

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2026

The Caribbean's Most Powerful ICT Event Is Coming to Punta Cana

41st Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition

"Elevate the Caribbean: From Connectivity to Global Competitiveness"

August 9–12, 2026 | Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago — CANTO, the Caribbean's premier telecommunications and ICT trade association, proudly announces its 41st Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition, to be held at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from August 9–12, 2026. Themed "Elevate the Caribbean: From Connectivity to Global Competitiveness," the event signals a bold and forward-looking vision for the region's digital future — one that moves beyond connectivity as an infrastructure goal and positions the Caribbean as a globally competitive digital economy.

CANTO 2026 will bring together leading policymakers, government ministers, regulators, telecom operators, technology innovators, investors, and industry executives from across the Caribbean, Latin America, and beyond for four days of high-level dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing at one of the Caribbean's most iconic resort destinations.

A Strong Foundation of Industry Support

CANTO is pleased to welcome Liberty Caribbean as the Headline Sponsor of the 41st Annual Conference & Trade Exhibition. With a legacy spanning over 150 years, from the first telegraph cables to today's advanced fibre, mobile, and broadband networks across the Caribbean - their continued investment in CANTO reflects a shared commitment to building a more connected, resilient, and competitive Caribbean.

Joining the distinguished sponsor lineup are Gold Sponsors One Communications and ClearSky Technologies. One Communications, operating across Bermuda, Guyana, the Cayman Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, brings a multi-territory perspective to Caribbean digital infrastructure. ClearSky Technologies — celebrating 25 years of innovation — brings global telecom expertise in traffic management, A2P messaging, and network security. Additional sponsor announcements are forthcoming as the conference approaches.

A Historic Level of Government Representation

One of the defining features of CANTO 2026 is the unprecedented level of government participation. CANTO is poised to welcome thirteen Government Ministers who will attend, collaborate, and engage in the conversations shaping the Caribbean's digital policy landscape — with four additional ministerial confirmations currently in the pipeline.

Ministers confirmed for #CANTO2026 include:

- **Hon. Jose Vanterpool**, Minister of Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing, Information Technology (IT), and E-Government, *Government of Anguilla*
- **Hon. Jonathan Reid**, Minister of Innovation and Technology, *Government of Barbados*
- **Hon. Michael Chebat**, Minister of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, and E-Government, *Government of Belize*
- **Hon. Diallo Rabain**, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Digital Innovation, *Government of Bermuda*

- **Hon. Isaac Rankine**, Minister for Social Development & Innovation and Minister for Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage, *Government of Cayman Islands*
- **Hon. Rolston Anglin**, Minister for Finance and Economic Development and Minister for Education and Training, *Government of Cayman Islands*
- **Hon. Charles Cooper**, Minister of Traffic, Transport and Urban Planning, *Government of Curaçao*
- **Hon. Chekira Lockhart Hypolite**, Minister of Public Works and Digital Economy W.R.F. Public Utilities, Telecommunications and Broadcasting, *Government of Dominica*
- **Hon. Vince Henderson**, Minister of foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy, *Government of Dominica*
- **Hon. Daryl Vaz**, Minister of Transport, Telecommunications and Energy, *Government of Jamaica*
- **Hon. Konris Maynard**, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Energy and Utilities, Domestic Transport, Information, Communication and Technology and Posts, *Government of St. Kitts and Nevis*
- **Hon. Grisha Heyliger Marten**, Minister of Tourism, economic affairs, Transport and Telecommunications, *Government of St. Maarten*
- **Hon. Dominic Smith**, Minister of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, *Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*

This level of ministerial representation underscores CANTO's unique role as the region's premier platform for high-level ICT dialogue between government, industry, and the private sector. The portfolios represented — spanning digital economy, artificial intelligence, infrastructure, energy, and public administration — reflect the breadth of the policy environment that Caribbean ICT stakeholders navigate daily.

World-Class Speakers and a Compelling Programme

CANTO 2026 will feature an exceptional lineup of international speakers bringing global expertise to the Caribbean's most important ICT conversations. Confirmed speakers include:

Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava

Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

With over 30 years in telecommunications and more than two decades within ITU's Development Sector, Dr. Zavazava has been instrumental in advancing impactful ICT initiatives globally, driving digital development, and strengthening the partnerships that connect governments, industry, and academia. His presence at CANTO 2026 affirms the global relevance of the Caribbean's digital conversation and the importance of the region's alignment with international ICT development goals.

