

Draft Programme for Executive Sessions on Digital Leadership in the Caribbean

Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago – May 15 - 16, 2023

Introduction

The Caribbean region is continuing to show meaningful progress in the ways in which governments conduct business and provide public services, through the adoption of digital transformation strategies. According to the 2022 United Nations E-Government Development Index (EGDI), all member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) surveyed, except Haiti, placed in the “High” development group[1]. Nevertheless, citizen impatience with the pace of digital reforms and their ongoing preference for accessing public services through non-digital channels continue to be formidable challenges, requiring more ambitious and nuanced digital transformation agendas. To deliver on these new agendas, regional knowledge exchanges on digital policy development, that leverage the successes and insights gained from each country’s journey, are critical.

The Ministry of Digital Transformation in Trinidad and Tobago (MDT), on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), wishes to create an enabling space for the region's most senior policymakers with portfolio responsibility for digitalisation, in which they can address collaboratively some of the most common impediments faced in the digital transformation of the state. By contributing, from their unique set of competencies, knowledge and professional experiences, these executives will learn from each other and enhance the knowledge base for Caribbean digital policy and practice.

Workshop Objectives

The Executive Sessions will seek to:

- Facilitate a comprehensive understanding among executives of cross-border challenges and opportunities to advance digital transformation in the Caribbean;
- Support strategy development for confronting and addressing impediments to public sector innovation at the regional, national and organisational level; and
- Chart joint action among the Ministers, with support from the IDB and CTU, in the areas of research and innovation to advance the digital agenda.

Workshop Format

The Executive Sessions will provide six (6) substantive sessions focusing on practical guidance on the most salient topics for Caribbean digitalisation such as (i) e-Identity and interoperability platforms; (ii) cybersecurity for critical infrastructure; and (iii) cross-border data governance. The Executive Sessions will feature in-person presentations by renowned digital thought leaders and offer a helpdesk setting where questions can be asked and answered confidentially[2]. Moreover, they will foster an esprit de corps among the policymakers by facilitating peer exchanges on their digital policy successes that reflect the unique sensitivities, strengths and institutional settings that typify the Caribbean experience. Policy makers will also have facilities available for technical advice in real-time, by having their designated technical advisor(s) attending the sessions virtually. An open session with specially invited guests representing the region’s private sector and civil society will also allow policymakers to gain perspective on the imperatives of championing a more engaged and trusting digital citizenry.

INDICATIVE AGENDA

DAY 1

May 15, 2023

9:00 – 9:40 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Welcome and Introductions: Host

- Remarks: Rodney Taylor, Secretary General, CTU
- Remarks: Robert L. Le Hunte, Executive Director for the Caribbean Country Department, IDB
- Opening Address: Senator the Honourable Hassel Bacchus, Minister of Digital Transformation

9:40 – 10:45 **Presentation on the Government Digital Transformation Guide**

Attendees will receive a primer on the key elements for a holistic and comprehensive digitalisation agenda based on the IDB's recent publication, Government Digital Transformation Guide and on securing the return on investment for digitalisation, with commentary from a panel of digital experts.

- