

Expert Group Meeting on the
Caribbean Information Society
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**REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON THE
CARIBBEAN INFORMATION SOCIETY**

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Background

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, at the twentieth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) held in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands in April 2004, made a presentation on the issues surrounding a Caribbean Information Society, focusing in particular on the challenges associated with the implementation of the Plan of Action finalised at the first session of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) which convened in Geneva in December 2003. That presentation to the CDCC highlighted areas earmarked by the WSIS for government intervention, as a means of accelerating the transition to an information society.

Following this presentation and the discussion which ensued, a resolution was submitted by the delegations of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and endorsed by other delegations, requesting the Secretariat to continue to provide such extrabudgetary support as was needed to undertake important activities in the Caribbean. These included the project designed to implement the WSIS Plan of Action in the Caribbean, entitled, "World Summit on the Information Society - supporting the transition".

This is the context for the Secretariat's work in this area.

Agenda item 1 – Welcome remarks

The Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean welcomed participants to the meeting, indicating that the Expert Group Meeting on the Information Society was convened in advance of the meeting of the Monitoring Committee to apprise CDCC member countries of the activities which the Secretariat had undertaken in the area of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Development as a follow-up to the twentieth session of the CDCC and in response to the resolution tabled at that session. The meeting would also facilitate the exchange of information among countries and agencies in the subregion with respect to ICTs for development, in general, and the WSIS process, in particular; hear reports on progress made at the national level, with special focus on the area of e-government and government policies in the area of ICTs; and get a snapshot as to where the subregion was positioned vis à vis the WSIS agenda.

He indicated that the Secretariat viewed the WSIS process not as an end in itself, but as a tool which, if used strategically, had the potential to accelerate the development of the vulnerable small and low lying coastal States of the Caribbean.

He welcomed participants in their capacity as experts who understood the challenges of the subregion, and experts in their knowledge of successful solutions. He added that there was often an air of pessimism about the subregion's prospects of gaining any real benefit from being a part of the global information society, but to dispel that, the subregion needed to have an adequate knowledge of what was being done; learn about the success stories that could be replicated and about the failures which should be avoided; share experiences with each other about the policies that had worked; about the laws that had been passed and how successfully they were being implemented; which countries had experienced success in measuring the contribution of ICT to the economy; and what were the methodologies used. He concluded that ECLAC, in turn, needed to learn from member countries whether its efforts were on the right track.

These remarks were followed by the first public airing of a documentary commissioned by ECLAC entitled "ICT in the Caribbean". The video highlighted ICT activities in the Caribbean subregion and aired various perspectives on the issue, from Haiti's situation where even a basic amenity such as electricity was lacking in many homes, to Trinidad and Tobago's Fast Forward initiative. The video presentation was well received.

The Deputy Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean then informed the meeting of the activities, which the Secretariat had undertaken following the twentieth session of the CDCC, to assist CDCC countries in their preparation for the upcoming second session of the World Summit on the Information Society, adding that it was a process in which the Caribbean had not been sufficiently involved.

He cited the broad mandate which ECLAC had received at the Bávaro meeting to support the countries of the region in their efforts to implement the WSIS Plan of Action, noting that in this context, the Secretariat had:

- (a) Convened the Caribbean Forum on the Information Society in Port of Spain in October 2004, attended by more than 70 persons from throughout the region;
- (b) Prepared a project proposal aimed at strengthening Caribbean participation in the ECLAC-European Union (EU) Alliance for the Information Society (ALIS) project, which had since been submitted to the European Commission and was being considered for funding.
- (c) Undertaken a survey of the capacity of statistical offices to generate ICT indicators

He highlighted "Internet Governance" as one of the more contentious issues surrounding the information society, and one on which ECLAC would need to take a position. He added that the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters of ECLAC had an important contribution to make by providing information, preparing analyses, facilitating meetings and, in general, assisting the CDCC member countries in their preparation to enter the global information society. He warned, though, that to choose allies in this debate was also to choose foes.

