

**Opening Ceremony Goodwill Address by
Teresa Wankin, Secretary General, CANTO
Virtual DNS Entrepreneurship Caribbean Centre Launch
19th February 2018, Hilton Hotel, Trinidad and Tobago.**

Good Morning everyone

It gives me great pleasure to deliver remarks at the launch of the Virtual DNS Entrepreneurship Caribbean Centre.

This inaugural event, sets the stage for building capacity for Caribbean Entrepreneurs in the digital space, while also serving as a knowledge and networking resource on digital business opportunities, in the Region.

Many companies see the digital revolution as a threat to their business model, but, massive opportunities await those able to transform themselves ahead of the curve. As regional businesses, we can only transform ourselves if we have access to the right tools and resources to do so.

We live in a digital world that is changing with unrelenting force and the changes bring with it unprecedented challenges.

Today's cyber threats require an integrated and collaborative approach, together with a wide range of technological solutions. I wish therefore, to commend ICANN for this virtual DNS Centre which will provide a platform upon which discussions can be explored in a holistic way. The dialogue you will have in the sessions today are critical to our success, if we are to compete in the digital marketplace with strength and fortitude.

CANTO, as an association of telecommunications operators and suppliers, welcomes this event and look forward to working with ICANN and other stakeholders to contribute, to the enrichment and development of the regional ICT sector.

It is my hope, that you engage the experts so that the knowledge, tools and best practices in the sector can be used to build a better environment in your companies. Access to the tools, networking and resources for proper administration of the ICT sector will collectively improve the social, economic and human development in the region.

I extend congratulations to all in attendance today especially the online attendees. We may be in Trinidad and Tobago but your input in building this centre for the region is an integral part of its success and emphasises how we can collaborate without boundaries.

I thank ICANN for extending an invitation of collaboration and partnership to CANTO. In return of this graciousness, I extend my own invitation for collaboration and partnership at our thirty-fourth Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition to be held from the 22nd to the 25th July 2018 at Hard Rock Hotel, Panama. The theme “**Guiding Digital Adoption to lead Global Markets**” will continue some of the discussions started here today and build on the challenges and opportunities in the regional ICT sector.

I wish you all good deliberations and a successful event!

Thank you