



## **Workshop for Caribbean countries to promote the development and implementation of Conformity Assessment programmes**

**Development of quality infrastructure to promote interoperability, quality and safety of telecommunication/ICT equipment and to facilitate international competitiveness and sustainable production of ICT goods and services within the Caribbean region**

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12/23/2014

CARICOM Regional Organisation for  
Standards and Quality

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## **Presentation Outline**

- ❖ **CROSQ Establishment – Agreements, Membership, Governance Structure**
- ❖ **Mission and Objectives of CROSQ**
- ❖ **Standards development process**

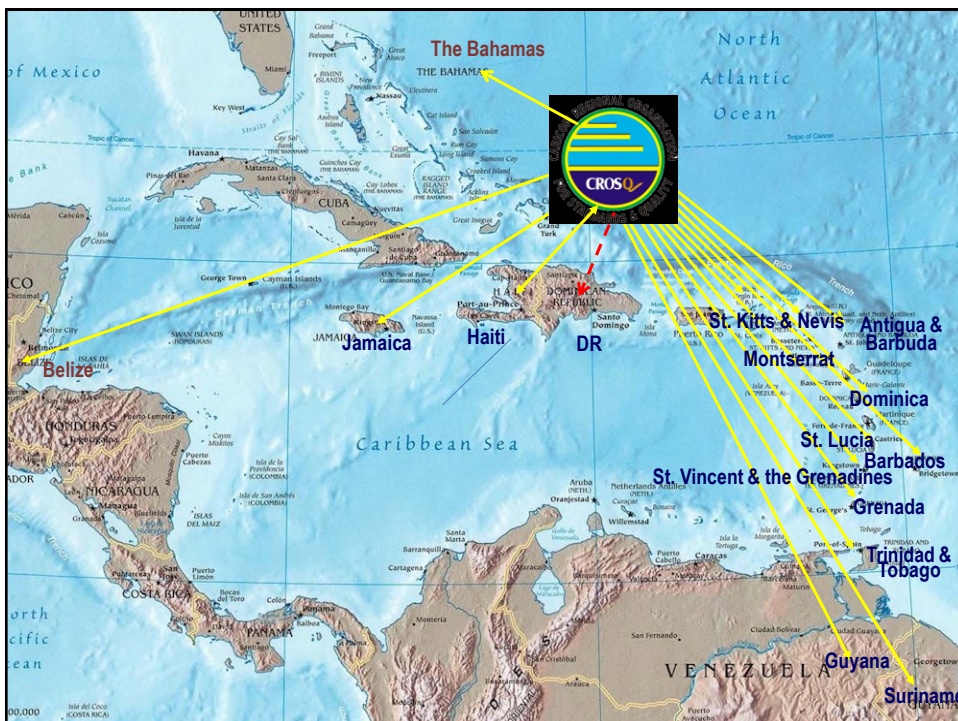
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## .... ABOUT CROSQ



- ❖ Successor to Caribbean Common Market Standards Council (CCMSC),
- ❖ CROSQ established via Article 67 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas – Standards and Regulations
- ❖ Headquarters Agreement (Secretariat located in Barbados): signed in Bridgetown -18<sup>th</sup> January 2007

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## OUR MANDATE

- Support the CARICOM mandate in the expansion of intra-regional and extra-regional trade in goods and services.
- Be the regional centre for promoting efficiency and competitive production in goods and services, through the process of standardisation and the verification of quality
- Represent the region in international hemispheric standards work
- Promote the harmonization of metrology systems and standards
- Increase the pace of development of regional standards for the sustainable production of goods and services in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)

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## VISION & MISSION

### VISION

*CROSQ - The Leader for the development and promotion of the Regional Quality Infrastructure*

### MISSION

*To facilitate trade and competitiveness of CARICOM products and services for sustainable development through the implementation of a Regional Quality Infrastructure (RQI)*

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## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



- ❖ To promote the development of Standards and the recognition of Technical Regulations
- ❖ To encourage the recognition of certified products and accredited systems
- ❖ To provide guidance to Organs and Bodies of the CSME including dispute settlements such as COTED (Council of CARICOM Ministers of Trade)

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## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES...



