WRC-19 and the Mobile Industry
A CANTO Perspective

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**CANTO** is a non-profit association made up of operators, organizations, companies and individuals in the ICT (telecommunications) sector.

The Association has a Caribbean focus as it relates to ICT issues for the region with a global perspective.

Founded in 1985 as a non-profit association of 8 telephone operating companies, CANTO has now grown to over 141 members in more than 36 countries.

A Board of Directors appointed by the membership directs the strategy of the Association and the strategy is executed by a permanent Secretariat based in Trinidad and Tobago.
What does the future look like?

- More Wealth
- Connected devices > People
- Denser Urban Areas
- Mobility-Tech on the Go
- Aging Population
What does the future look like?

- IOT
- AR/VR
- Smart Homes
- E-Health
- Virtualisation
- AI
- Cloud Services Boom
To keep up with demands for higher speeds and better coverage mobile operators need more spectrum.

Whether they get it or not, is in part based on decisions made at the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2019 (WRC-19).

WRC-19 will address the needs of upcoming evolutions of mobile networks including Agenda Item 1.13 dealing with the use of spectrum between 24.25 and 86 GHz for IMT.
WRC-19 Agenda Item 1.13

"to consider identification of frequency bands for the future development of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), including possible additional allocations to the mobile service on a primary basis, in accordance with Resolution 238”

Source: ITU
The future is wireless

If data is the new oil – spectrum and the networks they run are the tankers

Decisions at WRC will determine how big and fast these tankers will be

WRC is not a single meeting but a continuous process.
Caribbean - Public Policy Broadband Mandate

Characteristics

- Mostly mobile connectivity. Penetration over 100% in many countries
- Countries that are not ranked competitively in Global Technology Index

Policy Objectives

- Greater Broadband penetration – into underserved areas
- Increased speeds
- Cheaper prices
- More services
Governments set the Public Policy Agenda for Broadband

Operators are expected to deliver it

Operators must ensure they have the tools they need to deliver what is expected of them

Operator participation in the WRC Process is therefore critical.
Who does what at WRC?

- **Governments** vote at WRC
- **Regulators** advise Governments
- **Operators** should engage Regulators on their requirements
Traditionally Caribbean operators did not engage with WRC processes in a co-ordinated way

More structured engagement with WRC 15
  But it started late in the process

Earlier engagement with WRC 19

Intention is to strengthen links to governments, regulators and regional bodies such as CTU and CITEL to ensure the specific needs of our region are reflected in the WRC deliberations
✓ Consolidate operators’ positions in preparing for WRC-19.

✓ Support Regulators and Governments in understanding the practical market impacts of proposals.

✓ Support proposals at CITEL and ITU which will make more mobile spectrum available to the Caribbean.
CANTO remains committed to regional collaboration on WRC-19 preparations

Post WRC Efforts

Once spectrum is designated for mobile use, Regulators and Governments should move quickly to release it so that Operators can deliver the benefits for individuals, industries and society as a whole.
Thank you