



# Regional Regulatory Harmonisation in Telecoms – what can OOCUR do?

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# Regulatory harmonisation

- Sharing information
- Sharing expertise
- Discussing and addressing cross jurisdictional issues such as international roaming



# Regulators across the Caribbean

- Anguilla - Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
- Bahamas - Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA)
- Barbados - Fair Trading Commission (FTC)
- Belize - Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
- British Virgin Islands - Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (TRC)
- Dominica - Independent Regulatory Commission (IRC)
- Guyana - Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
- Jamaica - Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR)
- St Lucia - Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) (OECS)
- Trinidad & Tobago - Regulated Industries Commission (RIC)
- Turks and Caicos Islands - TCI Telecommunications Commission
- US Virgin Islands - Virgin Islands Public Services Commission (VIPSC)



# Common Telecoms issues

- Interconnection and the regulation of termination rates
- Mobile Number Portability
- Broadband policies and penetration targets
- Spectrum policy
- Satellite policy
- International roaming
- Copyright protection
- Child Protection
- E-waste initiatives... and more



# Who and what are we regulating?

- 3+ operator markets (e.g. Anguilla, BVI, Guyana, Turks and Caicos, USVI)
- 2 strong regional operators – Digicel and LIME



# 3 + operator markets

- **Anguilla:** Cable & Wireless, Digicel, and Weblinks
- **Barbados:** Cable & Wireless, Digicel, and Sunbeach Communications
- **British Virgin Islands:** Cable & Wireless, Digicel, and CCT
- **Dominican Republic:** America Movil, Tricom, Trilogy, Orange, Claro and Viva
- **French Guiana:** Digicel, Orange Caraibe, and Outremer Telecom
- **French West Indies:** Digicel, Orange Caraibe, and Outremer Telecom
- **Guyana:** Telephone & Telegraph, TWT, and Digicel
- **Haiti:** Digicel, Comcel, Natcom, and Haitel
- **Netherlands Antilles:** Digicel, Setel, and SETAR
- **Puerto Rico:** America Movil, AT&T Mobility, Sprint Nextel, T-Mobile, Open Mobile, Proxtel Wireless, Claro, and FracFone Wireless
- **Turks & Caicos Islands:** Cable & Wireless, Digicel, and Islandcom Wireless
- **US Virgin Islands:** AT&T Mobility, Innovative Wireless, Sprint Nextel, Choice Wireless, T-Mobile, and FracFone Wireless



# What is the right kind of regulatory harmonisation?

- Best practice regulation:
  - Credible
  - Predictable
  - Stable
  - Legitimate
  - Transparent
  - Proportional
- Purpose must be to reduce regulatory burden and costs