Ambassador Abhinav Puri (AP)

Ambassador, Federation of International Consular Chambers of Africa (FICA) | Session: Financing of Demand & Monetization of Digital Infrastructure

A GSM pioneer with nearly three decades of global experience across five continents, Ambassador Puri brings a rare combination of diplomatic authority, ICT expertise, and international business strategy. His session addresses one of the most critical questions facing Caribbean digital development — how to finance the infrastructure that powers the region's digital ambitions.

Professor Therese Chambers

Professor, University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech) | Session: Smart Energy Infrastructure for a Digitally Connected Caribbean

A registered Professional Engineer, Certified Energy Manager, and Senior Member of IEEE, Professor Chambers is one of the Caribbean's foremost authorities on power systems, renewable energy integration, and smart energy systems. Her session brings a critical and often overlooked dimension to the digital transformation conversation — the energy infrastructure that must underpin it.

Additional speaker announcements are forthcoming. The full conference programme is available at www.canto.org.

Key Topics on the Agenda

The CANTO 2026 programme spans four days of thought-provoking sessions, keynote addresses, panel discussions, and spotlight presentations. Among the themes driving the agenda this year:

Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation

As AI reshapes industries globally, CANTO 2026 will examine its implications for Caribbean operators, regulators, and businesses.

Cybersecurity, Digital Sovereignty and Trust

Protecting digital infrastructure and data sovereignty remains a top priority for governments and operators across the region.

Connectivity and Broadband Infrastructure

The foundation of digital competitiveness — how the Caribbean continues to expand and future-proof its networks.

Financing and Monetization of Digital Infrastructure

Unlocking the investment models that will fund the next generation of Caribbean digital infrastructure.

Smart Energy Infrastructure

The intersection of energy and digital connectivity — building the sustainable power systems that underpin a digitally connected Caribbean.

Policy, Regulation and Public-Private Partnerships

The frameworks that enable innovation while protecting consumers and driving inclusive growth.

Inclusive Access, Digital Skills and Empowerment

Ensuring the digital future reaches every community, with a focus on women, youth, and underserved populations.

Trade Exhibition

The Trade Exhibition Hall will showcase cutting-edge technology, products, and solutions from leading companies across the ICT ecosystem throughout the conference. Exhibitors confirmed for CANTO 2026 include Liberty Caribbean, PXS, ARIN, ParktelUSA, One Source Suppliers, MIND Business in Motion, Ookla, 6D Technologies, LACNIC, Anritsu, Newaya, Calix, Power & Tel, HRizons, IntegraTouch, GSMA, and Summa Networks, among others.

Inaugural CANTO Ministerial Award for ICT Leadership & Digital Transformation

A major highlight of CANTO 2026 will be the inaugural presentation of the CANTO Ministerial Award for ICT Leadership & Digital Transformation. Grounded in the Pillars of Caribbean Digital Excellence™, this prestigious award recognises a government minister who has delivered measurable digital impact across five dimensions: Digital Policy & Governance, Inclusive Access & Empowerment, National Digital Transformation, Regional & Global Influence, and Investment & Infrastructure Growth. Nominations close June 20, 2026. Full details at: <https://canto.org/events/ministerial-award>

Exclusive Benefits for CANTO 2026 Delegates

- Hotel Discount: 40% off accommodation at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Punta Cana. Book by July 24, 2026
- Airfare Discount: 10% off Copa Airlines flights, valid for travel August 6–15, 2026.
- Group Registration Discounts: 10% off for 3–5 delegates, 15% off for 6–10 delegates, 20% off for 11+ delegates.
- Dominican Republic Resident Discount: Exclusive 25% registration discount for DR residents. Contact jdiaz@canto.org for the discount code.

“CANTO 2026 is not just our 41st Annual Conference — it is a declaration of the Caribbean’s ambition to compete on the global digital stage. The conversations, connections, and decisions made in Punta Cana this August will shape the region’s digital future for years to come. We look forward to welcoming our members, partners, and the wider ICT community to the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for what promises to be our most dynamic and impactful event yet.” — Teresa Wankin, Secretary General, CANTO

Registration

Registration for CANTO 2026 is open – visit www.canto.org. For group and institutional registrations, or for information on sponsorship and exhibition opportunities, contact the CANTO Secretariat at canto@canto.org.

About CANTO

CANTO is the region’s premier ICT trade association, representing telecommunications operators, regulators, and technology companies across the Caribbean and Latin America. With a membership spanning more than 30 countries, CANTO advocates for a connected, competitive, and digitally inclusive Caribbean. Headquartered in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, CANTO facilitates regional dialogue, policy development, capacity building, and industry collaboration through its annual conference, working committees, webinar series, and strategic partnerships.

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