

Media Release

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OOCUR Chairman Calls on Caribbean Regulators to Focus on Public Interest Outcomes

(Kingston, Jamaica; 2026 May 1): Chairman of the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) and Director-General of the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR), Ansord E. Hewitt, has appealed to regional utility regulators to avoid becoming overly preoccupied with procedures and practices, and instead focus on ensuring that their work delivers tangible benefits to society.

Mr. Hewitt made the call while addressing participants on the third day of the 20th OOCUR Conference, during the Regulatory Round Table held under the theme *“Regulatory Innovations: Embracing Change in a Rapidly Transforming Utility Landscape.”*

He underscored the importance of critically assessing how regulatory work is carried out, warning against an overreliance on established practices at the expense of outcomes.

“Is it possible that a great part of the practise of perceived difficulty is that, over time, we have succumbed to the temptation to value practices above principles, emphasize inputs over outputs, promote methodologies over results, and stick to the tried and tested when all evidence suggests that they have shifted. So I do remind us that in the final analysis, regulation is only beneficial if it makes society better off, as evidence in such outcomes as lower prices, better service quality, diversity of choices, improved product and service offerings”, he stated.

Against the backdrop of a rapidly changing practice landscape, Mr. Hewitt called for a reassessment of existing regulatory perspectives. He emphasised that the challenge posed to regulators in an increasingly dynamic environment is not to their ability to deliver on their mandate, but rather how to re-examine, recaliberate and adapt the methods and approaches being applied. In this context, he asked whether big data and artificial intelligence should not be viewed as enablers, providing faster means of conducting research, assimilating information, improving decision-making, and delivering outcomes more speedily and efficiently.

Further highlighting the role of technology in modern regulation, Mr. Hewitt further noted:

“Social media platforms enable us to expand the reach of our consultation and to get more insight. The rapid changes in technology push us to engage with regulatory analysis, which allows us to have some proof of concept before regulatory intervention. So the thrust of my argument is that regulatory consistency is more about adherence to principles and pursuit of public interest outcomes than about devotion to methodologies, approaches, instruments and practises”.

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The Regulatory Round Table also featured contributions from regional regulatory leaders, including:

- Kathyann Belle, Director of Utility Regulation, Fair Trading Commission, Barbados
- Kenva Williams, Director General, Telecommunications Commission, Turks and Caicos Islands
- Anand Kalpoe, Chairman, Energy Authority of Suriname (EAS)
- Edwin Bogert, Chief Legal Officer, Regulatory Authority of Curaçao

The session was moderated by Glenn Khan, former Executive Director of OOCUR.

The 20th OOCUR regional utility regulatory conference, is being held at the Ocean Coral Spring Resort in Trelawny, Jamaica, from April 27–May 1, 2026, under the theme *“Navigating Caribbean Regulatory Challenges: Opportunities, Innovations and Collaborations.”*

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