The Deputy Director concluded by saying that ECLAC should provide factual data and sound analysis to inform stakeholders and decision makers in the subregion and to facilitate open and transparent exchange of experiences among all stakeholders involved. How to harness ICT for the development of all, including disadvantaged groups in society, should be high on the list of priorities. Achieving this on a limited budget would be difficult, he added, but ECLAC had done well in this regard and stood ready to assist countries in their preparation for and follow-up to the WSIS.

Agenda Item 2 – Stocktaking report and country response

The ICT for Development Stocktaking Report was presented by the Chief of the ECLAC Caribbean Documentation Centre, who remarked that preparation of this report presented a challenge since a stocktaking report by its very nature should present a complete picture and, as yet, the Secretariat did not have a complete picture of all the ICT-related activities taking place in the region. She added, though, that the stocktaking database would be available on the ECLAC website: www.eclacpos.org.

The stocktaking report was presented under the following headings:

- (a) ICT policy, as indicated in major government statements on the issues, especially, the national budget address, or other statements where the focus was on the information and communications sector;
- (b) Strategic plan for the development of ICTs;
- (c) Institutions assigned to lead ICT development initiatives;
- (d) E-government initiatives;
- (e) Enabling legislation;
- (f) Government web sites;
- (g) ICT indicators collected by statistical offices;
- (h) Technical documents on aspects of the ICT sector;
- (i) Number of references in the Caribbean Digital Library;
- (j) Related news items;
- (k) ICT Contact persons.

Other headings would be added, if necessary.

She noted that ICT strategy documents were located for Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Bahamas, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. Dominica had a draft ICT

policy for the education sector. Suriname's ICT strategy, originally expected to be completed by the end of 2004, was still being developed.

There was wide variation in the scope of various plans. Some were little more than statements of intent that merely identified priorities for action, while others went into detailed implementation arrangements. There were common themes in all strategies such as affordable access and greater efficiency in the production of government services, but countries had different emphases and priorities. For the Bahamas, the emphasis was on providing the telecommunications infrastructure and an adequate legal framework to support e-government and e-business. For Antigua and Barbuda, the emphasis was on providing access to and awareness of government information. Anguilla's focus was on enriching the lives of its people and ensuring that the benefits of the knowledge economy would accrue to all. Barbados' policy priorities involved the liberalisation of the telecommunications industry and the achievement of greater government efficiency. Belize focused on poverty alleviation, promising a high-tech Belize as a means of helping the poor bypass the traditional barriers to development. Haiti's focus was on increasing e-literacy among young people. Betting and gaming were also part of the ICT agenda in countries such as Dominica, St Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda.

There was similar variation in the institutional arrangements. In general, ministries of communication were given responsibility for telecommunications regulation. In the case of Belize, it was the Ministry of Energy and Communication. For the Netherlands Antilles, the authority was the *Bureau Telecommunicatie*. In Guyana this was the responsibility of the Office of the Prime Minister. Five member States of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Dominica, Saint Lucia, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and St Kitts and Nevis, which cooperated under the umbrella of the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL), had each established a National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission within the ministry of communication.

Data processing departments whose responsibilities were once limited to activities related to government payroll had been strengthened, renamed data centres or departments of information technology and assigned the task of implementing processes to achieve efficiencies in other areas of government.

By and large, the choice of other lead institutions reflected the strategic priorities of each country. In Montserrat and Saint Lucia, government information services were strengthened and restructured to manage the network of government websites. In Jamaica, a Central Information Technology Office was established within the Ministry of Commerce, Science and Technology; in Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of Public Administration was given overall responsibility for all aspects of ICT development; and in Barbados, a Central Information Management Agency was proposed. In the Dominican Republic a National Commission for the Information Society was established; and in Guyana an ICT unit was established within the Ministry of Finance.

A PowerPoint presentation followed which highlighted various aspects of each country's information and communications technology sector. The presentation concluded with a display of the stocktaking database which would be made available on the Secretariat's website: www.eclacpos.org.