- ❖ To promote and protect the interest of States and parties and Associate Members in regional and International Standards Fora
- ❖ To increase the awareness of standards-related matters including *technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and metrology*
- ❖ To facilitate achievement of **international competitiveness** of regional goods and services by fostering a culture of **quality** in national and regional enterprises

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## THE REGIONAL STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

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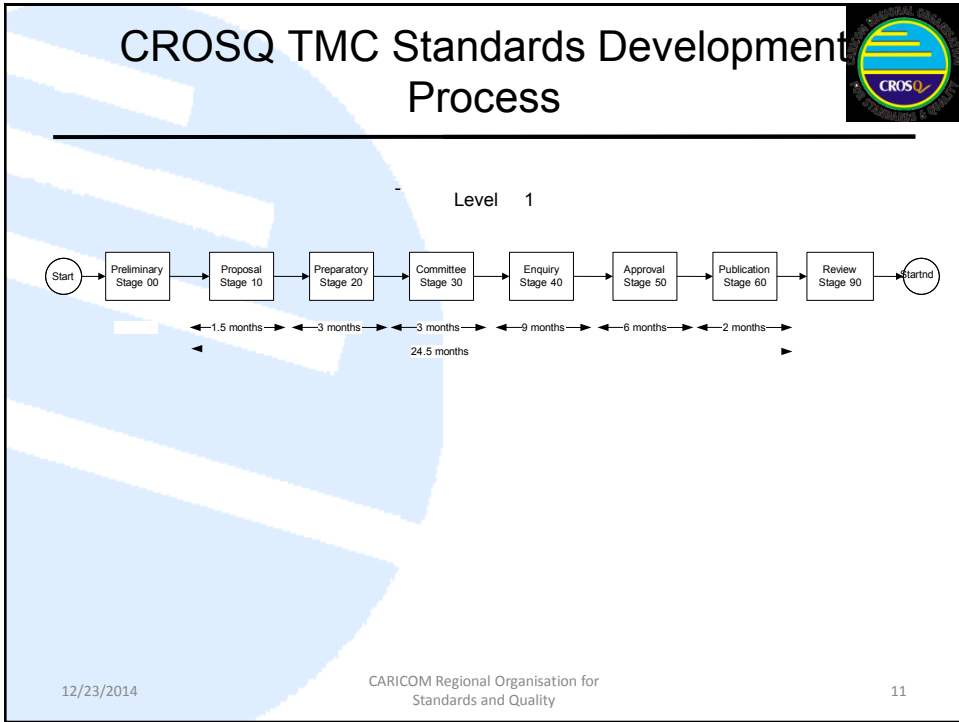
## Project stages

Project stage	Name	Abbreviation
<b>Preliminary stage</b>	Preliminary work item	PWI
<b>Proposal stage</b>	New work item proposal	NP (1.5 mths)
<b>Preparatory stage</b>	Working draft(s)	WD (3 mths)
<b>Committee stage</b>	Committee draft(s)	CD ( 3mths)
<b>Enquiry stage</b>	Enquiry draft	DCRS ( 9 mths)
<b>Approval stage</b>	final draft Standard	FDCRS (6mths)
<b>Publication stage</b>	RegionalStandard	CRS ( 2mths)
<b>Review stage</b>	Maintenance of std.	After 3 years


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## CLOSING THE GAPS.....




10<sup>TH</sup> EDF






TBT PROJECT

## CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME TBTs



<b>WEAK QUALITY CULTURE IN THE CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>WEAK LEGISLATIVE &amp; REGULATORY FRAMEWORK</b>	<b>LACK OF HARMONISED STANDARDS &amp; TECHNICAL REGULATIONS</b>
<b>INSUFFICIENT USE OF STANDARDS</b>	<b>LIMITED HUMAN RESOURCES &amp; TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN NSBS</b>	<b>INADEQUATE SYSTEMS FOR VERIFICATION OF MEASUREMENTS</b>
<b>HIGH ACCREDITATION COSTS</b>	<b>LIMITED CAPACITY FOR TESTING &amp; CERTIFICATION OF PRODUCTS</b>	<b>LOW INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR REGIONAL QI</b>

