Caribbean Telecommunications Union

Toward a Regional Information Society

A Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework

Issue 3.0

FOREWORD

The Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF), now in its 13th year has been at the forefront of fostering the development of the Internet and its resources in the Caribbean. Not only was the CIGF the first Internet Governance Forum to be established in the world, but it also has the distinction of establishing the first Internet Governance Policy Framework.

The finalisation of this the 3rd Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework is a testimony of the dedication of contributing regional stakeholders to the development of an Internet that serves the citizens of the region. This edition reflects the continuing evolution of the Internet and its inextricable meshing into the fabric of our lives, pointing to the need for broadband, appropriate legal frameworks and addressing such issues as privacy and enforcement of laws.

In 2014, at the 11th CIGF, the CTU proposed the establishment of national Internet governance fora to contribute to the work of the CIGF and receive support and guidance in harmonising internet governance (IG) activities across the Caribbean. The establishment of three national Internet Governance Fora (IGF) in the Caribbean is an encouraging development for strengthening IG in the region. These national IGF are expected to play a significant role in advancing the national Internet governance agenda.

Looking to the future, the Internet of things, big data, crypto currency and the proposed creation of a Caribbean Single ICT Space may well challenge us to rethink our perspective of Caribbean Internet Governance and cause us to revisit the strategic areas of the Framework. I am confident the talent and the commitment exists to prescribe a framework that will serve the citizens of the Caribbean and will be an example for the rest of the world.

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union has facilitated the development and implementation of the policy framework since it was first issued in 2009. We are grateful for the expertise and insights provided by Caribbean stakeholders in updating the Policy Framework. We are also grateful to the many international Internet organisations which have partnered with us to implement its policies projects and activities. We look forward to your continued support in building an Internet that would meet the needs of Caribbean citizens in this era.

Bernadette Lewis
CTU Secretary General
Caribbean Telecommunications Union

CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

CARIBBEAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE POLICY FRAMEWORK

Table of Contents

CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

A CARIBBEAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE (IG) POLICY FRAMEWORK

1   Introduction

Internet Governance (IG) has gained prominence on the world stage through the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), annual global IG Forum sessions since 2006 and associated regional events and declarations e.g. the current eLAC 2018 Digital Agenda. With the initiative towards a Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) moved to coordinate regional activities pertaining to ICT development, including those related to the WSIS and in January 2005, the CARICOM Secretariat enlisted the assistance of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) to address the issue of Internet Governance for the region.

In 2016, the Internet and its economy has become pervasive in most countries of the world with estimates of over 3 billion users, 950 million websites and thousands of autonomous networks connected. There are also more than 284 million domain names registered and billions of dollars spent daily on E-commerce.

Given the impact of ICT and the Internet on all aspects of life, issues of governance related to the Internet have engaged the full range of stakeholders including governments, the private sector and civil society. Since 2005 therefore, the CTU has convened annual meetings of its multi-stakeholder Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) and other relevant fora to foster regional progress on these issues (See Appendix 2).

These events have served to identify and prioritise IG issues of relevance to the Caribbean and to help build consensus on Caribbean positions for regional guidance and for international fora.

2   Basis and Aims of the Policy Framework

This policy framework document is a significant product of the work of the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum and provides a foundation from which a common regional approach to Internet governance might be forged. It proposes a vision for the Caribbean knowledge-based society, a mission and guiding principles for IG policy development in the Caribbean and makes specific recommendations for priority action. Implementation considerations for success are also proposed.

The intent of this document is to stimulate development of harmonised national policies and best practices in IG appropriate to and supportive of the aspirations of the Caribbean for economic and social development. It could also facilitate formulation of Caribbean positions for discussions at international fora and be the basis for further policy evolution in the region and possibly for small island developing states in general . The priority recommendations are also presented in a format that identifies which specific stakeholders have a role in bringing them to pass.

2.1   Internet Governance (IG) – A Working Definition

The WSIS process produced a working definition for Internet governance which recognized the roles of all stakeholders as follows:

Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

The CIGF has embraced this working definition and in crafting this framework document, has sought to identify and focus attention and action planning on those IG items of greatest priority for the Caribbean within the broad scope of the definition.

2.2   Vision for a Caribbean Information Society

"A knowledge based Caribbean community with strong identity and leadership in the global information society."

This document proposes a framework for coordinated action by Caribbean nations towards achievement of this vision.

