

## ITU SIDS

It is necessary to continue to include telecommunications (or Information and Communication Technologies – ICTs) with Transport, since this sector continues to be very important for SIDS and it has the potential to bring significant assistance to the development of SIDS. As we get more involved in the information society the role of ICTs will become more significant. ICTs should be treated as a major cross-cutting issue and will be of importance in the diversification of the economies of SIDS, now suffering from the effects of global problems. This was recently stated by the CARICOM lead Prime Minister for ICTs, Hon. Tillman Thomas of Grenada.

Since the late 1990s we have witnessed the liberalization of the ICT sector and this has continued. We now see a proliferation of mobile telephones and connectivity where connectivity was previously not possible. This has helped to generate economic activities that were previously possible. Notwithstanding the effect of mobile phones, SIDS are not doing very well in respect of the introduction of broadband technologies which is crucial to the further development of SIDS and the harnessing of the potential of ICTs.

The UN's World Summit on the Information Society was convened over two Sessions ((2003 and 2005), led by the ITU. One of its objectives was to assist in the implementation of the MDGs. SIDS and MDGs are referred to in MDG No. 8 with respect to making available the benefits of new technologies. There are several goals to

the disposal of computer and cell phone equipment. Consequently suitable e-waste policies are required.