## OUR GOAL

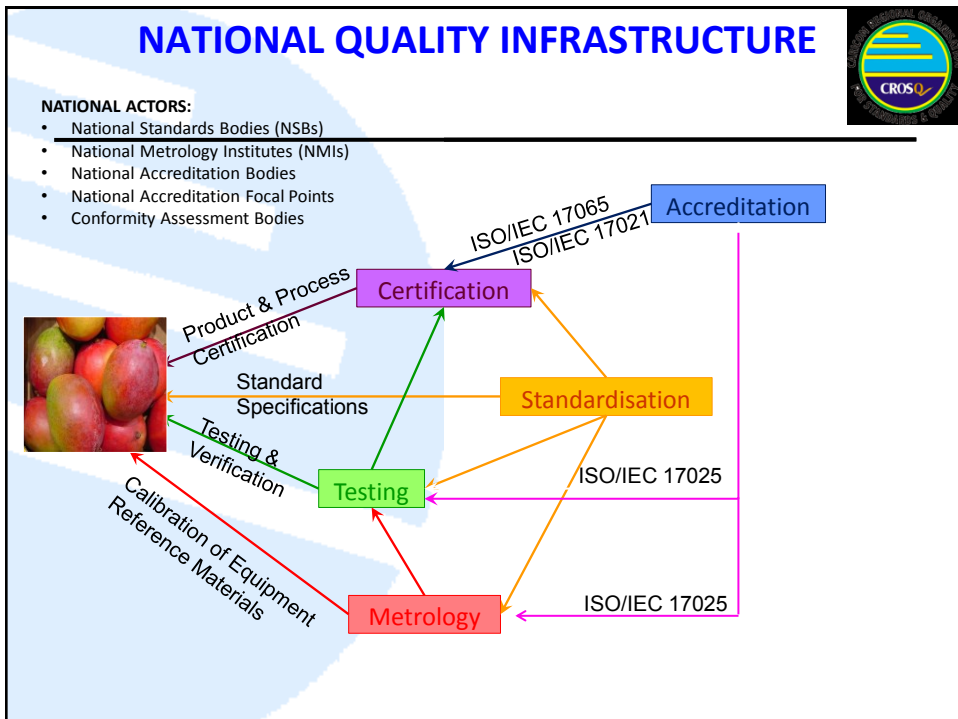
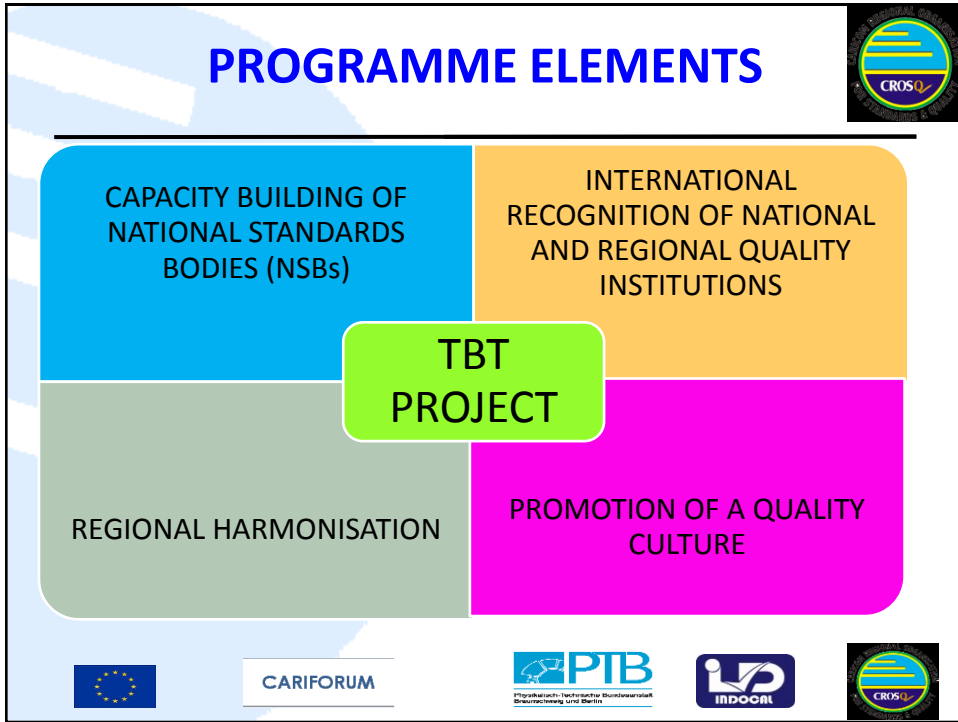


