



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD



Regional Workshop on **E-commerce legislation harmonization in the Caribbean**

Trinidad and Tobago
29 September - 2 October 2015



LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN
ECONOMIC SYSTEM



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



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which is governed by its 194 member States, is the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. In the area of information and communication technologies (ICTs), UNCTAD carries out policy-oriented analytical work on their development implications and contributes to building the capacities of developing countries to measure the information economy and to design and implement relevant policies and legal frameworks. Since 2003, UNCTAD has been the leading capacity-building provider within the United Nations system supporting the preparation of legal frameworks for e-commerce in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean through the E-Commerce and Law Reform and TrainForTrade Programmes.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT), a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), has recognized the critical role of ICT in securing national and regional development objectives. At the national level, since 2003, GoRTT has elaborated national ICT strategies aimed at harnessing the transformational impact of ICT: fastforward (2003-2008) and smarTT (2014-2018). At the regional level, Trinidad and Tobago, working collaboratively with its partners, has contributed to the elaboration of the Regional Digital Development Strategy (RDDS) and to initial work on the CARICOM Single ICT Space. In so doing, GoRTT acknowledges that a critical component is the establishment of a robust enabling environment that comprises strategies, policies, legislation and regulations, the appropriate allocation of resources and the formation of strategic partnerships with stakeholders at the national, regional and international level.

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) is a regional intergovernmental organization grouping 32 member countries with the objective to enhance cooperation within the region. Its framework provides a forum for political dialogue that allows Members the opportunity to identify areas of common interest and concern that may be addressed at the regional level, and the solutions which can be found through cooperation. The ACS Membership has identified 5 main areas of concern for the attention of the Association: the preservation and conservation of the Caribbean sea; sustainable tourism; trade and economic external relations; natural disasters, and transports.

The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) is a regional intergovernmental organization that groups 27 Latin American and Caribbean countries. Its objectives are a) to provide the Latin American and Caribbean region with a system of consultation and coordination for the adoption of common positions and strategies on economic issues in international bodies and forums and b) to foster cooperation and integration among those countries, promoting capacity building in the region. In this regard, since 2010, the Permanent Secretariat has supported the organization and delivery of courses related to E-commerce in cooperation with UNCTAD.

Mapping Caribbean countries in global e-commerce

- E-commerce continues to grow both in volume and geographic reach
- Global B2B e-commerce: \$15 trillion
- Global B2C e-commerce: \$1.2 trillion, growing faster than B2B, especially in Asia and Africa
- Developing economies are expected to account for almost 40% of global B2C e-commerce by 2018

Caribbean countries featured in the UNCTAD B2C E-Commerce Index, 2014

(130 countries assessed)

