Cable Bahamas, was being considered.

The Chairman asked whether the proposed regime being considered was one that took effect only after a disaster; to which the DRM Committee presenter replied in the affirmative, reiterating that the proposal was to take effect only after or post disaster.

Secretary General Wankin provided further clarity after the Chairman made his enquiries indicating that the proposal is only for post disaster and will not interfere with members’ roaming agreements. This, the Secretary General reiterated is a disaster preparedness initiative by the Committee, and will come into effect only in the aftermath of a disaster.

The Chairman added that any efforts in this area will be purely voluntary and subject to local regulatory requirements, stipulations and legislations. Chairman Cox thanked the DRM Committee presenter for sharing.

The Chair next invited Mr. Denelle Richards of APUA, Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee to present.

**B. The Financial Advisory Committee**

The presenter and Committee Chair Mr. Denelle Richards, also presented with the aid of a power point presentation. He indicated that the Committee comprises three members: Director Helma Etnel; representative of the CANTO Secretariat, Jimmy Rodrigues; and himself as Chair. The Committee, Mr. Richards indicated, was open to more members should anyone else desire to serve.

Mr. Denelle Richards, presented a brief overview of financial activities for 2022.

1. For 2022, there was an increase in income by approximately USD495,000 [refer to Appendix II slide 3], which the Committee Chair attributed mainly to the return of the annual conference, held in Miami.
2. Overall revenue for 2022 amounted to approximately USD 1.1 million [refer to Appendix II slide 3] compared to USD 666,000 for the previous year 2021 [refer to Appendix II slide 3]. This represents a significant increase in revenue compared to the revenue accrued during COVID 19 period (refer to Appendix II slide 3), but more in line with revenues accrued during the pre-COVID 19 period (refer to Appendix II slide 3)
3. Revenues going forward are projected to be above the approximate figure of USD 1.1 million. The Committee Chair indicated for the CANTO 39th AGM, the Association has already met its budgeted targets and that there is every expectation that the annual conference later in the year would do the same.
4. In 2022 there was an approximate USD 500,000 [refer to Appendix II slide 3] increase in expenditure and this was attributed to the expense from hosting the conference. When compared to previous years, the overall expense was approximately USD1.1 million [refer to Appendix II slide 3]. This is in keeping with expenditures during the pre-COVID 19 years.
5. The Balance Sheet for 2022: CANTO is at USD 1 million in overall assets compared to approximately USD 900,000 in 2021. Liabilities remain low as there are no long term liabilities. The Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee indicated that CANTO is in a healthy financial position.

**Activities for 2023**

1. Improve the revenues by increasing membership, which ultimately correlates to an increase in sponsorship and exhibitors at events. With more members, vendors and suppliers have a greater opportunity to market their solutions.
2. Continue to control expenses using mechanisms which were previously put in place.
3. Long term liabilities remain in good standing. The Association is trending in good position with regard to revenue and it will continue to endeavour to control expenses [refer to Appendix II slides 4 and 5)

In concluding, the Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee indicated that CANTO’s long term liabilities remain in good standing and that the organisation is in good position with regard to revenues as both the 39th AGM and the July Conference are expected to exceeded the budgeted revenue targets. The Committee will also continue to work to control expenses.

Chairman Cox placed on record the appreciation of the Board for Mr. Richards’ many years of loyal service and support of CANTO, given Mr. Richard’s length of tenure and level of consistency displayed. The Chairman recognised and thanked all of the members of the various Committees noting that participation on Committees is purely voluntary and service at the level of the Board, is unpaid, and ultimately made possible through the support and consent of the various member companies. Committee members, he added, who serve CANTO give their time and energy to the organisation and without this service, the Association could not function without the level of volunteerism displayed by Committee members. Committee members, the Chairman went on, serve because of their love of the organisation and in appreciation of its mandate and mission.

The Chairman opened the floor for any questions for the Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee. There being no show of hands, the Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee was relieved. The Chairman moved next to the Marketing and Communication Committee which is represented by its Chair, Ms. Melissa Harris.

