Draft List of Questions for Ministers – CANTO 2016
Ministerial Roundtable Discussions

1. How can the telecoms industry and governments improve their dialogue and cooperation in regional and international fora on ICT issues affecting the region such as WRC (World Radio Conference), private sector and civil society?

2. What plans do governments have to keep Network Operators investing in the region and expanding their networks?

3. Ministers are requested to advise the industry on the regulatory environment that will exist for operators in the next 2-3 years and what this environment is intended to achieve.

4. What direction would the government like to see the telecom industry pursue for the betterment of the region and its citizens.

5. Do Ministers believe that USFs in the Caribbean are having the impact that they were created for? And if not, what can be done to ensure that these funds are being utilised effectively?

6. What do you think Operators can do to improve trust and build relations in the region?

7. Ministers have expressed their concerns about pricing. Can Ministers elaborate a bit further and perhaps provide specific examples of pricing concerns?

8. Broadband providers believe that the Internet should be open and free from censorship but a 'blanket approach' favours the commercial interests of large Internet companies and places the providers of the Internet infrastructure at a disadvantage. Where do you stand on this important debate?

9. Our theme at the conference is focused on innovation. A number of CANTO members are very concerned about 'Strict Net Neutrality Rules' being implemented in our region. Strict Net Neutrality rules that limit experimentation with new business models and network management practices will also reduce the incentive of network operators for

investing in higher capacity broadband networks. The Net Neutrality rules in the US is an example of strict Net Neutrality Rules. If Strict Net Neutrality Rules are implemented does the panel think innovation would be encouraged in our region?

10. OTTs: Andrus Ansip, the EU Digital Single Market Commissioner recently stated that "Everybody knows today that with telecom service providers and OTT [players], there are unbalanced relations and we have to find a better balance," … "financing of broadband networks is crucial". Does the panel agree with the EU Commissioner?

11. In Europe predicted: Voice & SMS revenues will decline by 30% & 40% by 2017. Data revenues will not make up the difference: overall revenues will decrease by approx. 25%. India - 50% of operator's voice and SMS revenues will be lost to OTT (Credit Suisse). This decline is primarily due to the OTT players. Yet we know that Investment needed: faster mobile networks for the Internet of Things. What can Regulators do to ensure that Network Operators can still invest in building capacity in our region?

12. What does the panel think of this statement? To incentivize investment in Broadband we should have the "Same rules for the same service" – The regulatory framework must apply equally.

13. Developments in technology (e.g. internet, connected devices) and new modes of viewing content (online streaming) are requiring increased investments in network capacity to carry the increased traffic and also forcing changes in traditional broadcasting business models
    a. What mechanisms are in place to ensure industry policy which inform industry regulations adapt to reflect these market changes?
    b. At this point in the evolution of the industry what should be the policy priorities - facilitating investment in infrastructure, consumers having unfettered access to all content?
    c. The emergence of content consumption as a key driver to changes in the converged industry offers a unique opportunity for creation and distribution in respective countries, intra regionally and globally, is this an area that governments are focused on, and what are some policy initiatives targeted at delivering growth in content development?
    d. What in your view could providers do to support development in this area?