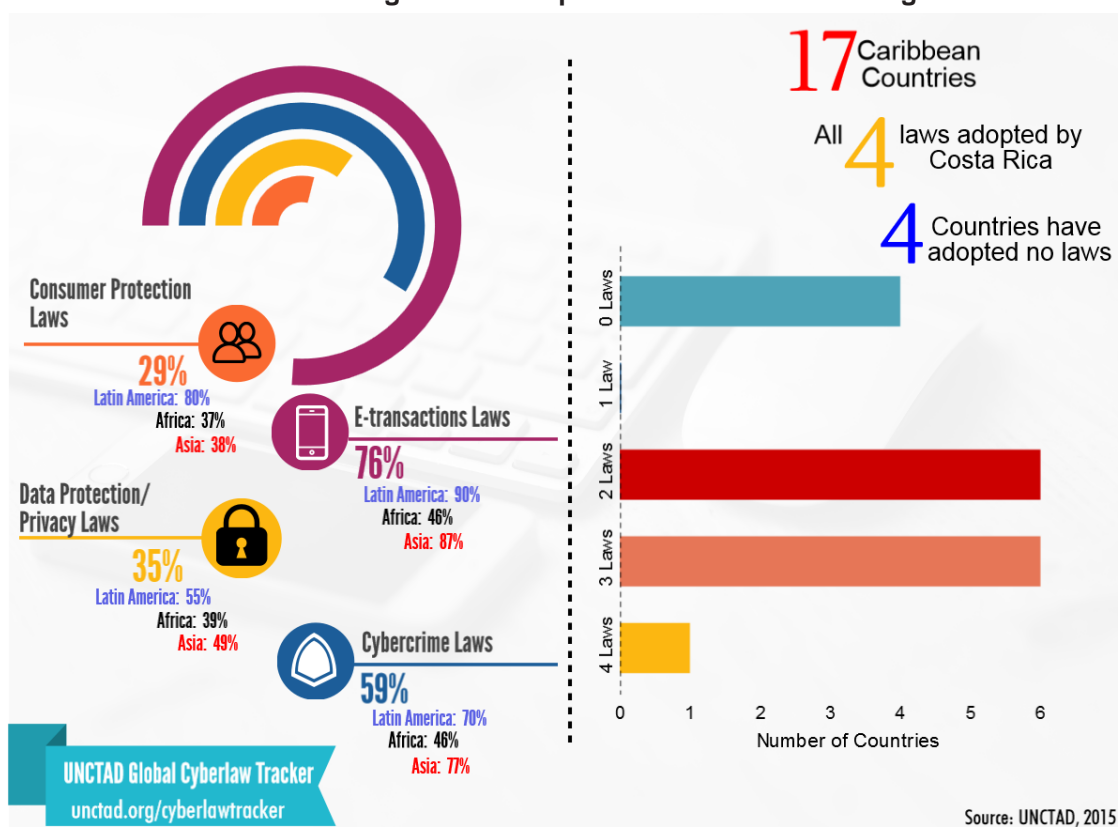
Economy	Share of population having mail delivered at home (2012 or latest, %)	Share of individuals with credit card (15+, 2011, %)	Share of individuals using Internet (2013 or latest, %)	Secure servers per 1 million people (normalized, 2013)	UNCTAD E-Commerce Index value	Actual Rank in the Index
Trinidad and Tobago	93	15.3	59.5	73.8	60.4	43
Costa Rica	98	12.2	47.5	72.5	57.6	52
Dominican Republic	99	12.2	45.0	61.5	54.5	57
El Salvador	95	5.3	25.5	60.9	46.7	72
Jamaica	50	6.9	46.5	67.9	42.8	80
Haiti	40	1.8	9.8	37.7	22.3	107

Source: UNCTAD's Information Economy Report 2015

According to UNCTAD research and Cyberlaw Tracker:

- The enactment of laws that facilitate security and trust in online transactions varies considerably across the world, with significant gaps in many developing countries
- International compatibility of e-commerce laws remains a challenge for many countries, including developed economies
- Laws, capacity and infrastructure are needed to respond effectively to cybercrimes
- Consumers buying online from other countries need better protection

E-commerce legislation adoption in the Caribbean region



Background documents

UNCTAD



Information Economy Report 2015:

Unlocking the Potential of E-commerce for Developing Countries

The 2015 edition of the Information Economy Report examines recent trends in e-commerce, introduces the UNCTAD B2C E-commerce Index and maps the availability of cyberlegislation around the world. It offers concrete policy recommendations to countries on how to harness e-commerce to support economic growth and sustainable development.



Information Economy Report 2013:

The Cloud Economy and Developing Countries

The report offers a first examination of the implications of cloud computing for developing countries. Based on an analysis of the available evidence, it identifies specific areas that policymakers in developing countries and their partners should consider when designing strategies to translate the cloud economy into development gains.

Cyberlaw Tracker: unctad.org/cyberlawtracker

The UNCTAD Global Cyberlaw Tracker is the first ever global mapping of cyberlaws. It tracks the state of e-commerce legislation adoption in the fields of e-transactions, consumer protection online, data protection/privacy and cybercrime in the 194 UNCTAD member states.



Study on Prospects for Harmonizing Cyber-legislation in Latin America

Study on Prospects for Harmonizing Cyber-legislation in Central America and the Caribbean.

These comparative reviews take stock of the state of e-commerce legislation adoption in Latin America and in the Caribbean and provide recommendations intended to serve as a basis for the region to consider the next steps in its efforts to create a harmonized legal framework for e-commerce. Updated studies reflecting the state of e-commerce legislation in 2015 in the region will be published shortly.



ICT for Development

<http://unctad.org/ICT4D>

TrainForTrade Programme

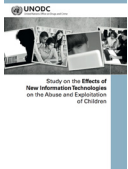
<https://tft.unctad.org>

UNODC



Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime

http://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/cybercrime/CYBERCRIME_STUDY_210213.pdf



Study on the Effects of New Information Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children

http://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/cybercrime/Study_on_the_Effects.pdf

UNODC Cybercrime Repository

<http://cybrepo.unodc.org>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

<http://www.cybercrime.gov>