2.3   Mission for Caribbean Internet Governance

The principle of multi-stakeholder participation underpins the statement of mission for IG in the Caribbean:

"To develop and maintain the appropriate regional, multi-stakeholder frameworks, mechanisms, policies and procedures to enable:

- *universal, open, equitable, affordable, flexible and secure access by Caribbean citizens to high capacity national and regional information infrastructure linked to global information resources*

- *ample supply and capacity for the creation, lawful use and distribution of Caribbean content and technologies*

- *expedited development of a vibrant digital economy in the Caribbean."*

It is recognised that the success of this mission is critically dependent on demonstrated regional commitment thereto, an enduring political will within the policy leadership and the involvement of all stakeholders (policy-makers, regulators, service providers, end users and civil society) at every stage of engagement and development.

2.4   Guiding Principles

The following principles shall guide the development and maintenance of a harmonised framework of Internet governance policies for the region to achieve the vision of a Caribbean knowledge based society:

- broad engagement of all stakeholders at all stages of policy development and review through methodologies which institutionalise multi-stakeholder participation

- adoption of flexible approaches to policy development in recognition of the convergence of technologies and the attendant challenges to traditional formal regulatory frameworks

- coordination and/or harmonisation of laws, regulations, standards and policies to facilitate regional economies of scale and optimal use of resources

- equity and due regard for the rights and needs of all stakeholders

- promotion of capacity building for all stakeholders

- preference for systems of regulation which promote competitive markets, proactive development of innovative solutions and entrepreneurship

- flexible and adaptive governance structures which take into account the diversity of the Caribbean and facilitate integration into national Internet and ICT strategies

- enhancement of regional capacity for comprehensive disaster management

- appropriate consideration of international trends and best practices particularly those arising from the global IGF and its concepts of Openness, Security, Diversity, Access and Emerging Issues.

3 A Caribbean IG Policy Framework – Issue 3.0

This Caribbean IG Policy Framework Issue 3.0 recognises the breadth and depth of IG-related issues being addressed in the world fora but focuses on and prioritises those topics and issues identified by regional stakeholders as most relevant to Caribbean interests at this time. The importance of these topics and issues will require the collective action of Caribbean Governments to ensure that the policy recommendations are implemented.

3.1 Scope

Six (6) strategic areas are being recommended for urgent Internet governance policy development/attention for the Caribbean. These are:

1. Infrastructure for Broadband Connectivity	re the fixed and mobile, wired and wireless networks and devices that enable connectivity
2. Internet Technical Infrastructure and Operations Management	re the technical standards, addressing schemes, domain management systems, critical infrastructure and administrative structures for efficient, stable and secure Internet operations
3. Legal Frameworks and Enforcement	Re the national and international legal structures and systems for protecting the safety, privacy and property of Internet users and the integrity of the Internet
4. Internet Content Development and Management	re the creation, management, control and lawful use of the information transported via the infrastructure
5. Public Awareness and Capacity Building	re education and development of the human resources to manage and use Internet resources
6. Research	Examination, measurement and reporting on the development and usage of Internet resources

The following sections present key issues related to these strategic areas, the priority recommendations and the primary stakeholders who will be responsible for action in the specified areas. The specific recommendations in each of these policy areas are based on the work of the multi-stakeholder Caribbean Internet Governance Forum and interfaces with other Internet operational entities. In implementing any of these recommendations, periodic evaluation of effectiveness vs intended outcomes should always be incorporated into the implementation process.

3.1.1 Infrastructure for Broadband Connectivity

The development of ubiquitous broadband infrastructure, appropriately utilising wired, wireless, fixed and mobile access modes is fundamental for realising the vision for Caribbean IG. It is necessary to formulate appropriate policy approaches, goals and objectives for the build-out, upgrading, accessibility, affordability, service richness and quality of the telecommunications networks and devices that enable connectivity in the information society.

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Provision of adequate and affordable local broadband access capacity	On a national basis, determine and document in clear terms relevant definitions, targets and time frames for "universal access" (e.g. accessibility, broadband access bandwidth, access to emergency services etc);	Governments and Regulators
	common regional standards could be set in terms of minimum targets for service reach, penetration and speed, taking into account relevant international standards/guidelines e.g. by ITU, CITEL et al.	CTU, OOCUR
	Identify and acknowledge the pivotal role of ICT to national and regional development goals and provide commensurate support, resources and/or incentives for investment for infrastructure development (e.g. tax incentives, public/private partnerships, license-buildout requirements etc.). This is ideally articulated in a national ICT plan and a national broadband plan	Governments, with inputs from all stakeholders
	Create a regulatory ecosystem that encourages adequate and affordable local access capacity	Governments and Regulators
Provision of adequate and affordable international access capacity	Create a regulatory ecosystem that encourages adequate and affordable international access capacity, ideally promoting diversity of service provision, routing and infrastructure/technology options, while respecting any applicable international (including trade) agreements	Governments and Regulators