A series of interventions followed and are summarised below:

Grenada

Despite severe setbacks resulting from the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan, including major damage to computer stock and fibre optic land lines, Grenada was still able to report several successes, especially in the area of capacity-building.

Computers had been placed in secondary schools and the government intended to do the same in the primary schools. The Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN), a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) project was headquartered in Grenada. The "Smart School" concept was being explored in collaboration with the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM). The Science and Technology Council, collaborating with the T A Marryshow Community College (TAMCC) and using distance education methods had been able to offer a very successful Associate Degree Programme in information technology. In addition, ICT training programmes had been arranged for teachers and senior public servants. A degree in Management Information Systems (MIS) was being offered at St. George's University.

Some web management training was being offered and several websites were being set up. Internet cafes and call centres had been established and ICT was being brought to community centres.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The two areas of focus for St. Vincent and the Grenadines were capacity-building and e-government. The National Institute of Technology (NIT) was established and had been conducting courses (from basic to advance level). ICT classes were also being held at the Learning Resource Centres (LRCs).

A Telecommunications Web Unit had been established and called upon to function in three priority areas:

- (a) Government E-mail, implemented to facilitate the regulation of government e-mail;
- (b) Government Intranet, to enable all government ministries to be a part of a single network. Some ministries are already connected;
- (c) Website – www.gov.vc. Information can be found on the government website for all ministries and departments. The future aim is to establish a web portal. Work has already started on this goal and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries should have its own URL shortly. A series of promotional activities and awareness programmes are planned to increase the number of hits/users on the site.

There are other projects that the government would like to undertake but funding is a constraint. Some proposals were made to the EU under the Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) 2005 for an ICT Bursary Programme and an IT Training School Building. However these projects have not yet been approved.

As part of its e-government project, the Government is looking towards e-taxation, and e-customs. Representatives from the Italian Government are to meet with personnel from the Ministry of Telecommunications to discuss these areas.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, like other Caribbean countries, is also challenged by issues of change management and would welcome any suggestions that would offer assistance in this area.

Suriname

Suriname is particularly concerned about its massive digital divide, especially between its urban and rural areas. The Government, therefore, plans to establish a national institute, the main goal of which will be to bring this digital gap to a more acceptable level. To this end, the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism together with the Telecommunication Company are establishing telecommunication centres using Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology to serve the rural areas. Suriname has many cyber cafés, but these are used mainly by young people in urban areas. The Ministry of Education has drafted a National Educational Plan which will provide more access to computers and the Internet for school children especially from the primary and secondary schools. Suriname is also making full use of a number of ICT scholarships which are offered every year by India.

With regard to e-government, there is encouraging progress. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has computerized or digitalized most of its services. Passports are now machine readable and basic information such as name, date of birth, marital status, nationality and other basic information about the public are computerized registry. Most of the government ministries in Suriname are working on creating their own website. Commercial banks in Suriname are offering E-banking and the Suriname Post Office is facilitating E-commerce.

According to the Digital Access Index of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Suriname is in 74th place out of a number of 178 countries. Suriname is in the category of middle/low access. About 46% of the Suriname population has access to information technology.

Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago's national ICT strategy, "Fast Forward", was launched in December 2003. A core challenge was the human resource capacity to execute the strategy within the approved time frame. In addition, and despite considerable promotion on its part, a significant proportion of the population (55%) still did not know about the Fast Forward initiative. There was also the issue of digital divide, with 56% of the population still not having access to computers or the Internet.

A number of projects had already started or were about to start, including:

- (a) A legislative review of the Fast Forward strategy;
- (b) Review of plans for community access centres for primary stakeholders, including content development;
- (c) Preparation of a strategy for broadband connectivity that was adequate and affordable both within Trinidad and Tobago and also from Trinidad and Tobago to the rest of the world.;
- (d) Development of a business-to-business online marketplace;
- (e) Development of a programme for ICT promotion and awareness (currently in its planning stage);
- (f) Two ongoing projects:
 - Development of an e-government portal (i.e. e-government website);
 - Installation of a government-wide area network (government backbone), which would eventually link all government ministries and departments. Twenty-nine ministries would be linked in the first phase.