C. **The Marketing and Communications Committee**

The Chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee Ms. Melissa Harris presented with the aid of a power point presentation entitled Marketing Committee at Appendix III.

Committee Chair, Ms. Harris noted that the team was small but mighty. Julio Izique, formally of Plume Design serves as Vice Chair and Desha Clifford of the CANTO Board of Directors serves as the Committee’s champion, along with three other staff members of the CANTO Secretariat. The Committee Chair indicated that the Committee is also open to receiving more volunteers.

**Activities for 2022**

1. CANTO put together a flyer to advertise the organisation and the benefits of membership which was distributed at a number of conferences in the Unites States of America (USA). [refer to Appendix III slide 3].
2. The goal of the Marketing Committee is to find new and innovative ways to increase revenues of the Association. The Committee was able to accomplish this goal by a few initiatives.
3. Welcome session at the annual conference and trade exhibition, in 2022

b. Two summits (of one hour, thirty minutes in duration) targeting executives such as

CEOs, CIOs, CTOs, Network Ops and Engineering executives to signal to sponsors and

exhibitors that CANTO is able to gather decision makers and the relevant persons that

 can purchase their solutions. The level of attendance was encouraging. Another session

 was held for Chiefs and Heads of Marketing.

 c. The 2022 Welcome session and Summits were sponsored owing to the

 hard work and outstanding contribution of Secretariat staff, Nicole Freakley.

 d. The foregoing initiatives netted USD 37,000 in new revenue.

1. The plans are to continue the promotion of CANTO and its events at a number of

telecommunications and ICT conferences and gatherings across the USA. Flyers have already been created to facilitate same. Promotions are set to begin within two weeks of the close of the CANTO 39th AGM. Ms. Harris commended the Board of Directors for setting the location and dates for the 2023 annual conference and trade show since this makes the marketing of the event easier. Ms. Harris, the Committee Chair also indicated she anticipated having many new prospects for sponsors and exhibitors for the 2023 annual conference and trade show.

iv. Last year CANTO was able to attract seventeen (17) sponsors and the target for 2023 is one

 hundred (100) and possibly USD 100,000 in revenues via the work of this Committee.

Ms. Harris shared with delegates the artwork for the advertising flyers used in 2022 and 2023.

**Activities for 2023**

1. Review of the CANTO website with a view to providing recommendations for updates [refer to Appendix III, slides 8-11]

Chairman Cox thanked Ms. Harris, the Chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee for her presentation and outstanding service to CANTO and invited comments and/or questions from the floor. With no questions or comments from the floor, the session was closed.

The Chairman next invited Dr. Delreo Newman of ATN International to make a presentation on behalf of the Regulatory Committee.

**D. The Regulatory Committee**

The Committee Chair made his presentation with the aid of a power point presentation entitled Regulatory Committee and attached as Appendix IV. The Committee is chaired by Dr Delreo Newman, with Vice Chair Christa Leith of the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT). Committee Chair Dr. Newman described the mandate of the Committee as the following:

* To provide strategic guidance to the Board on communication with regulatory authorities and policy makers;
* Develop and recommend proposals to the Board on regulatory proposals or changes from governments and regulators especially when said proposals or changes are in the view of the Committee, disproportionate, inappropriate, and/or disadvantageous to the Association’s membership;
* Lobby and proactively engage with relevant lawmakers; and
* Represent the Association at meetings as approved by the Board.

**Activities for 2022**

1. Completed a tax paper policy brief
2. There are a number of papers yet to go the Board that will carry over into 2023 including: a white paper Digital Vulnerabilities and a position paper on the Telecommunications Sector: rising to the challenges of innovation, disruption, and changing expectations. [Appendix IV, slide 3 refers]

The Committee Chair called for volunteers to join the Committee to facilitate the finalisation of the number of papers before the Committee.

Chairman Cox recognised former Director of the Board, Christa Leith and thanked the Committee for its work before opening the floor to questions and/or comments. There being no comments or questions, the Committee’s Chair, Dr Delreo Newman was excused.

