

Session 6: Meeting the challenges of managing spectrum in the Caribbean

FORUM EUROPE 4th Latin America Spectrum Conference
Radisson Hotel, Bogota, Colombia
September 6 – 7, 2017
Presenter: Melesia Sutherland, CANTO Director

Who is CANTO?

CANTO is recognized as the leading trade association of the ICT sector for shaping information and communications in the Caribbean. 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.

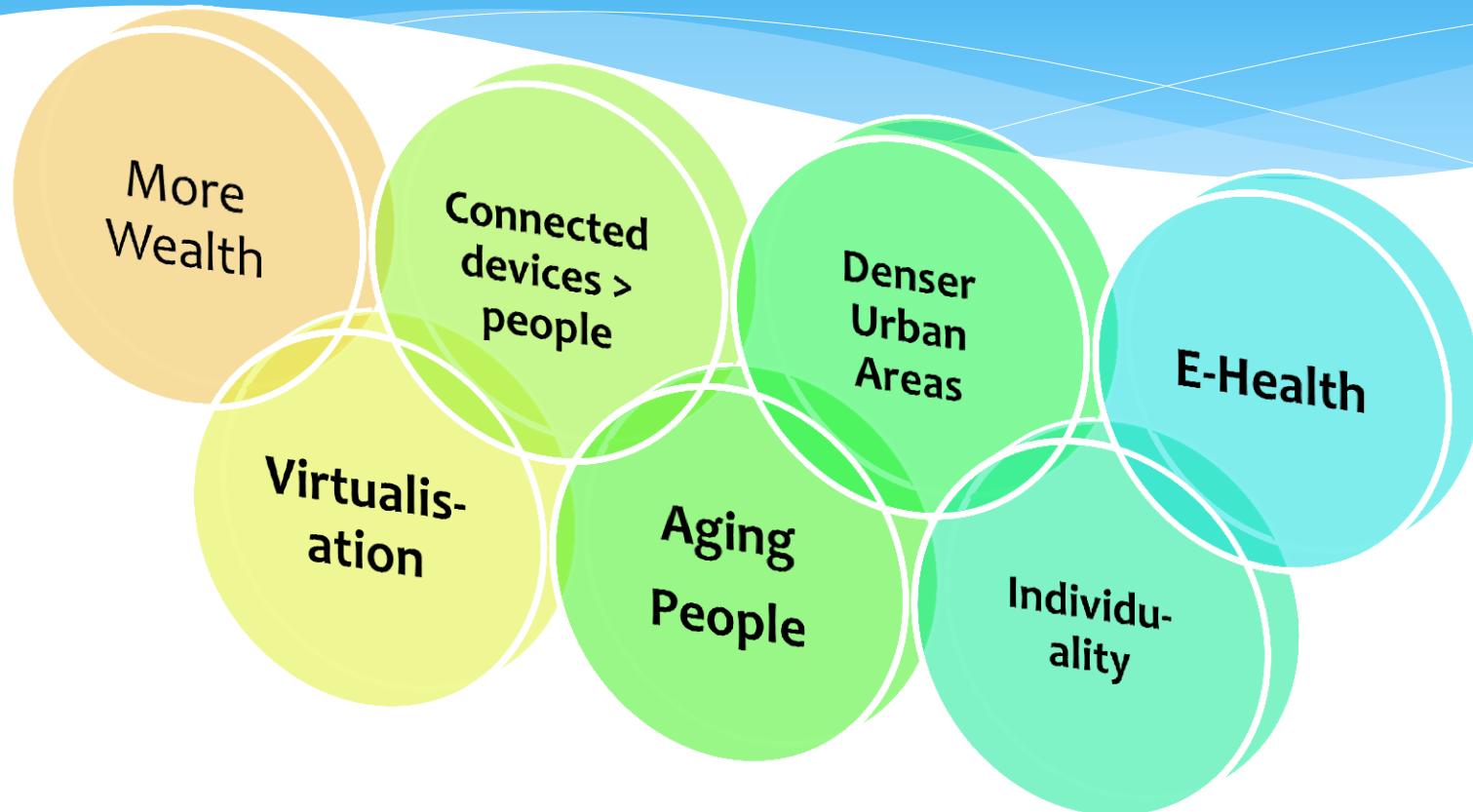
Caribbean - Public Policy Broadband Mandate