Essentially ICT is service driven. Therefore a Project Preparation and Execution Facility (PROPEN) is to be established and part of its role would be to:

- Design an ICT resource strategy;
- Identify e-government quick wins;
- Deal with the issue of a "government to consumer" e-strategy;
- Spearhead e-government initiatives and develop and improve government services online;
- Develop an ICT cluster for Trinidad and Tobago.

There are several strategic considerations and challenges. Among them, the need to develop understanding among government departments of the issues involved in the improvement of ICT. The culture of public sector is a challenge. There is also the tendency to treat ICT as a technical issue, rather than the development issue that it is.

So far simultaneous ICT and public sector reform initiatives have not been very successful. Trinidad and Tobago would be pleased to hear success stories from ECLAC, especially stories relating to change management and ICT.

Trinidad and Tobago would welcome research into the development of comprehensive e-commerce regulatory framework as well as comments and insights from other participants.

Jamaica

Jamaica confirmed that it had participated in a number of recent WSIS activities, including:

- A CARICOM Stakeholders meeting on WSIS in Guyana, January 2005;
- The Second Preparatory Meeting for WSIS (PrepCom 2) in Geneva in February 2005;
- A consultation meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean process for WSIS, Quito, Ecuador, 4-6 May 2005;

The ICT Technical Working Group recently agreed on the following areas of focus for Jamaica relating to the WSIS:

- Free and Open Source Software
- Completing the ICT Stocktaking exercise
- Internet governance
- Financial mechanisms
- Enabling legislation and regulations
- Access and connectivity

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico indicated that e-government legislation (P. del S. 2507) had been passed and was awaiting the Governor's signature. Another piece of legislation aimed at bridging the Digital Divide was before the Legislative Assembly. There was a government web portal and 86 government agencies had their own web pages. Four main agencies were identified as having responsibility for various aspects of ICT and at least 32 electronic transactions could be completed through the government web portal www.gobierno.pr which had a total of 182,757 visitors between October 2003 and May 2004, with a total of more than 22 million hits. Approximately 910,000 persons had access to the Internet with about 800 persons employed by government in IT.

United States Virgin Islands

The Bureau of Information Technology (BIT) is expected to be fully operational shortly. With respect to the University, a Technology Park of the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) had been created for the purpose of attracting ICT service companies, taking advantage of the fibre optic cable infrastructure.

In the context of E-Government, the Licensing and Consumer Affairs Department had begun to offer online business license renewals as an alternative to traditional methods. Public response indicated that public education was desirable to maximize the use of E-government mechanisms.

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) University Consortium, a group of five SIDS universities, including the University of the West Indies (UWI), Virgin Islands, Malta, Samoa, and Mauritius, will offer a degree in sustainable development online and accredited by the five tertiary institutions. The President of the University of the Virgin Islands is currently the President of this Consortium.

Montserrat

Montserrat indicated that progress had been slow due to the disruptions caused by the Soufriere volcano. For example, the telecommunications sector was not yet liberalised, but they were looking to the Anguilla legislation as a model. In addition the required infrastructure was not in place. Only a few persons outside of the government system could afford broadband so Internet access was still largely dial up. The government accounts system was fully online and all programming from the national radio station was web cast. Plans were underway for a new community college which would offer ICT programmes.

Currently government departments were developing websites. A major part of the strategic thinking was to provide persons displaced by the volcanic eruptions and living abroad with information in an effort to encourage them to return home. Many of those displaced were among the more qualified in the population.

British Virgin Islands

In the British Virgin Islands all government departments and ministries were linked via the GBVI network. There is a government web portal with links to all government agencies. The portal is managed by the Director of Communications who, with input from the Planning Unit, also has responsibility for the government's ICT agenda.

An ICT strategy was drawn up by the National GIS Committee but it has not yet been approved. Government accounting is done online and is accessible to authorised persons through the government Intranet. There is also an electronic help desk through which information on various government departments is made available. Various government forms can also be downloaded.

