

Opening Ceremony Address
31st Annual General Meeting
31st January 2016, Port au Prince, Haiti
Teresa Wankin
Secretary General Ag.

- Honorable Minister Jacques Rousseau, Minister of Public Works, Transport & Communication Haiti
- Honorable Minister George Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs, Transportation, and Communication Turks and Caicos Islands
- Mr. Maarten Boute Chairman of Digicel Haiti and host of this event
- Mr. Gerard La Borde, Head of Corporate Affairs, Digicel Haiti
- Mr. Jean Marie Guillaume, General Director, CONATEL
- Mr. Julian Wilkins, Chairman of CANTO
- Mr. Leon Williams, Vice Chair of CANTO
- Mrs. Helma Etnel, Treasurer of CANTO
- Board of Directors of CANTO
- Senior Government Officials and Regulators
- Members of CANTO
- Sponsors and exhibitors
- Other invited guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome all of you to this Opening Ceremony. It marks the start of our 32nd Annual General Meeting which is being co-hosted by Digicel Haiti. We are most proud to be here in the Marriott Hotel as we celebrate our 32nd year.

The significance of our Annual General Meeting cannot be understated. It is where we meet with our stakeholders, report on the year just passed and sanction blessings from the membership on the services we will deliver for the year ahead of us.

As a trade association of information, communication and technology entities operating in an industry that is so pivotal to our economic development, the AGM provides a unique opportunity for us to work together on common concerns. It gives us an opportunity to set our agenda to influence the development of the industry, grow our individual businesses, and also help to develop the economies in which we operate. More importantly, it allows us to ensure that we align the delivery of services with the pressing needs of our members.

You will notice that we are constantly revisiting the activities that support our AGM to ensure that the dialogue appropriately reflects the common concerns among the membership of CANTO. This year, we are devoting more time to committee meetings – we have eight working committees of the Board that covers everything from Corporate Social Responsibility to Regulations and Emerging Technologies - I urge those of you who are not yet on a committee to join one first thing tomorrow morning as the opportunity to participate actively in the work of CANTO starts with the committees. At the AGM proceedings on Tuesday, you will hear more about the works that the CANTO Working Committees of the board have done in just one year and what they have planned for 2016. We have also introduced an Information

Session on Tuesday Morning entitled *Positioning the Caribbean Telecom Landscape* – this session will address topics such as *Mobile Broadband Technologies; Cybersecurity and the Internet of things*; and *Disaster and Risk Management in the Caribbean Telecom Sector*. In addition, attendees will hear about regional opportunities in the sector as well as an Internet for Development project right here in Haiti.

As a non-profit organization, our success relies on the support of you our members, sponsors and other stakeholders. Your contributions and participation in our events ensure that we function effectively and remain relevant in the delivery of our services to you.

In this continually evolving marketplace, we continue to be challenged by the volatile nature of the industry. As such, our role as a member organization, needs to be constantly redefined to reflect the changing landscape and the changing needs of our membership. CANTO is a proud partner to all our stakeholders. It is because of this experience and commitment that we are able to provide the ideal platform that unites the entire Caribbean, bringing together policy makers, regulators, operators and suppliers for a common goal – developing Caribbean Telecommunications.

CANTO as an organization is sine qua non and when I say this I mean we are the only organization that comprises all of the industry stakeholders – The diversity of our membership and stakeholders remains one of our greatest strengths making us the only association in the region that brings all the telecom stakeholders together to work hard during the day and enjoy the vibrant culture of our region in the night.

As we celebrate our 32nd year in 2016, I am honoured to act in the position of Secretary General of this dynamic Organization. I look at the growth over the years since our inception in 1985 with eight members in five countries and I am extremely proud of what we have become, with 134 members in 35 countries and even more excited about our outlook for an equally promising future.

So in closing, I will like to engage all of you to ensure that output from this meeting will go a long way in ensuring that CANTO as an association, position ourselves to serve our stakeholders on a relevant and timely basis.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can better engage and serve our members, as well as bring in new members to strengthen CANTO.

