



# THE WAY FORWARD

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**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON E-COMMERCE LEGISLATION HARMONIZATION**

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## Objectives of this workshop

- ❑ Deepen our knowledge of key legal issues related to e-commerce
- ❑ Understand why e-commerce laws are needed
  - ✓ Increased participation in regional/global markets and supply chains;
  - ✓ e-government strategy;
  - ✓ Mobile commerce;
  - ✓ e-Payment systems
  - ✓ Cloud computing
- ❑ Share experiences among participating Caribbean countries



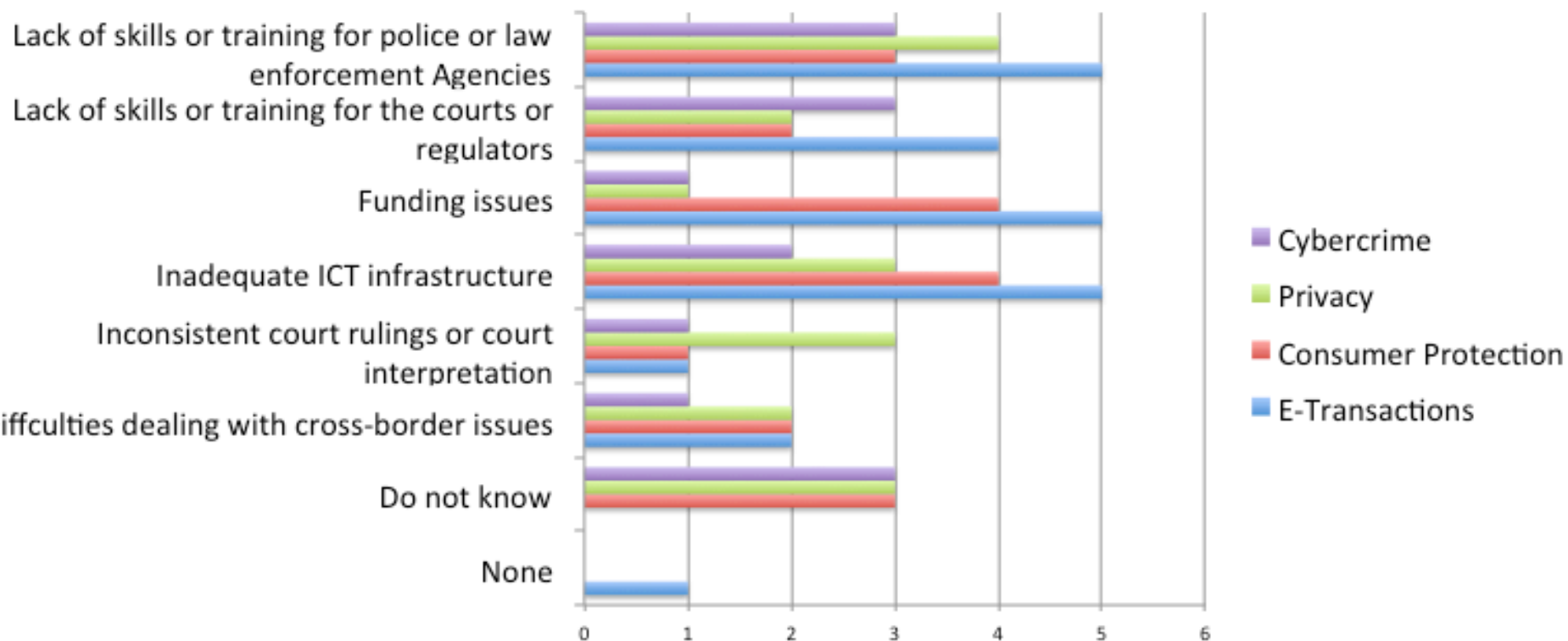
## Caribbean Landscape

### *Harmonization is challenging*

- ❑ Different level of law adoption
  - ✓ Lack of capacity of stakeholders and law enforcement bodies
  - ✓ Lack of resources and of prioritization in Governments portfolio
  - ✓ lack of mechanism for coordinating cooperation between multiple agencies
- ❑ Multitude of sub-regional groupings
  - ✓ Various regional agreements/frameworks
  - ✓ E-commerce is a priority in the CARICOM Agenda with deliverables on e-commerce policy protocol and legislation
  - ✓ Challenges in the implementation of regional agreements at the Member States level



# Common challenges regarding enforcement *in Caribbean participating countries*



Source: UNCTAD, 2015.



# The way forward



## Good practices

- ❑ Commitment and ownership at highest national and regional level (e.g. East African Community Task Force on Cyberlaws)
- ❑ Collaboration among regulatory/statutory authorities at national and regional levels
- ❑ Public–private dialogue needed for legislation to be successfully enacted and enforced
- ❑ Trainees become trainers:
  - ✓ sharing of experience, restitution seminars
  - ✓ participation at national/regional workshop
  - ✓ training/briefing of national institutions, awareness-raising campaigns



## Good practices

- ❑ Set up inter-governmental coordination committee
- ❑ Define trainings and awareness-raising actions for key target groups, including parliamentarians, law enforcement agencies and the private sector
- ❑ Define milestones and monitor developments



**Keep the Momentum for e-commerce law reforms**



## The way forward is about sharing resources

*for shared benefits and development of domestic/cross-border e-commerce*

- ❑ Set informal and formal mechanisms at national and regional levels;
- ❑ Become the promoters of the law reform;
- ❑ Tap into the existing resources available from regional and international organizations;

- ✓ US FTC
- ✓ US DoJ
- ✓ WB
- ✓ UNCITRAL
- ✓ UNODC
- ✓ UNECLAC
- ✓ UNCTAD

- ✓ CARICOM
- ✓ ACS
- ✓ SELA
- ✓ Others





## Sharing...

- Continue networking with colleagues met during the online distance learning training and this workshop;
- Share progress on e-commerce laws with your partners;
- Circulate the questionnaire to relevant institutions in preparation of the study;
- All presentations and photos on [learn.unctad.org](http://learn.unctad.org)
- Else?

# UNCTAD's E-commerce and Law Reform Programme

- To date, **60 countries** in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean have received technical assistance in various forms
    - ✓ Awareness and build capacity workshops of policy and law makers, including parliamentarians;
      - **Online and face-to-face training courses** on the “Legal Aspects of E-commerce” following the TrainForTrade methodology
      - Over **2500 policy and law makers trained** in 8 years in the ASEAN, EAC, ECOWAS, Latin America and the Caribbean.
    - ✓ Reviews of national laws and regional agreements;
    - ✓ Preparation of regionally harmonized legal frameworks and assistance in implementation at national level;
    - ✓ Public and private roundtables;
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## UNCTAD's work on cyberlaw harmonization

- ✓ Comparative regional reviews on e-commerce law harmonization
  - The Review for Caribbean countries to be published in 2016
- Partners include:
  - ✓ Programme funded by Finland, the Republic of Korea



Association of Caribbean States  
Asociación de Estados del Caribe  
Association des Etats de la Caraïbe





**MANY THANKS!**