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Quality of Service and Quality of Experience issues	Establish national standards and regional benchmarks (based on international standards) for service reliability, stability and availability metrics to be documented and published in a customer service charter	Regulators and Operators
	Require periodic performance reporting by operators as a condition of their operating licence and establish standards for reporting transparency to enable consumers to compare performance among operators; performance reporting to include consumer complaints/resolution and consumer experience metrics	Regulators
	Assure appropriate network redundancy, stability and management to meet service standards and benchmarks	Operators
	Ensure and develop adequate systems, capacity and qualified staff for effective operations, maintenance and incident response	Regulators and Operators
Governance of infrastructure: (Regulation/Competition/Universal Service Obligation)	Establish and implement appropriate and appropriately harmonised legislation, policies and structures (e.g. competitive markets, technology independence etc.) to facilitate investment, service expansion, flexible accessibility options and innovation	Governments and Regulators
	Maintain sound regulatory and institutional frameworks and provisions which enable equitable funding for defined universal access requirements	Governments and Regulators
Stimulating the development of broadband facilities and applications	Articulate and drive developmental objectives and projects which provide incentives for broadband build-out e.g. re distance learning (CKLN), telemedicine etc.	Governments
	Develop Government communications infrastructure to accommodate the utilisation of broadband services to enhance the quality and delivery of Government services	Governments
	Encourage public/private sector partnerships to facilitate infrastructure build-out to specific priority sectors along with target time frames	Governments
	Identify and seize service development and investment opportunities	Operators, Entrepreneurs

3.1.2 Internet Technical Infrastructure and Operations Management

The development of Internet infrastructure relates to guiding the evolution, adoption and utilisation of critical infrastructure elements as well as appropriate technical standards and methods for Internet addressing, network security and stability, number resource and domain management to promote and enhance efficient and effective Internet utilisation in the Caribbean.

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Internet exchange points	Create and maintain an environment which facilitates interconnection among local and regional Internet service providers for cost-effective operations and to foster generation of local Internet content : • minimum of one Internet exchange point (IXP) per country with local DNS root server and IPv6 routing capability • regulatory policy for local traffic to be switched locally and for reporting of traffic statistics by ISP concessionaires	Governments and Regulators
	Identify and seize opportunities for economic local and regional interconnection, to minimise response times for local and regional services and optimise utilisation of international bandwidth : • synergies with research networks e.g. CKLN et al • public / private partnerships	Operators and Entrepreneurs
Internet Numbering Resources Allocation and Domain Name System (DNS) Management	Ensure, maintain and increase Caribbean stakeholder involvement in the business, processes and procedures of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the two regional Internet registries serving the Caribbean (i.e. ARIN, the American Registry for Internet Numbers, and LACNIC, the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Registry): - policy development processes - stakeholder-specific committees and fora - on site and web based participatory modes	Governments, Regulators, Stakeholder Organisations e.g. CTU, CANTO, NGOs et al.
	Promote and support accelerated adoption of IPv6 routing - ccTLDs to provide IPv6 services immediately - new procurements to be IPv6 ready - Government leadership - promote and support IPv6 educational incentives	All Stakeholders
	Research, evaluate and seize future opportunities for establishment of new generic top level domains (gTLDs)	Entrepreneurs
	Pursue and capitalise on the formal cooperation agreements e.g. among the CTU, ARIN and LACNIC et al.	CTU

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) Management and Operations	Ensure appropriately sound adherence to the ICANN accountability framework (Government / ccTLD / ICANN relationship)	ccTLDs, Governments
	Conduct and publish ongoing research on the status of Caribbean ccTLDs for cooperation and benchmarking	CTU, ccTLDs
	Establish a forum or mechanism for regional ccTLD collaboration for : - set up and continuous improvement of standards, policies, procedures and management processes - identifying and promulgating best practices e.g. from ICANN's ccNSO forum, CITEL etc. - advocacy and promotion of education and capacity building among ccTLD operators and the user community	ccTLDs
Technical and Operational Standards	Identify and engage with the relevant fora involved with Internet technical standards development e.g. Internet Society (ISOC) and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)	CTU, Stakeholder Organisations
	Nurture and maintain regional technical fora e.g. Caribbean Network Operators Group (CaribNOG), to build capacity, share expertise and continually enhance the efficiency, security and availability of Internet networks and services	CTU, Stakeholder Organisations
	Promote the maintenance of adequate Caribbean expertise and participation in the technical standards development work and proceedings of the Internet, in order to assure appropriate advice to regional stakeholders on the applicability, adoption and retention of existing and emerging technical and operational standards e.g. re IPv6, ENUM (the protocol for mapping of telephone numbers to Internet services), IP network security etc.	Academic Institutions, Operators, Regional Organisations e.g. CTU, CANTO, CROSQ et al