Netherlands Antilles

E-government implementation in the Netherlands Antilles will be achieved in phases. The goal of the first phase was to link all government institutions and all the islands that make up the Netherlands Antilles through a single network.

Websites are now being developed to provide basic information on government services. These are still available only in the Dutch language. A Task Force, comprised of persons with the relevant knowledge and expertise from various ministries, has been established to lead the process of ICT implementation.

Agenda Item 3 - (a) The E-LAC Strategy

The ICT Expert from the Division of Production, Productivity and Management, ECLAC, Santiago, presented an update on the e-LAC strategy with special focus on the outcomes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/ECLAC Quito meeting. Government, civil society, financial institutions and government all agreed that the E-LAC initiative was necessary to foster economic growth, reduce inequality and enhance the integration of the region.

The E-LAC strategy evolved from national strategies and programmes, which appreciated the importance of regional cooperation in matters of health education and international commerce and was built on a long record of regional cooperation epitomised by such meetings/declarations as the Declaration of Connectivity in the Americas and the Quito Action Plan (August 2002), the Declaration of Bávaro, Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Summit on Information Society (Jan 2003) and the Declarations LAC-EU 2002, 2003 and Rio de Janeiro LAC-EU (November 2004).

The E-LAC 2007 sought to:

- (a) Build on ongoing intraregional initiatives;
- (b) Attempt a convergence with national policies and projects;
- (c) Form strategic alliances and initiate joint action, taking into account individual country interests;
- (d) Devise realistic, flexible and practical goals;
- (e) Promote short-term goals within a long-term vision; and
- (f) Use each goal as a possible platform for further action.

The E-LAC structure was geared towards access to digital technology and inclusiveness, capacity building and knowledge creation, production of public sector policy and ensuring the transparency of policy instruments. Some countries had already achieved some of the established goals, but there was still need in some parts of the region for basic e-infrastructure and rationalization of various e-systems. This needed to be taken into account.

Some of the more pertinent issues arising out of the deliberations towards the WSIS were then highlighted:

- E-health which was about integrating health systems, so that assistance was available to persons throughout the region regardless of physical location.
- Internet governance which was proving difficult to harmonize throughout the region due to the numerous types and variations in policies across the region.
- Research needs also had to be addressed in academia and thus there was an urgency to link universities in the region to international research centres
- Bridging the digital and communication divide within countries.

ITU

Using the WSIS Plan of Action as the point of reference for his remarks, the representative from the ITU noted that the issue of connectivity was high on the regional agenda, but that it was important to know how far advanced the region was in implementing the WSIS POA. Were the challenges of vulnerable groups such as youth, women, persons in developing countries and indigenous persons being addressed? He also reiterated the importance of dealing with issues of security. In closing, he stressed that there was need for up-to-date information from the region, to inform PrepCom 3 to be held in September 2005.

CARICOM

The representative from the CARICOM Secretariat gave an overview of some regional initiatives, highlighting areas on which the Secretariat was currently focused, making a link between the region's e-agenda and other major CARICOM initiatives, namely the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the upcoming regional Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The following CARICOM agenda was outlined:

Preparations for the WSIS and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

- Telecommunications deregulation
- Capacity building:
 - a) Human, e.g. (1) approval of the CKLN; (2) other training initiatives
 - b) Institutional:
 - CROSQ - standards
 - CARICAD - e-government/governance; Public Sector Reform
 - CTU - telecommunications issues including Internet governance
 - CKLN - strengthening tertiary institutions

At the policy level the subregion has approved/endorsed:

- CARICOM connectivity agenda;
- Georgetown Declaration;
- ICT for Development Agenda and Plan of Action;
- CARICOM Secretariat approved as the coordinating body for ICT-related activities including WSIS;
- Formation of the CARICOM ICT Steering Committee.