Chairman Cox next invited Ms. Jennis Asraf to present on behalf of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee.

E. **The Corporate Social Responsibility Committee**

Ms. Jennis Asraf presented with the aid of a power point presentation entitled Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee.

The Committee has received new volunteers, including a volunteer from new member Datasur and a representative from the CANTO Secretariat. The CSR Committee’s mandate is not only to focus on business but also on the positive contributions the industry can make on the social, health, education, and other areas of the society including employee well-being.

**Activities for 2022**

* E-waste initiative for implementation in Suriname in collaboration with communities’ centers and other stakeholders
* E-waste bin placed in several locations
* Adopted in certain areas well, whereas in other the receptacles were used as trash bins. Education is needed to promote a better understanding of the initiative and create an appropriate ecosystem in support of e-waste management.

**Activities for 2023**

* Expansion of E-waste project
* Involvement of schools
* Paper to delineate all the various elements of the project, detailing the decision-making processes, pitfalls and success in order to serve as a template that other jurisdictions can adopt.
* Focus on UN Sustainable Development Goals, Education, E-Waste Management and Health.

Chairman Cox thanked the Committee for the work they are doing and indicated that CANTO can connect this Committee with the right persons, in the right business units across its membership to facilitate their work and contributions.

Secretary General Wankin in thanking the Committee for its work, applauded their staging of the Wellness Walk on the morning of first day of the AGM, The Secretary General also disclosed that the funds and donations raised during the activity will be used to support a school of girls in Suriname. Secretary General Wankin asked the Committee Chair, Ms. Jennis Asraf to elaborate further.

Chairman Cox opened the floor for any comments or questions for the CSR Committee Chair.

**Comments and Questions**

Director Sutherland, Cable and Wireless Antigua and Barbuda thanked the Committee for its work and noted that it was timely that the industry was demonstrating its support and connection with the UN Sustainable Development (SDG) goals which had the ability to transform entire communities. She advised the Committee to reach out to UN Agencies to see how those Agencies can assist CANTO to play their part in achieving the UN SDG targets. Director Sutherland affirmed that CANTO is moving in the right direction with this initiative.

There being no other comments or questions, the Committee’s session was closed by the Chairman who then invited Mr. Vincent Kenswil to present on behalf of the Technology Trends Committee.

F. **The Technology Trends Committee**

Acting Chair Mr. Vincent Kenswil presented using the aid of a power point presentation entitled Technology Trends attached as Appendix V.

**Activities 2022 and Projections for 2023**

1. Virtual training in collaboration with ICANN facilitated by Mr. Albert Daniel and supported by the Secretary General
2. The Implementation of collaboration platform for all the Committees to host their information is still pending due to technical issues which are being addressed. The Committee is hoping to realise full implementation of the platform in 2023 and will host a workshop for other Working Committees to familiarise them with its use.
3. Development of White Videos which are short conversation on topics. More White videos are planned for 2023.
4. Work closely with Secretariat to derive more topics and ideas.

Chairman Cox thanked to Committee for its work and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Mr. Kenswil was dismissed since there were no questions or comments from the floor.

Chairman Cox next invited the Vendors and Suppliers Committee Vice Chair to present on behalf of the Committee.

**G. The Vendors and Suppliers Committee**

Committee Vice Chair, Mr. Geraume Bor delivered the presentation entitled Vendors and Suppliers Committee attached as Appendix VII on behalf of Committee Chair Mr. Shaikh Hosein who sent his regrets.

Mr. Bor explained that one of the challenges that this Committee faced was the presence of more inactive than active members, an issue for which the Committee is seeking solutions.

Turning the work of the Committee, Mr. Bor, said that the Vendors and Suppliers Committee considered the value proposition that CANTO offers to vendors and suppliers attending CANTO events; the eMarket initiative was a formulated as a tangible benefit to vendors.

Many activities were undertaken including the planning and launch of the eMarket. In 2022, the Committee used the CANTO 38th AGM as a pilot platform from which to launch the eMarket and gauge the interest of the membership. The Committee has since developed marketing strategies based on what was learned to propel adoption of the platform.