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Cyber-security and Spam	Ensure coordinated and sustained national and regional approaches to cyber-security and related threats (e.g. model policies from the ITU-funded regional harmonisation - HIPCAR - project 2008-2012)	Governments
	Research and appropriately apply good/best practice guidelines for the prevention or minimisation of security vulnerabilities in network operations: - use of DNSSEC for routing protection - ISO 27000 Internet security standards	All stakeholders
	Leverage international relationships and organisations (e.g. OAS-CITEL/CICTE, ARIN, LACNIC, ITU, COMNET Foundation et al) to identify and apply international technical, legal and administrative best practices to control security and misuse of Internet resources	All Stakeholders
	Evaluate and adopt appropriate models for computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs) for cyber-security and attack mitigation	Operators and Stakeholder Organisations
	Promote public awareness of cyber-security related practices and activities	All Stakeholders

3.1.3   Legal Frameworks and Enforcement

Safe and lawful use of the Internet requires the identification, establishment and maintenance of appropriate national and regional strategies, practices, legislation and initiatives to:

- regulate use and control misuse of Internet resources e.g. re user data security, digital identity, authentication, spam, cyber-crime etc.

- protect the rights, including the rights of freedom of expression, privacy, access to information and intellectual property of Internet users and content providers.

Initiatives should foster action that is urgent, concrete, deliberate, strategic, coordinated, collaborative and sustainable.

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Legal Frameworks and Enforcement (To support and facilitate certainty and predictability in the legal and regulatory environment)	Examine, compare, document and analyse existing national strategies, initiatives, policies and legislation and make recommendations	Academic Institutions, CTU, CARICOM Secretariat
	Propose and support implementation of best practices for regional application; (these may include treaties, laws, regulations, self-regulation norms, codes of conduct etc.)	Governments and Stakeholder Organisations
	Review and appropriately reform existing laws with direct implications for Internet governance related activities e.g. re child online protection etc.	Governments
	Assess, customise and appropriately adopt recommendations and model legislation developed through the ITU funded project to achieve harmonisation of legal and regulatory frameworks in the Caribbean (HIPCAR, 2008-2012)	CARICOM, CTU
	Establish and maintain supportive legal infrastructure to govern the conduct of e-transactions : - digital identity and authentication - e-payment methods - data security/protection and privacy (ref. UNGA Resolution 68/167 of 2013) - intellectual property rights - e-commerce / e-business / e-government	Governments
Dispute Resolution	Maintain multiple options for dispute resolution - alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms - uniform dispute resolution procedure (UDRP) - mediation - formal legal proceedings	Governments and Stakeholder Organisations
	Support the education of judicial and enforcement personnel regarding the impact of ICTs on judicial proceedings	Regional Organisations, Governments and Regulators

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Cyber-crime	Ensure coordinated and sustained national and regional approaches against cyber-crime by supporting or adopting enforcement frameworks consistent with international best practices / guidelines e.g. the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention)	Governments, Judiciary, Civil society interest groups (legal, media, commercial)
	Facilitate, encourage and participate in national and international efforts to control and prosecute cyber-crimes	Operators, Law Enforcement, Regulators, Civil Society, Judiciary
	Synergise efforts to combat cybercrime by leveraging, harmonising and coordinating relationships and initiatives at the regional, Commonwealth and global levels (e.g. OAS-CITEL/CICTE, ARIN, LACNIC, ITU, COMNET Foundation et al)	Governments, Regulators, CARICOM organs, Civil Society, Judiciary
	Continue and enhance support for the education of judicial and enforcement personnel in detecting and prosecuting cyber-crimes and regarding the impact of ICTs on judicial proceedings	Regional Organisations, Governments and Regulators
	Promote public awareness and support of cyber-crime related activities	All stakeholders
Certification	Provide administrative framework for the recognition of digital certificates for electronic activities / transactions	Governments and Stakeholder Organisations
	Coordinate national efforts with existing international efforts	All Stakeholders
	Evaluate and seize viable opportunities for the set up of regional certification agencies	Governments, Entrepreneurs

3.1.4   Internet Content Development and Management

The development and management of content requires targeted action to spur the creation, collation and distribution of regional information and applications for economic and social development e.g. re comprehensive disaster management, e-commerce/business, e-government, distance learning, tele-medicine, collaboration, entertainment and more.