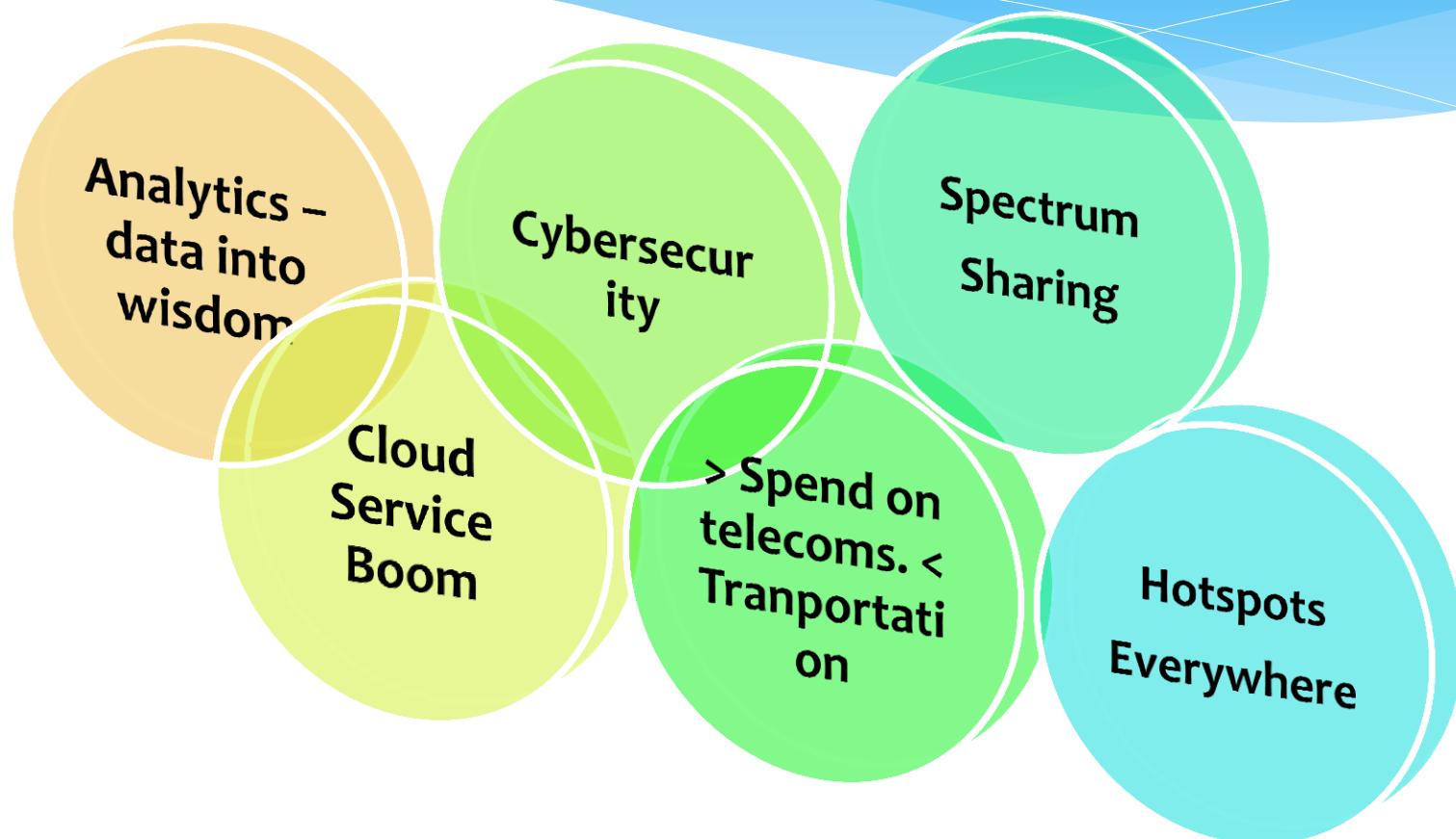
Caribbean Telecom Markets

- ❑ Mostly mobile societies. Penetration over 100% in many countries.
- ❑ Countries with populations under 200,000
- ❑ Small, fragmented markets
- ❑ Few operators. Regional operators.
- ❑ Technology Adopters
- ❑ USA major trading partner

2030 – The Futurist Say...



2030 – The Futurist Say...



Challenges for Spectrum Authorities

- Getting It Right All The Time
 - Major cause of delay. Slows innovation .Waiting on the developed world to get it right first. Cost of getting it wrong greater in developing economies. Risk averse. Task is to preserve competition in making allocations among few operators.
- Maintaining Reliable Revenue Stream
 - Unwillingness to jeopardise existing revenue stream by taking a different approach. At the same time there is little demand for spectrum outside of prime mobile bands.

Challenges for Spectrum Authorities

- ❑ Limited Engagement of Industry
 - ❑ Major cause of delay. Unpreparedness of regulators to assign new spectrum e.g 700MHz ; triggers for periodic review of spectrum framework absent. Limited engagement of industry impacts government's ability to adequately reflect the needs of industry in international fora and to get the support it needs from industry. Good story – BVI Spectrum Framework.

- ❑ Resources
 - ❑ This is a challenge for some spectrum authorities, particularly to sustain expense of representation on global issues.

Spectrum Benefits – Small Nations

- ❑ There is no real spectrum shortage in the Caribbean.
- ❑ Should be able to find wide spectrum bands required for 5G when bands are determined.
- ❑ Can have the best of both worlds – spectrum available to harmonise globally while there is still spectrum to explore customized band plans.
- ❑ Less complex markets. Use of appropriate tools.

World Radio Conferences- More Collaboration Needed



- ❑ Area ripe for industry engagement. Need for public/ private collaboration acknowledged but lacking for want of urgency and resources.

- ❑ Opportunity to practically advance policymakers vision of a single ICT Space in Caribbean.

- ❑ Resource intensive so governments and industry both need to partner and leverage the strengths of each other.

CANTO & WRC-15



- ❑ CANTO sent letters and Policy Statement to Caribbean minister of telecommunications and regulators.
- ❑ CANTO worked with Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU).
- ❑ CANTO encouraged ministers and regulators to:

CANTO & WRC-15



- Collaborate with industry in preparing for WRC-15.

- Prioritise preparation for WRC which occurs once every 3-4 years and attend WRC-15, even if by proxy.

- Attend CITEL meetings in person or by proxy.

- Support proposals at CITEL and ITU which will make more mobile spectrum available to the Caribbean.

WRC -19

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 (WRC-15)

CANTO & WRC-19: More Collaboration



ENCOURAGE REGULATORS & GOVERNMENTS TO:

- Collaborate with industry in preparing for WRC-15.
- Prioritise preparation for WRC which occurs once every 3-4 years and attend WRC-15, even if by proxy.
- Attend CITEL meetings in person or by proxy.
- Support proposals at CITEL and ITU which will make more mobile spectrum available to the Caribbean.

THANK YOU



END