In 2023, the Committee is working to improve the adoption and use of the eMarket platform [Appendix VII refers]

**Activities for 2023**

1. Objective: Widespread adoption of eMarket platform by July 2023
2. Roadshow to improve eMarket adoption
3. Campaign in member territories
4. Measure success of adoption drive

The Chairman recognised the contribution of Committee Chair and Vice Chair for their passion, drive and commitment to the organisation and praised their profound achievement with regard to development and launch of the CANTO eMarket.

Chairman Cox opened the floor for questions and/or comments. The session was closed and Mr. Bor dismissed with no questions or comments being raised by delegates.

**Item 4**: **Secretariat Report 2022**

Chairman Cox next indicated that the AGM would now receive and consider the Report of the Secretary General for the year ended 30th September 2022. The Report, he noted, was circulated to members via the Annual Report and requested that it be taken as having been read. The Secretary General was invited to present the main highlights of the Report.

Secretary General Wankin recognised and praised the work of the Committees saying the Secretariat could not achieve all that it had without the support and contribution of the various Committees.

The Secretariat’s Report to the 39th AGM was told in pictures.

**Activities 2022**

1. The 2022 (38th) AGM was held virtually and the Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition was held in person. The Annual Conference and Exhibition was very successful based on feedback from stakeholders via a survey. The events got over eighty-four (84) percent stakeholder satisfaction.
2. Publications were moved from paper-based to online, resulting in reduced production costs, wider readership and a more fully engaged membership. Contribution of articles from the membership increased and the Secretary General further advocated for members to continue their submission of articles for the CANCION magazine as it reaches every ICT stakeholder in the region. She reiterated it is therefore a good way for members to showcase what they are doing and the talent within the membership.
3. CANTO Conversations, developed in response to the restrictions that came about because of the COVID 19 pandemic, have been a success receiving positive feedback and uptake, so the initiative will continue from March to June annually. The Secretary General also encouraged the membership to participate in the CANTO Conversations as its value is in that it keeps members abreast of the latest developments in the various member jurisdictions.
4. Production of white papers from the Regulatory and Technology Trends Committees has been an important initiative of the Association, garnering positive feedback from the industry. An Axon Report has been distributed to members and it is useful in aiding members who are in discussions with regulators and policy makers.
5. The achievements of the Association are as a result of the membership and various Committees to whom the Secretariat provides support.
6. There is an active Women in ICT Committee which explored the concept of male allyship in support of the growth and career development of women. Girls in ICT Day, started in Trinidad and Tobago, is an initiative also supported by this Committee. This initiative has since received traction in Barbados and Jamaica. In 2023, it is anticipated that more representation will come from the other member countries.
7. E-waste project was another activity of the Association.
8. The Secretary General reminded delegates of the upcoming Conference in July 2023 being staged by CANTO Secretariat for the membership. The value she reiterated in the event’s ability to bring the relevant stakeholders together and networking. Delegates were asked to mark the date and utilize the event for that which it was created.

Chairman Cox thanked the Secretary General for her Report and invited comments and/or questions on the Report from the floor. Since there were no questions proffered, the Chairman proposed the following motion “Be it resolved that the Secretary General’s Annual Report for the year ended 30th September 2022 be received and adopted.” Chairman Cox asked for a proposer and seconder of the motion. Director Melesia Sutherland of Cable and Wireless Antigua and Barbuda was the recognised as the proposer and Director Dr Delreo Newman of ATN International seconded the motion. The Chairman placed the motion before the membership for voting by the raising of the right hand and declaration of ‘aye’ for those in favour of the motion or the raising of the right hand with declaration of ‘nay’ for those against. The motion was carried.

The Chairman then turned the meeting over to the Vice Chair, Mr. Mike Antonius of TELESUR who invited the Chairman to present the Chairman’s Report.

**Item 5** **Chairman’s Report 2022**

The Chairman said that for two consecutive terms he had had the honour and privilege of leading the Board of CANTO through four of the most difficult years of the organisation. In March 2020, the Board realised that for the first time in thirty (30) or so years, that the Association would not have been able to stage an in-person annual conference and trade show for July 2020 and perhaps for the foreseeable future. This meant that the continued operations of CANTO were at risk and changes had to be made to the way the Association functioned in order to survive and remain sustainable. The Chairman went on to add that the Board of Directors engaged in a strategy of reducing operational cost, having staff work from home, and staging a number of initiatives virtually. A weekly virtual webinar magazine called CANTO Conversation was also staged to ensure the membership remained engaged.

Chairman Cox reported that all of the events staged since January 2019 had been profitable, noting that CANTO had set records at both the 2022 annual conference and trade show in July and at the 2023 39th AGM in terms of both attendance and revenues. Membership, he noted as well as sponsorship is increasing. Revenues are also increasing though modestly.

The Chairman then asked the floor to join in recognising the sterling contribution of the Secretary General, Mrs. Teresa Wankin and the Secretariat Staff for their extremely hard work and resourcefulness. Delegates joined the Chairman in delivering a resounding round of applause. The Chairman noted that Secretary General Wankin is an incredible professional. She has been able to inspire, lead and endure some of the most difficult circumstances. And in the Caribbean, where there is a higher-than-average number of women in senior leadership in ICT, Mrs. Teresa Wankin is a shining example, Chairman Cox noted.

At the end of the Chairman’s Report, the Vice Chair returned the meeting to the Chairman.

**Item 6** **Presentation of Audited Financial Statements 30th September 2022**

The Chairman indicated that statements were previously circulated and requested that they be taken as read. Chairman Cox next called on Treasurer Helma Etnel to provide an overview of the financial statements.

Last year 2022 was the third year of the COVID 19 pandemic impacts, the Treasurer noted. CANTO had one virtual and one in-person event. Despite inflationary pressures, CANTO was able to pivot and adapt in order to remain relevant to its stakeholders and have the revenues needed for the conduct of business.

**Statement of Financial Position**

A. **Review of the Balance Sheet**

1. The current assets stood at USD635,000 a change of USD166,000 attributed to more cash in hand owing to delayed payments for Miami Conference which came about because of lingering uncertainty with regards to the COVID 19 pandemic and likely outcomes as it relates to the staging of in-person meetings
2. Non-current assets are slightly lower because of depreciation of fixed assets
3. Liabilities were high owing to delayed payments for the Miami Conference held in July 2022
4. Reserves increased by USD46,000 because of profit of USD46,000

B. **Review of the Income Statement**

1. Total income stood at USD1.1 million an increase of close to USD 500,000 over the previous year. This resulted from the in-person Conference in Miami accruing higher revenues.
2. Expenditure stood at USD1.1 million, USD 500,000 higher than previous year owing to the expenses of the hotel. Surplus of USD 50,000 and after-tax profit of TTD46,000

This is significant for a non-profit organisation at a time when many for-profit organisations were struggling to stay afloat with inflationary and other pressures, the Treasurer noted. CANTO, she said, was able to turn a profit and remain financially independent.

Details of Income overview

1. Membership Fees, stable with six new members and the exit of others
2. Advertising increased because of more publications and advertisements
3. Income from the annual conference increased significantly USD636,000 because of in-person Conference compared to prior year when that meeting was virtual.
4. Virtual AGM was larger than the year before
5. On Expenditure side, in-person conference redounded to more expenditure as compared to small costs for hosting virtual events. It is not always only about money but increasing value to membership, the Treasurer added.
6. AGM though a virtual event in 2022, the platform cost was higher
7. Employee costs was kept steady and unchanged.
8. Other expenses arose from travel costs associated with the in-person Conference

In conclusion, income was higher in 2022 over 2021 because of in-person Conference, expenditure was higher because of costs of staging the in-person event and travel costs associated with the Conference. Profit USD 46,000.

For telecommunications firms this profit may appear small but the Treasurer noted that the Association is a non-profit organisation with the major proportion of its revenues coming from membership fees.

The Financial Statements were prepared by the Secretariat and reviewed by the Financial Advisory Committee Chair.