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Local Content Development	Create the enabling environment (appropriate infrastructure and institutional support) for the recognition and protection of Caribbean electronic content	Governments and Stakeholder Organisations
	Promote electronic rights management activities (for protection of rights holders) and create and make available open data sets to promote transparency and entrepreneurship	Governments, Stakeholder Organisations, Content Providers
	Promote and pursue the creation, packaging and dissemination / distribution of local content (e-marketing of products and services)	Entrepreneurs
	Digitise and back-up national archives, records, historical reports and local media content	Regional Media Houses, Governments
	Create and facilitate initiatives for on-line distribution of informational and cultural content of regional interest e.g. news, sports, entertainment products etc.: - Caribbean information portal and / or special domains (e.g. .Caribbean) - creation of regional repositories for scholarly content, national statistics, regional archives, country profiles etc. - profiling of successful content development initiatives including before regional Heads	Regional Media Houses, Governments
	Determine and implement strategies to encourage and equip Caribbean businesses to increase their volume of business done on the Internet e.g. tax incentives, a regional coordinating body for mobilising content creators etc.	Policy-makers
	Plan and implement effective e-Government initiatives: - Government services on-line - Invest in "social" bandwidth to enhance the quality of service delivery e.g. tele-health, community development applications etc.	Governments
Disaster Mitigation and Management	Promote use of Internet tools and resources for enhanced performance in comprehensive disaster management	Policy-makers, Operators, Emergency Response Agencies

3.1.5 Public Awareness and Capacity Building

Building public awareness, human and institutional capacity are integral to the realisation of the vision. Broad spectrum educational initiatives and other actions (e.g. the CTU's Caribbean ICT Roadshow etc.) would be continued in order to:

- raise the profile, value and possibilities of the Internet in the consciousness of the general public in the Caribbean

- accelerate the growth of regional expertise and involvement in Internet operational and governance activities to ensure appropriate representation and protection of Caribbean interests and efficient and effective regional Internet operations

- enhance the knowledge and expertise of all Caribbean stakeholders to exploit usage of the Internet and its information resources for achieving national and regional social and economic development goals

- minimise adverse impacts of technology adoption by enhancing strategic awareness of potential negative effects and mitigation strategies e.g. re e-waste

- cultivate regional champions and innovators for ICT-led development

- communicate the importance of safe and secure use of the Internet.

Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Strategic Awareness	Promote Internet awareness building events (e.g. ICT "road show", competitions etc.) in all Caribbean territories utilising distinguished speakers and experts and engaging activities to attract and educate target audiences	Stakeholder Organisations, CTU
	Enable exposure of local and regional practitioners to current Internet experts and best practices through appropriate coordination among relevant stakeholders, institutional linkages and participation in international events to build expertise	Funding Agencies, Stakeholder Organisations
	Enhance awareness and concern re potential negative effects of technology and mitigation strategies e.g. e-waste	Civil Society Groups, governments, International Organisations
	Engage the resources and expertise of the Caribbean diaspora in building public awareness, education and the development of the regional information society	All Stakeholders
	Ensure capacity building efforts are appropriately inclusive and equitably accessible (e.g. youth involvement, gender equity, persons with disabilities etc.)	All stakeholders
	Engage all forms of media to promote awareness of issues raised or made more acute by the Internet and relevant activities	All stakeholders

Capacity Building	Organise and / or host appropriate training programmes and seminars to meet identified training needs	Academic Institutions, Regional Organisations
	Conduct outreach programmes and seminars with: - Policy makers - Law enforcement - The Judiciary - National Security - Civil Society to build ICT expertise and encourage requisite collaboration and cooperation for combating cyber-crime	Governments Academic Institutions, Regional Organisations Governments, Academic Institutions
	Equip regional and local tertiary institutions with the skills and resources to deliver required academic programmes to meet technical training requirements	
	Develop and strengthen appropriate regional sector and industry fora for:	Operators, Service Providers
	- technical standards, operations and review (e.g. CaribNOG)	Academia
	- curriculum development	Operators, Service Providers, Entrepreneurs
	- e-commerce / e-business development planning and review	Regulators, Regional Organisations
	- regulatory assessment and review	Governments, Regional Organisations
	- policy and legislative assessment and review	

3.1.6   Research

Forward planning for IG must be guided by reliable data obtained through research. Systems must be designed to produce, on an ongoing basis, appropriate national and regional information and knowledge society metrics related to infrastructure development, information literacy and the affordability, quality and usage of services and access. Common regional measurement and dissemination methodologies should also be developed and maintained.