The CARICOM representative reported that the CARICOM Task Force charged with e-connectivity issues in the Caribbean had held one meeting so far. The CARICOM e-initiative had as its main focus the provision of infrastructure to facilitate ICT, since access was seen as the biggest problem. Governments in the region might have to decide whether to use the access to free "VSAT" systems, losing revenue in the process, or utilize dedicated Internet Service Providers (ISPs), which would raise costs for the population, but provide some revenue for the governments.

There were some obvious gaps. To date, there had not been a reliable report on the status of ICT in the Caribbean and in the area of e-governance there was need for security, and special provision had to be made for rural communities, this being accomplished possibly through the use of multipurpose centres.

The use of ICT to promote competitiveness would require change in legislation and the provision of the necessary e-infrastructure.

Agenda Item 4 - Summary of discussion and recommendations for ECLAC

The Chairperson presented a summary of the proceedings, noting that:

- The Director in his opening remarks had set the context for ECLAC's involvement in activities for the Information Society;
- The documentary had given a visual representation of perspectives and activities in various CDCC countries;
- An outline of activities undertaken by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters had been presented;
- The stocktaking report and a display of the database which would support its continuing update had also been presented to the meeting
- This had been followed by reports on activities at both the country and regional levels.

Participants commended the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean for an excellent meeting and recommended the follow-up actions outlined below:

1. The Secretariat should ensure that national e-strategies for all CDCC countries were prepared by 2005, in keeping with the requirements of the WSIS Plan of Action.
2. International organizations, such as ECLAC, and regional agencies should also develop their own strategies for the use of ICT and commit to placing greater emphasis on ICTs and knowledge management in their activities.
3. Countries should also be urged to develop strategic partnerships.
4. The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, too, should develop strategic partnerships and strengthen existing ones, internally with its Headquarters in Santiago, but also with other arms of the United Nations such as the ITU, as well as with regional institutions such as CARICOM.
5. Work on the benchmarking report should be continued. In particular the situation in the Caribbean should be reflected. The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean should look at what had been done in Santiago and develop its own benchmarking activity for the Caribbean. The Secretariat should codify information in the benchmarking study to represent

point schemes for each Caribbean country. The information should be circulated frequently to encourage feedback.

6. ECLAC must play an important role in providing objective technical advice to its member countries, supporting governments' requests in this area in keeping with the WSIS Action Plan.

7. ECLAC should use its expertise, experience and comparative advantage in this area to construct databases and gather information for use by the countries.

8. ECLAC should act in concert with the CARICOM Secretariat with respect to the issue of Internet Governance. ECLAC's role should be to promote dialogue and regional cooperation on these issues and participate actively in deliberations on this subject.

Closing

The Director, in his closing remarks, thanked participants for attending the meeting and for contributing to the excellent discussions. He indicated that the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean was committed to continuing the stocktaking exercise, using its comparative advantage in information handling and database creation and its new emphasis on knowledge management to gather and circulate information among the CDCC member countries.

On the question of partnerships, he indicated that ECLAC fully intended to work very closely with other regional organizations, the CARICOM Secretariat in particular, to advance the progress towards a Caribbean Information Society.

The meeting ended with the usual courtesies.

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Annex 2**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

13:30 – 14:00	Registration
14:00 – 14:20	Agenda item 1: Opening remarks Welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Neil Pierre, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean</i> <p>Activities undertaken by the Subregional Headquarters in support of the Caribbean Information Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Rudolf Buitelaar, Deputy Director</i> • <i>Documentary</i>
14:40 – 15:30	Agenda item 2: WSIS National and Regional Stocktaking report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Sandra John, ECLAC</i> <p>Country response: Representatives will give short 5-7-minute presentations on national initiatives</p>
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Break</i>
16:15 – 17.15	Agenda item 3: Update on the e-LAC Strategy, outcomes of the Quito meeting and preparations for the WSIS Rio Prepcom, and other regional initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Hernan Moreno, ECLAC Expert on Technical Cooperation for Information Society Development</i> • <i>CARICOM Representative</i> • <i>ITU Representative</i> <p>Discussions aimed at formulating recommendations for further ECLAC support</p>
17:30 – 18:00	Agenda item 4: Summary of discussions