The Chairman invited comments or questions from the floor on the review of the financial statements. No comments or questions were raised. In the absence of comments and questions, the Chairman proposed the motion that the 39th AGM receive and consider the financial statements and audit results of Directors for the year ended 30th September 2022. The Chairman next called on persons to propose and second the motion. Digicel Turks and Caicos was recognised as the proposer and Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company as the seconder. Delegates in favour of the motion was asked to raise their right hand and declare Yea and proponents against were asked to raise their right hand and say Nay. The motion was unanimously carried in the affirmative.

The Chairman recognised and thanked Mrs. Etnel who serves as the Treasurer to the Association. He indicated that this AGM is the final for Treasurer Etnel who is retiring from her firm and therefore no longer eligible to represent her organisation on the Board. The Chairman thanked Treasurer Etnel for over twenty (20) years’ service to her firm, the region and CANTO. Treasurer Etnel received a standing ovation from the floor and head table.

**Item 7:** **Auditors Report for the year ended 30th September 2022**

The Chairman next called on Mr. Jimmy Rodrigues, Secretariat’s Manager of Finance and Administration to read to Auditors’s Report on behalf of DSB Financial Solutions, which was read.

The Secretary General then read the 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, 30th 2022 be received and adopted. C&W Antigua & Barbuda moved that the resolution be accepted and was seconded by ATN International. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Item 8**: **Resolution to Appoint Auditors 2022/2023**

The Chairman invited the Secretary General to read the resolution to appoint DSB Financial Solutions as Auditors for the year ending 30th September, 2023. The Secretary General read the following:

Be it resolved that DSB Financial Solutions be reappointed as the Auditors and that the Directors be authorised to fix their remuneration for the ensuing year. The Chairman then invited a proposer and a seconder to the resolution. Telecommunications Services of Trinidad & Tobago as the proposer and ATN International as the seconder were recognised. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then invited the Treasurer to present the budget for 2022/2023.

**Item 9**: **Presentation of the 2022/2023 Budget**

Treasurer Etnel indicated the theme for 2023 is: Fostering a Resilient Datasphere for All.

The aim is to increase both income and expenditure slightly because only in-person events will be staged with a surplus of USD 40,0000.

This is to be achieved by attracting approximately seven new members. Conference income will be higher because CANTO is building on the success of the last year. Income projected from Conference is USD 715,000. Advertising will also increase to USD 61,000. AGM is at a higher revenue. Expenditures will also increase. Total anticipated surplus is USD 154,000.

In-person AGM met and exceeded its targets.

Employee costs and other expenses remain stable.

Total USD 1.3 million

Expenses USD1.2 million

Surplus after taxes USD40, 000

The Chairman invited the Secretary General to read the proposed resolution, “Be is resolved that the 2022/2023 the budget estimates as approved by the Board of Directors and presented by the Treasurer be received and adopted.”

Cable Bahamas was recognised as the proposer and ATN International as the seconder.

The Chairman asked any in favour to indicate their approval with the raising of their right hand, saying aye and those not in favour raising their right hand and saying nay. The resolution was passed and the motion was carried unanimously.

**Item 10:** **Tell us What You Think**

Members were encouraged to participate in a CANTO post-event survey; the responses from which are used to improve the membership’s experience for upcoming event.

The Chairman advised the meeting that they will now move on to the election of officers and that a former CANTO Chairman will serve as the Presiding Officer

**Item 11**: **Election of Directors**

The Chairman handed over the proceedings to the Presiding Officer, Mr. Julian Wilkins; who informed the members that the election will seek to fill the posts of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Directors. He asked the Chair, the Vice Chairman and the Treasurer to step down.

The Presiding Officer advised the members of the following rules:

1. Only one representative or proxy holder can represent a member
2. Only full members can vote at the elections
3. Each member has one vote

Present are thirteen (13) members with votes and twenty-eight (28) proxies for forty-one (41) votes in total.

The Presiding Officer identified all representatives of the membership eligible to vote, one by one.