Research should also address the risks, opportunities, threats and implications of evolving and emergent technological and market trends e.g. Internet of things, regional mergers and acquisitions etc.

Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Research	Research, measure and report on an ongoing basis the status of development of the Caribbean information society to enable identification of target areas for investment and topics for education and training	Academic Institutions, Planning & Developmental Agencies, Industry Organisations, National Statistical Offices, CTU
	Apply and develop appropriate metrics for measuring and user-friendly reporting: - Alternative presentations of research findings to facilitate use by policy makers and other stakeholders - Abide by open data standards	Academic Institutions, Planning & Developmental Agencies, Industry Organisations, National Statistical Offices, CTU
	Identify significant technological and market developments and undertake relevant research studies to inform policies and plans	Academic Institutions, Regulators, Planning & Developmental Agencies, Industry Organisations, CTU,

4 Operational Structure

The processes for facilitating regional consensus building in matters of IG and promoting harmonisation of national policies require an operational structure to coordinate regional IG activities. The structure must facilitate:

- clarifying the institutional arrangements to enable stable and secure functioning of existing and new governance mechanisms
- promoting initiatives that are goal oriented and goal specific
- ensuring support for national and regional priorities
- identifying and facilitating technical, financial and resource support as might be applicable
- exploring flexible and dynamic governance models to meet regional needs.

Capitalising on prior experience and the presence of certain pre-existing resource structures, it is proposed that the CTU Secretariat continue to play a coordinating role among the involved stakeholders and groups in the near term in order to continue moving the work forward. The multi-stakeholder Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) which includes government policy makers, regulators, operators, content providers, Internet societies, academic institutions, civil society groups and the general public, would continue to function as the main collaborative assembly, both real and virtual, through which policy proposals are developed and evaluated. This universe of stakeholders may also provide nominated resources to serve on ad hoc "dynamic coalitions" to address specific IG projects or matters from time to time.

Interfaces would also be utilised with existing regional groups working on Internet or ICT development planning or projects in order to receive relevant inputs and achieve working synergies e.g. the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean ICT Virtual Community (CIVIC) and others.

However, having recognised the need for more focussed and effective follow up action on IG initiatives and developments at the national level, there is a current thrust to stimulate the formation of national multi-stakeholder fora (national IGFs) in each of the Caribbean States. This thrust is also intended to enhance the regional pool of expertise in IG by increasing the number of persons understanding, involved with and contributing to the issues regionally and ultimately growing and sustaining Caribbean influence in the global IG fora. Diagrams of the existing (near term) operational structure and the evolving proposed (medium term) operational structure are given below.

