



CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

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4th August 2021



Dear Internet Governance Stakeholder,

17th Caribbean Internet Governance Forum

On behalf of the Internet stakeholders of the region, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) cordially invites you to the 17th Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF), which will take place **online** from the **24th to 25th August 2021** via Zoom videoconferencing, with the theme: ***Caribbean Internet Governance Priorities for Post-COVID ICT-Driven Development***.

The CIGF is a regional, multi-stakeholder forum initiated by the CTU and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in 2005 to coordinate a regional approach to Internet Governance (IG). The CIGF is historic in that it was the first regional Internet Governance Forum in the world to be established as a result of the work of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) - Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005. The forum has since met annually and has grown and evolved while consistently delivering significant and pioneering benefits to the region, including the formulation and implementation of a Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework; the proliferation of local Internet exchange points (IXPs); capacity building in IG Principles and best practices; the creation of national IGFs, and the growth in Caribbean influence at international IG fora.

The CIGF is designed to be informal, inclusive and non-hierarchical, being open to Government policy makers, regulators, public and private sector organisations, telecommunications operators, Internet service providers, academic institutions, Internet stakeholders and civil society users. In this second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CIGF will once again be convened fully via online videoconferencing. This demonstrates the indispensable role of information and communication technology (ICT) to our current and future life circumstances and consequently the vital importance and urgency for effective, locally relevant Internet governance policies and practices.

The theme and agenda for this year's forum reflect this reality. Sessions will address various work streams of Internet governance necessary to identify today's priorities and seize opportunities to position the Caribbean for sustainable, ICT-driven post-COVID recovery. The overview and outline agenda for the 17th CIGF are attached and registration may be done via <http://ctu.int/event/17thcigf>. Progressive updates of the detailed provisional agenda and instructions for remote participation will be posted on this CTU web page in the lead-up to the event. Should you require additional information, kindly contact Ms. Brenda Julien at (+1 868) 628 0281 ext 221 or at Brenda.Julien@ctu.int.

We look forward to welcoming you or a representative to this important forum.

Sincerely,

for

Rodney Taylor

SECRETARY GENERAL



THEME: Caribbean Internet Governance Priorities for Post-COVID ICT-Driven Development

24th TO 25th AUGUST 2021 • ONLINE • VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING

BACKGROUND

The Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) is a regional, multi-stakeholder forum initiated by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in 2005 to coordinate a regional approach to Internet Governance (IG), initially focussed on the proceedings of the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The forum has since met annually and has delivered significant and pioneering benefits to the region including formulation of a Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework; the proliferation of Internet exchange points (IXPs); capacity building in IG Principles and best practices; and growth in Caribbean influence in international IG fora. The CIGF is the longest running Internet Governance Forum in the world.

As we are still being affected by the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, this year the 17th CIGF will be convened once again via online videoconferencing under the auspices of the CTU. The remote working protocols occasioned by COVID-19 have demonstrated new urgency for digital transformation. The 17th CIGF will address various work streams of Internet governance necessary to seize this opportunity for accelerated adoption in a trusted and secure manner, and position the Caribbean for sustainable, ICT-driven post-COVID recovery. It will also continue work to update the regionally harmonised policy framework for Internet governance.

OBJECTIVES

- Consider Internet governance policies and initiatives for priority attention to facilitate COVID-19 response and recovery
- Review regional vision, priorities and approaches for sustainably building and/or strengthening consensus and action on IG issues in the Caribbean
- Build national capacity and systems in IG to enable, support, strengthen and sustain effective Caribbean participation and representation at regional and global Internet Governance fora

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Academia
- Civil society
- Government policy makers and IT Managers
- Internet users
- Internet service providers and Telecommunications operators
- International organisations
- ICT Regulators

PROGRAMME OUTLINE AT A GLANCE

Time	Day 1	Day 2
AM	<p>Welcome & Introduction to Internet Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIGF @ 17 <p>Reviewing CIGF Vision and Mission</p>	<p>Hot Topics in IG:</p> <p>Affordable Meaningful Connectivity</p>
AM	<p>National, Regional & Global IG Contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from National IGFs (T&T, SVG et al) • Report re LACIGF • UN IGF and support for National & Regional Initiatives (NRIs) 	<p>Multi-stakeholder Panel:</p> <p>[Foundational Digital ID: The Promise, Perils & Paths]</p>
PM	<p>Caribbean Internet Governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribbean IG Policy Framework • Policy Priorities for Current and Future Attention 	<p>ICANN 71 Review and ICANN 72 Outlook</p>
PM	<p>Workshop Session:</p> <p>Advancing and Sustaining Caribbean Internet Governance</p>	<p>Open Microphone</p> <p>Conclusions</p>
Evening		