The Presiding Officer informed that the Chairman Mr. David Cox having effectively completed his second term in office and according to bye-laws 7.1 is not eligible for another term. The Presiding Officer then declared the Chairmanship position as vacant and called for nominations.

**Nominations for the position of Chairman**

**Proposer** **Seconder** **Nominee**

Digicel C&W Grenada Mr. Mike Antonius, Telesur

With no further nominations for the positions from the floor, the nominations were closed and Mr. Mike Antonius was appointed and congratulated as Chair.

The Presiding Officer then advised the position of Vice Chairman has effectively completed two consecutive two-year terms and in accordance with the Association’s bye-laws 7.1 is not eligible for another term. The Presiding Officer declared the position of Vice Chair as vacant and nominations were invited for the position.

 **Nominations for the post of Vice Chairman:**

**Proposer** **Seconder** **Nominee**

Digicel GTT Dr Delreo Newman, ATN International

There being no further nominations, Dr Delreo Newman was appointed Vice Chair at the close of nominations.

**Nominations were invited for the post of Treasurer**

The Treasurer has completed a fourth two-year term and is eligible for re-election for another term according to the bye-laws 7.1. Members were invited to make a nomination for the position of Treasurer.

**Proposer Seconder Nominee**

ATN International Digicel Turks and Caicos Mr. Gerard Cooper, TSTT

With no further nominations from the floor, Mr. Gerard Cooper of TSTT was congratulated as Treasurer at the close of nominations.

**Nominations were invited for the five vacancies of Director**

The Presiding Officer declared that the following Directors have completed their two-year terms in office and in accordance with the bye-law 8.1 were eligible for re-election for another term:

Dr Delreo Newman - ATN International

Mr. Mark Reynolds - GTT

Mr. Ramhadhar Maharajh - Digicel Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Melesia Sutherland - C&W Antigua and Barbuda

As the Treasurer position is now filled by Mr. Gerard Cooper an additional vacancy exists. Director Ms. Desha Clifford, Digicel Turks & Caicos, post as Director is not up for re-election.

Nominations were invited for the five vacancies of Director

**Proposer Seconder Nominee**

ATN International GTT Mr Ramadhar Maharajh, Digicel Trinidad and Tobago

Digicel Turks & Caicos TELESUR Mr. David Cox, C&W Grenada

Digicel Turks & Caicos ATN International Ms. Melesia Sutherland, C&W Antigua and Barbuda

C&W Antigua and Barbuda ATN International Mr. Kendall Dupersoy, TELEM

Digicel Turks & Caicos C&W Grenada Mr. Mark Reynolds, GTT

With no further nominations from the floor, the five nominees:

1. Mr. Ramadhar Maharajh, Digicel Trinidad and Tobago;
2. Mr. David Cox, C&W Grenada;
3. Ms. Melesia Sutherland, C&W Antigua and Barbuda
4. Mr. Kendall Dupersoy, TELEM; and
5. Mr. Mark Reynolds, GTT were congratulated as Directors at the close of nominations.

The meeting was next handed over to the new Chairman, Mr. Mike Antonius of TELESUR.

Chairman Antonius, invited the new Vice Chairman and Treasurer to the head table. The newly elected Chairman thanked CANTO and its membership for their full support. The incoming Chair also extended his gratitude to former TELESUR CEOs and the current Executive and Staff of TELESUR. He noted that without their support and commitment, the performance of his various roles and ultimately his professional successes, would have been challenging.

Chairman Antonius also led the CANTO Secretariat, former and newly elected members of the CANTO Board of Directors, and the membership in paying tribute to outgoing Chairman David Cox of C&W Grenada. He was recognised for his excellent stewardship of the organisation during its most turbulent times.

Chairman Antonius also thanked the 39th AGM’s Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Ferranto Dongol for his outstanding service to the CANTO 39th AGM.

**Item 12**: **Presentation of New Board and Photo Session**

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

**CONCLUSION**

The formal business of the Annual General Meeting having come to an end, the Chairman thanked the membership for attending and called on the Association to build a greater sense of commitment among members in a bid to achieve better results going forward.

The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.