**CARIBBEAN COMPETITIVENESS BUILT ON QUALITY**

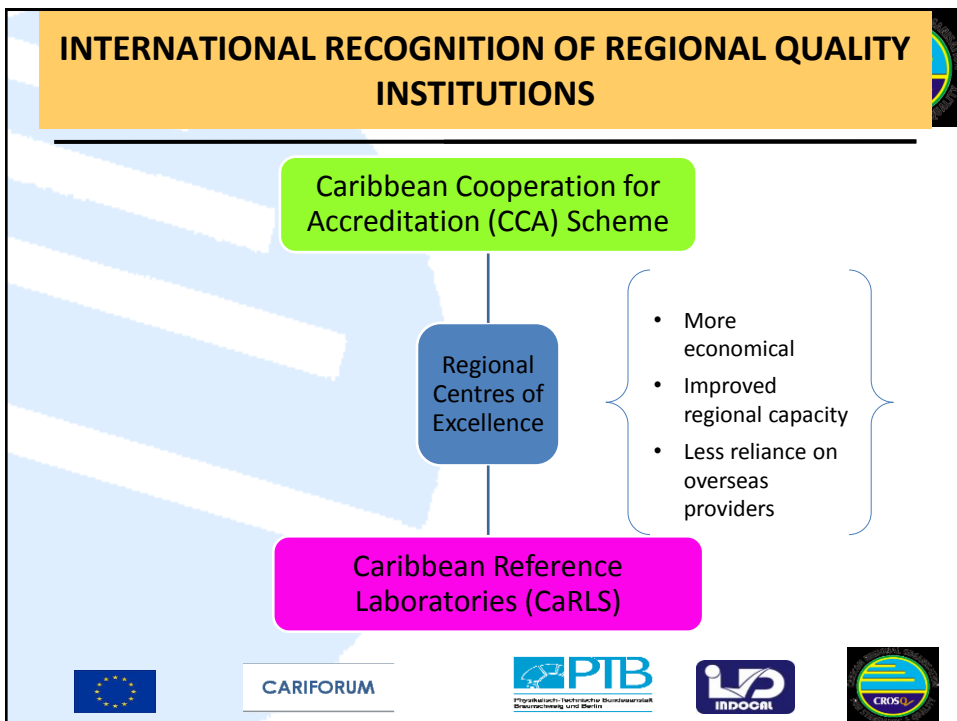
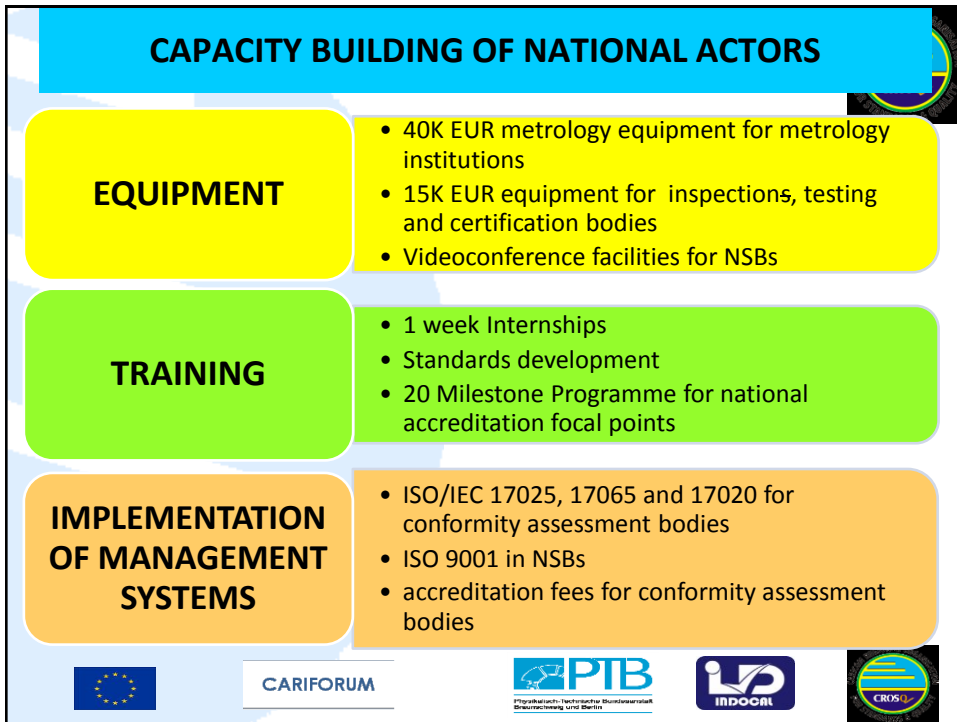
- Increased Exports
- Access to New Markets
- Greater Consumer Confidence

