

A tropical beach scene with palm trees, turquoise water, and a sailboat in the distance. The text is overlaid on the image.

STATE OF LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

GROUP MEMBERS

- ▶ **Hon. Grenville Williams, Attorney General, SVG**
- ▶ **Apollo Knights, Director, NTRC, SVG**
- ▶ **Simone Joseph-Ollivierre, ITSD, SVG**
- ▶ **Renard Penn, Senior Crown Counsel, BVI**
- ▶ **Anson Robinson, Senior IT Manager, Cayman Islands**
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Why a Legal Framework is needed

- ▶ A well-established legal framework is the foundation of an effective and functioning digital economy
- ▶ To build competitiveness through the use of ICTs
- ▶ To foster growth and economic development
- ▶ Encourage further investment in ICTs
- ▶ To encourage innovation, creativity and technological advancement
- ▶ To reduce cost and enhance efficiency of trade



Overview of SVG's Legal Framework

- ▶ **Current situation**
- ▶ **Gaps and Challenges**
- ▶ **The Way Forward**
 - ▶ Planned/In progress initiatives
 - ▶ Continued Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation

CURRENT SITUATION

PILLARS

- ▶ **Harmonisation: Common standards;**
- ▶ **Digital Transactions: Payments**
- ▶ **Information Exchange**
- ▶ **Intellectual Property**
- ▶ **International Trade**
- ▶ **Crime Management: deter, detect, investigate and prosecute; victim compensation**

Current Situation: Digital Transactions

- ▶ **Electronic Funds Transfer Act 2014**
- ▶ **Electronic Filing Act 2015**
- ▶ **Electronic Transactions Act 2015**
- ▶ **Banking Acts**
- ▶ **Virtual Assets Service Providers Act**

BVI & Cayman Islands:

- **ICT Act**
- **Virtual Assets Service Providers Act**
- **Electronic Transactions Act**
- **Bills of Exchange Act**

Current Situation: Information Exchange

- ▶ **Exchange of Information Act**
- ▶ **Data Protection and Privacy Bill 2013**
- ▶ **Freedom of Information Bill 2013**
- ▶ **Electronic Communication Act**
- ▶ **Tax Information Exchange Agreements**
- ▶ **Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement**

BVI & Cayman Islands:

- Confidential Information Disclosures
- Digital ID/Register
- Patent Act
- Trademark Act
- Data Protection Act
- Tax Information Exchange Agreements
- Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement

Current Situation: International Trade

- ▶ **Customs & Excise Act**
- ▶ **Consumer Protection Act**
- ▶ **Taxation Act**
- ▶ **Trade Agreements**
- ▶ **Company Act**
- ▶ **Bureau of Standards**
- ▶ **Parties to relevant Treaties**



Current Situation: Crime Management



- ▶ **Proceeds of Crime Act**
- ▶ **Terrorism Act**
- ▶ **Cybercrime Act 2016**
- ▶ **Evidence Act**
- ▶ **Electronic Evidence Bill 2013**

BVI & Cayman Islands:

- Proceeds of Crime Act
- Terrorism Act
- Computer Misuse Act

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

GAPS

- ▶ Gap Analysis to assess needs
- ▶ Legislation review/Reform
- ▶ Institutions for regulation and supervisions
- ▶ Capacity building
- ▶ Absence of CERT
- ▶ Knowledge / awareness / building trust
- ▶ Stakeholder Engagement and Consultations
- ▶ Training and Capacity Development

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Human Resource
 - ▶ Legislative Drafting
 - ▶ Policy Development
- ▶ Cost
 - ▶ Development and/or Review of legislation
 - ▶ Regional/international obligations (ISO)
- ▶ Brain drain
 - ▶ Competition between agencies



THE WAY FORWARD

Planned/In Progress Initiatives

- ▶ **CARDTP - Create a digital enabling environment**
 - ▶ Legal & Regulatory Environment, Institutions and Capacity for Telecommunications and Digital Financial Services
 - ▶ Cybersecurity, Data Protection and Privacy
 - ▶ Business Process Re-Engineering and Digitising
- ▶ **Harmonisation**
 - ▶ Collaboration with international bodies (CTU, Commonwealth Secretariat)
 - ▶ Build virtual bridges between the islands



THANK YOU!