Thank you.

END

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Opening Remarks at Media Conference

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to our Media Conference that marks the launch of our 32nd Annual General Meeting and Supporting Activities. I thank you for taking time off from your busy schedule to join us as we share what we are doing in Haiti for the next week.

CANTO was established in 1985 to serve the regional telecom industry – 32 years later, we are a proud partner to all our stakeholders. It is because of this experience and commitment that we are able to provide the ideal platform that unites the entire Caribbean, bringing together policy makers, regulators, operators and suppliers for a common goal – developing the Caribbean Telecommunication eco system. We are especially proud to be in Haiti on the invitation of our member, Digicel Haiti.

Our activities started yesterday, with our Board of Directors meeting; on Monday we will have eight Committee Meetings, the deliberations from which will be discussed at our AGM on Tuesday. We will conclude our activities in Haiti with our **BIIPAC**

COMPONENT 4 Workshop on Public *Policy Recommendations for the Design of National Broadband.*

In addition, we will highlight your very own Ayitic Haiti to the rest of the world. Ayitic is a project by LACNIC, the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry that seeks to make a direct contribution to capacity building among ICT professionals and engineers in Haiti. In alliance with local partners, this project aims at enabling the necessary conditions for the Internet to become an effective instrument for social inclusion and economic development in Haiti

Our Annual General Meeting is one of our flagship events and delivering it in your country is a perfect opportunity for the region to see Haiti. Of course, it is not possible for us to bring all the regional ICT Stakeholders in Haiti without showcasing the rich culture of the Country so at our networking events tonight and tomorrow night we will bring out the flavour of Haiti with music, dances and local cuisine. We will visit your craft market and your iron factory before leaving.

In closing, I want to express our sincere gratitude to you the media as your role in facilitating our message is extremely essential as we strive for economic development in the region.

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Opening Remarks
BIIPAC Component 4 Workshop:
Wednesday 3rd February 2016
Port of Prince, Haiti.

Thank you Ayanna,

- Honorable Minister George Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs, Transportation, and Communication Turks and Caicos Islands
- Hon. Minister Frank Mena, Minister with responsibility for the Public Service, Energy and Public Utilities, Belize
- Hon. Minister Catherine Hughes, Minister of Public Telecommunications, Ministry of Public Telecommunications, Guyana
- Representatives from CONATEL
- Steering Committee Representatives
- Technical Committee Representatives
- Other ICT Stakeholders

I am extremely pleased to bring Opening Remarks to you this Morning as we convene our final workshop under the BIIPAC project. This workshop signals the conclusion of the CANTO IADB Technical Cooperation and will focus on Public Policy

Recommendations for the Design of National Broadband Strategies. We will also examine the next steps and important implementation considerations as we look beyond **BIIPAC**.

During the course of the next two days you will learn more details about the project and the next steps, thus I am going to skip the objectives and reports that the project has produced since the Regional Coordinator will take you through the phases.

I must however deviate from standard protocol to say a couple of things from my heart about this project which started with a phone call to the former Secretary General of CANTO Regenie Fraser.

The call came from Antonio Garcia who is unable to be here today but is ably represented by his colleagues from the local IDB Office in Haiti. Antonio had a passion to promote broadband development in the region but could not find a collaborative platform to bring all the stakeholders together – I am so proud that CANTO was able to join forces with the IDB provide that collaborative platform for this project - it was new territory for us at CANTO but like the IDB and Antonio CANTO also has a burning passion for the development of the region and the bringing together of all the Stakeholders. I am happy to say that the eight IDB member countries in the region: Belize, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Guyana,

Haiti, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago have been participating in this project and are represented here today.

I am also extremely proud that ninety-five percent of the consultants who worked on the project are from the Caribbean. So when I say that this project shows there is strength in coming together as a region to get something done, this project is proof.

On behalf of CANTO, I would like to thank the IDB, Participating Countries, steering committee members, Technical Committee Members and of course the Regional Coordinator for the work done to make this project possible.

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