

## Speech for CANTO AGM 2018

### Salutations

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on an island that is not only beautiful, but dynamic, vibrant, exciting and is host to what is the best Carnival in the Caribbean region!

We are very excited to have our AGM literally one week before what Trinis describe as “the greatest show on earth”! So we hope that you will find the time to sample some of the all-inclusives and the wonderful shows! And if you really feeling the vibe, sign up for a Mas costume!

I want to take the opportunity to sincerely thank the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) for hosting this event. I know that there are a number of TSTT personnel who have contributed to this AGM but I will make special mention of 3 TSTT employees who have offered tremendous support to CANTO over the years. Charles Carter who is a member of our CANTO Board, Gervon Abaham who is the Chair of the Corporate Social Responsibility Working Committee and Christa Onika Leith who serves on our Regulatory Committee. Christa has very often given presentations on behalf of CANTO.

These are exciting times for CANTO. As a non-profit organisation, we were able to make a profit for the first time in four years. This was achieved through the hard work of my Secretary General, Teresa Wankin and her Secretariat. CANTO Team – get ready for an exciting year!

At last year’s AGM, I mentioned that the United States could have a significant impact on the Caribbean particularly from a regulatory perspective. Indeed, we saw the FCC move more towards a light-touch regulatory approach and reverse its position on Net Neutrality. The Chairman of the FCC, Ajit Pai, said the rollback of the Net Neutrality rules would eventually help consumers because broadband providers like

AT&T and Comcast could offer a wider variety of service options. The FCC voted to dismantle rules regulating the businesses that connect consumers to the internet, granting broadband companies the power to potentially reshape Americans' online experiences.

I note with interest the REMARKS OF FCC COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR. "THE U.S. VIEW ON 5G". AT THE ETNO-MLEX REGULATORY SUMMIT BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, JANUARY 31, 2018.

FCC Commissioner Carr stated "as regulators, we all want to see 5G deployed as quickly and ubiquitously as possible. We all want to see consumers benefit from the advanced services and technologies that a 5G network can enable—everything from new telehealth offerings to autonomous cars to smart city applications. No country wants to get left behind. But wanting to lead in 5G is not enough to get the transition across the finish line. The key is to update our regulatory structures so that they are what I call "5G Ready." This means taking concrete steps to reform our regulations and ensure that they incentivize the massive private sector investments necessary to build the networks of the future. After all, in the U.S. alone, it is estimated that deploying 5G might require the private sector to invest \$275 billion over the next few years. Capital is finite, and capital is smart. It will flow to those countries that have updated and modernized their regulatory structures". End of quote.

We hope that your experience at the AGM will be a vibrant and exciting one: there are speakers on Disaster Risk Management; emerging trends on content; key spectrum requirements for the World Radio Conference 2019 and, of particular interest, an update from the FCC.

Of course, we must also remember CANTO's signature event - the Conference and Exhibition to be held at the Hard Rock Hotel in Panama from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018. I must say that those of you who unfortunately were not able to attend last year's conference and

exhibition in the Dominican Republic would have missed one of CANTO's best events! However, we can look forward to an even better Conference in Panama.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as Chairman, my focus must be on our achievements – here are some of those achievements for 2017:

1. Visiting more stakeholders

In 2017 we visited our members' countries meeting with network operators, Ministers and Regulators in Belize and the Bahamas. These meetings were very productive and we plan to continue our visits throughout 2018.

2. CANTO attended and presented at more ICT Conferences than ever before.

**Capacity Caribbean** – the Secretary General chaired two sessions on: OTTs and Data Centres in Puerto Rico

**Mexico Connect** – The Secretary General chaired panel discussion: redefining the future of carrier services in Mexico: shifting focus to enterprise and cloud services

**ITU Forum South Korea** – The Secretary General participated in panel discussion: the base of the digital ecosystem: Development of Digital infrastructure

**CARILEC, Trinidad** – The Secretary General delivered goodwill remarks at opening ceremony of conference

**Melissia Sutherland**, our CANTO Board Director – Presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Latin America Spectrum Management Conference in Colombia

**Kamla Hamilton, Cable & Wireless Communications Jamaica** – participated in Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation HR & ICT Forum in Trinidad.

### 3. CANTO Connect Newsletter

In keeping with our commitment to keep our members informed, six CANTO Connect Newsletters were sent out to members throughout the year.

### 4. Participation in the Caribbean ICT Collaborative Committee

A number of CANTO members actively took part in the meetings of this regional committee. In spite of the fact that progress has been slow with the working committees our members will continue to support and work towards this collaborative process.

Our theme this year is – **‘Guiding digital adoption to lead global markets’**. I would like to thank John Brooks of SUBEX for his creativity in designing the theme. The rationale behind the theme is that it embraces the Digital revolution. Digital Adoption goes hand-in-hand with the overall Digital Transformation that is beginning to both encompass and redefine almost every operator’s revenue model. Network operators must embrace the business and operational aspects of supporting a digital economy. This has impacted every corner of the operator’s business.

#### **Directors**

As always, I must thank my team of Directors for their constant support:

Rochelle Cameron – Vice Chair, representing Cable & Wireless, Grenada

Helma Etnel – Treasurer, Telem, St. Maarten

Melesia Sutherland – representing Cable & Wireless, Antigua

Opal Neil – Cable & Wireless communications

Charles Carter – TSTT, Trinidad and Tobago

Corinne Phillip – Digicel Turks and Caicos Islands

Lyrio Gomez – UTS, Curacao  
Delreo Newman – GT&T, Guyana

### **Ladies and Gentlemen - in conclusion**

CANTO will continue to Engage, Lead and Advocate during this important time in our history and development.

Once again on behalf of the Board of Directors I extend many thanks to the Secretary General and her entire team for their unwavering support. Indeed, I would like to thank all Members for your continued support and I wish you all an enjoyable and successful AGM.

Thank you and God Bless.

Julian Wilkins