Operational Structure for Caribbean Internet Governance

Existing (Near Term)
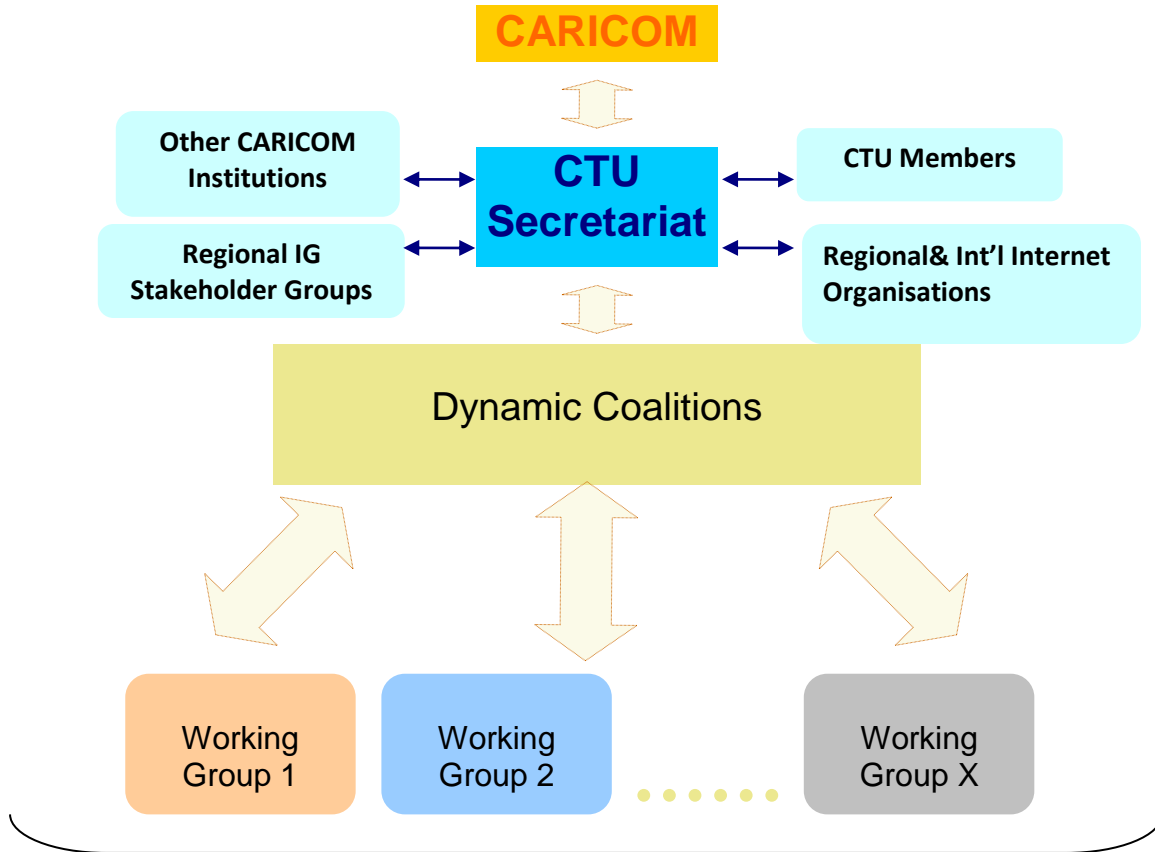
Operational Structure for Caribbean Internet Governance
Proposed (Medium Term)

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                    │ Internet Governance │
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         │  Caribbean Internet Governance Forum          │
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         │ CTU   │Stakeholder│Stakeholder│  Stakeholder  │
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                                           │
  • Consultation                           ▼
  • Planning              ┌──────────────────────────────┐
  • Capacity              │        STAKEHOLDERS          │
    building              │          Academia            │
  • Mobilisation          │        Civil Society         │
  • Execution             │   Computer Organisations     │
  • Monitoring            │        Governments           │
                          │        ISOC Chapters         │
                          │           NGO's              │
                          │         Regulators           │
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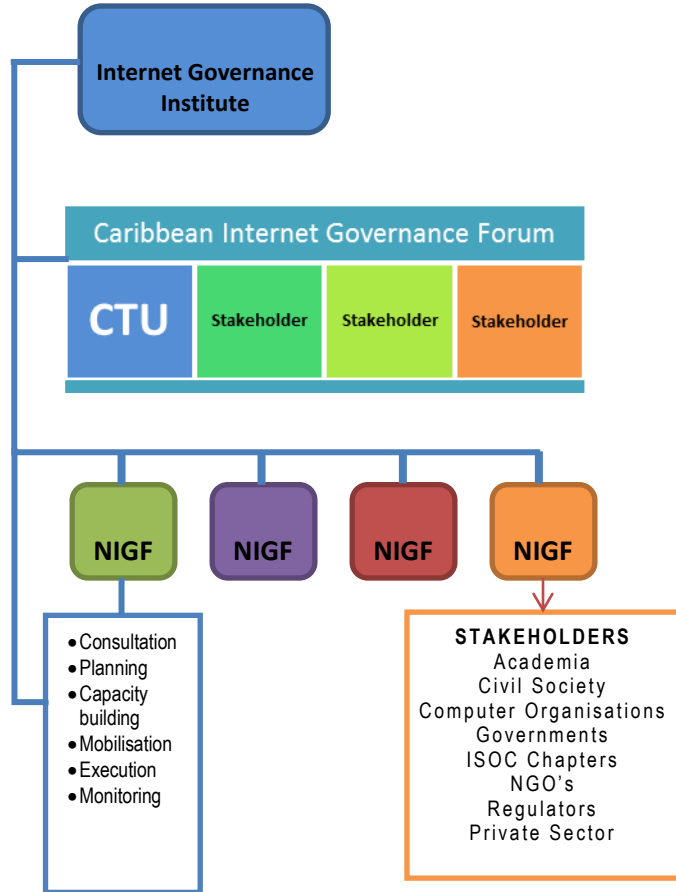
5 Implementation Strategy

The CTU has been coordinating implementation of the various proposals herein. However in order to enhance the capacity for and effectiveness of IG in the Caribbean, a strategy of promotion of national multi-stakeholder groups is now being emphasised. In addition, efforts towards the long term goal of building a Caribbean information society will continue to include:

- managing the collaborative mechanisms for multi-stakeholder participation e.g. on-line discussion fora, contact lists etc.