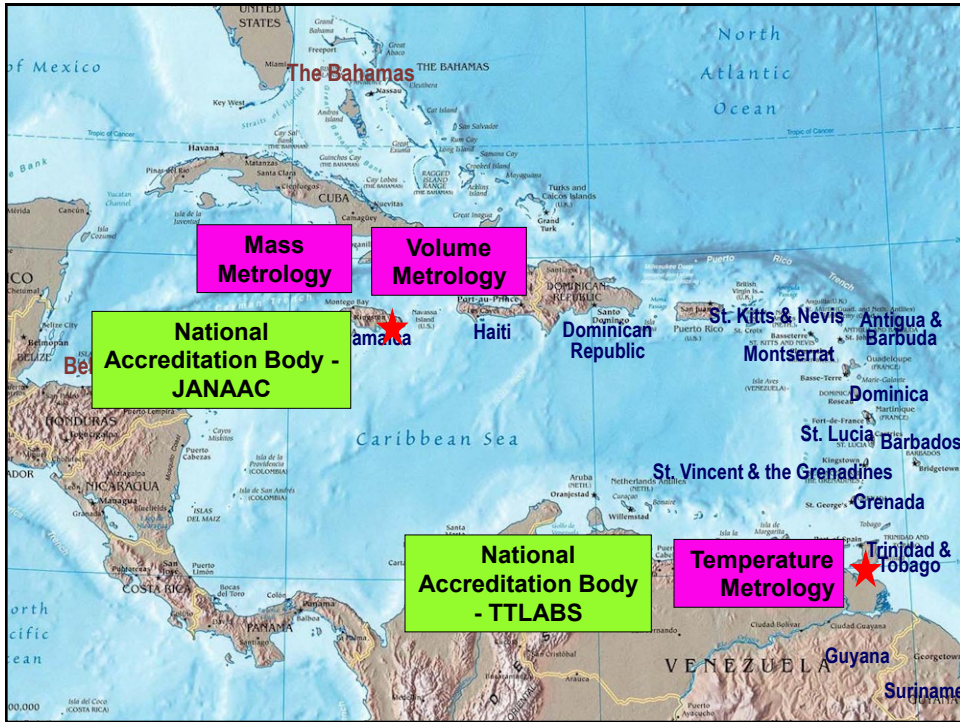
















## REGIONAL HARMONISATION

Policy & Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Quality Infrastructure Policy - framework for increased use of QI for trade facilitation</li> <li>• Model Quality Infrastructure legislation</li> <li>• Review of Metrology legislation</li> </ul>
Harmonised Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review CARICOM Standards</li> <li>• Harmonization of standards between CARICOM &amp; Dominican Republic – e.g. fresh mango, banana</li> <li>• Strengthen national processes for technical regulations development</li> </ul>
Regional Conformity Assessment Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network of conformity assessment bodies for greater cooperation and mutual recognition</li> <li>• Regional certification programme</li> <li>• Support to market surveillance for imports and exports</li> </ul>

## THE END GAME... *“Tested once.....accepted everywhere”*

- Harmonisation of technical requirements among Member countries
- Greater adoption and increased use of regional standards
- Greater accuracy in testing and measurement systems
- Internationally recognised calibration services traceable to the International System of Units (SI)
- Internationally recognised and economical accreditation services in the region
- Mutual recognition and equivalency of regulations and conformity assessment procedures among countries
- Improved Caribbean Quality Culture




## THANK YOU

- **QUESTIONS?**

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