# Areas for harmonisation

1. Information
2. Sharing expertise
3. Cross-jurisdictional issues

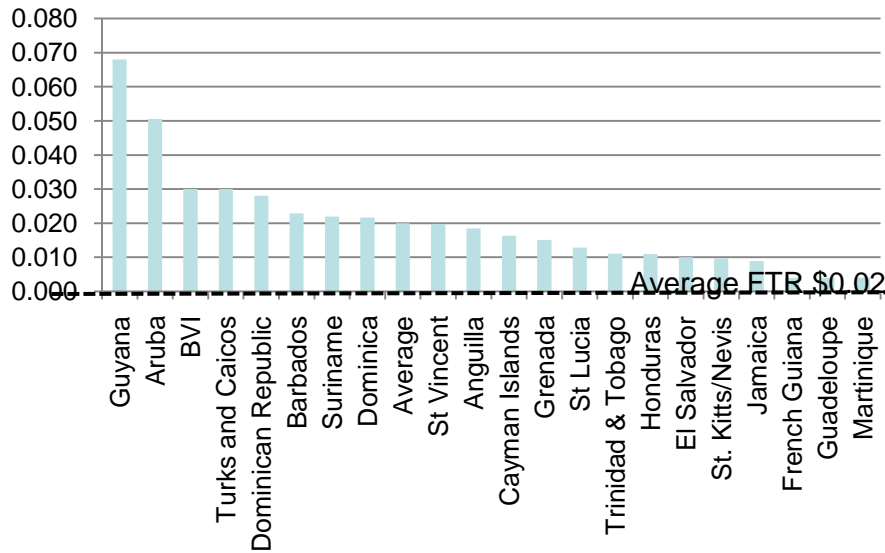




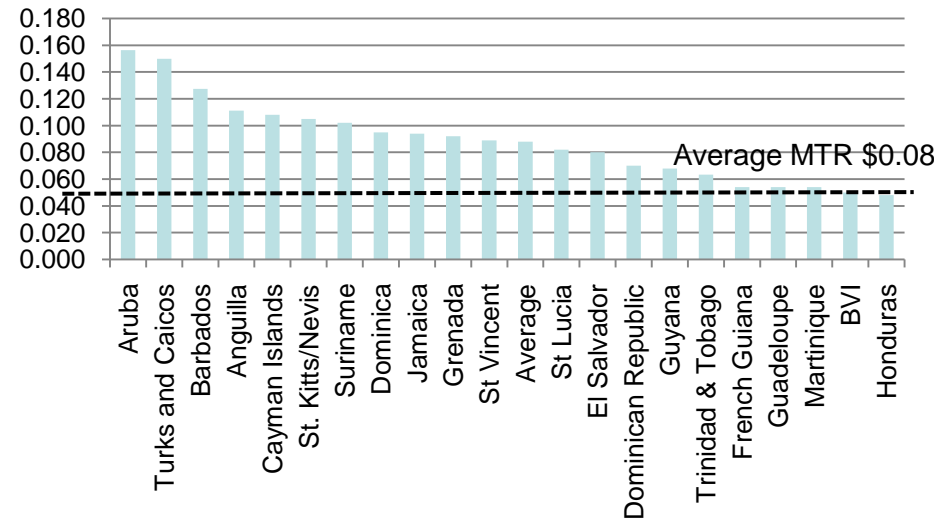
# Information example

- Interconnection: termination rates and interconnection regulations and agreements
- Termination rates vary widely across the Caribbean

### FTR Benchmarks US\$ 2011



### MTR Benchmarks US\$ 2011





# Information example

- Information perspective:
  - Collation of benchmarks on fixed and mobile termination rates from similar countries across the Caribbean
  - Collation of interconnection regulations and interconnection agreements as best practice templates
- Harmonisation perspective:
  - Idea of harmonising termination rates across the Caribbean
  - Use of model guidelines for interconnection regulations and agreements eg from HIPCAR
- No need to reinvent the wheel but also no need to replicate where what's in place already works



# Sharing expertise

- Competition investigations: economic toolkits outlining the appropriate economic tests to apply
- For example, market definition and margin squeeze tests: when it is appropriate to apply different tests – sharing information within the boundaries of legality
- Case study material

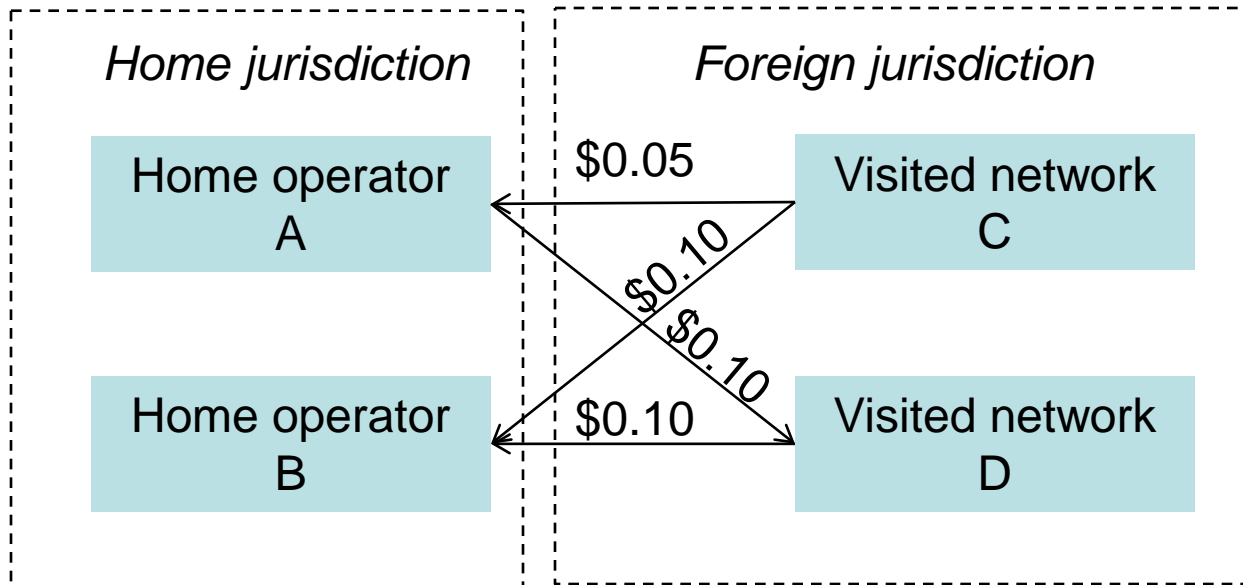


# Cross jurisdictional issues

- International roaming:
  - Wholesale agreements between operators are commercially negotiated
  - Caribbean operators can charge different rates to other Caribbean operators which then influence the retail rate
  - One Caribbean country does not have the jurisdiction to regulate the wholesale roaming rate charged by the operators of another Caribbean country



# Int'l roaming problem



- Operator A Retail price = \$0.05 + home costs
- Operator B Retail price = \$0.10 + home costs



# European solutions

- Wholesale price regulation + glidepath applicable to voice calls (incoming and outgoing), SMS and data
- Retail price regulation + glidepath applicable to voice calls (incoming and outgoing), SMS and data
- Scope of roaming regulation has increased since inception
- Price transparency websites do not help home operator B unless preceded by wholesale regulation
- **Possible Caribbean solution a MOU on wholesale pricing ring-fenced to the Caribbean?**



# And in the future

- International roaming
- Net neutrality and traffic management
- Content regulation? Child Protection and Copyright protection?





**Thanks**