- use of "dynamic coalitions", as appropriate, to carry through on the development/implementation of the framework and to work with Caribbean member states

- engagement of resources and expertise from regional and international organisations and the Caribbean diaspora to assist the work.

6 Measurement and Monitoring

Management of development towards the goal of achieving a Caribbean information society requires that progress be monitored and measured on an ongoing basis. As recommended in section 3.1.6 above therefore, regional agencies should ensure the sustained production of appropriate information and knowledge society metrics of infrastructure development, information literacy, service / access affordability, quality and usage. This information should be measured and made available for all Caribbean territories and disseminated to inform national and regional development planning. This work should be implemented by policy development groups e.g. governments, CARICOM and/ or CTU Secretariats, regional academic institutions or regional organisations. Development financing agencies could also be approached for funding, resources or expertise as required.

7 Periodic Review

The proposals and recommendations in this IG Policy Framework have been formulated via multi-stakeholder input through annual meetings of the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum and on-line communications. As regional circumstances and international developments evolve, notably via implementation of the WSIS+10 recommendations and meetings of the UN's IGF, the recommendations would be subject to ongoing review. Opportunity for such review would be undertaken at least annually through the medium of the CIGF or otherwise as required.

8 Appendix 1: Terms of Reference for Regional IG Dynamic Coalitions

1. Identify the public policy issues relevant to Internet Governance in the region and facilitate Research incorporation of international best practice and the setting of a Regional IG Agenda

2. Develop a common understanding of and approach to Caribbean Internet Governance

3. Forge strategic relationships with relevant decision making bodies

4. Define, Implement and Manage appropriate mechanisms for the full and active participation of all stakeholders

5. Advise on representation of the regions views at various international fora

6. Develop a common framework for the engagement of Caribbean Internet Governance stakeholders

7. Develop a framework for the harmonisation of relevant regional initiatives, specifically, Infrastructure and technology utilization, Domain Management, Content Development, Legislation, et cetera

8. Commission Working Groups to execute the mandate of the Dynamic Coalition, specifically:

   - The Working Groups will Produce Workstream specific Action Plans to be presented for consideration and appropriate action

   - The Coalition will Produce an Action Plan to be presented for consideration and appropriate action

9. Establish and Manage a Caribbean Internet Governance Secretariat to:

   - Provide substantive, organizational, administrative and technical support to the Dynamic Coalition

   - Manage financial and other resource contributions

   - Facilitate appropriate public awareness initiatives relevant the internet and internet governance

10. Identify, prioritise and facilitate implementation of project initiatives to support the recommendations of the policy framework.

9 Appendix 2: List of Relevant Caribbean Internet Governance Events

1st CIGF: 5 – 6 September, 2005	Georgetown, Guyana
2nd CIGF: 1 - 3 November, 2006	Pt. Salines, Grenada Held jointly with the Caribbean Internet Forum (CIF), another regional Internet development group
Ministerial Seminar on Internet Governance 18 -20 April, 2007	Paradise Cove, Anguilla
3rd CIGF: 16 – 17 August 2007	Willemstad, Curacao
4th CIGF 23 – 24 July 2008	Willemstad, Curacao Held jointly with LACNIC Caribbean 3
5th CIGF 24 – 26 August 2009	Frigate Bay, St. Kitts Held jointly with the Caribbean ICT Roadshow
6th CIGF 15 – 17 August 2010	St. Maarten Held jointly with the Caribbean ICT Roadshow
7th CIGF 8 – 11 August 2011	Port of Spain, Trinidad Held jointly with the Latin American and Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the global IGF
8th CIGF 29 – 30 August 2012	Rodney Bay, St. Lucia
9th CIGF 9 – 11 September 2013	Willemstad, Curacao Held jointly with the Caribbean ICT Roadshow
10th CIGF 6 – 8 August 2014	Nassau, Bahamas
11th CIGF 26 – 28 August 2015	Port of Spain, Trinidad
12th CIGF 10 – 12 August 2016	Belize City, Belize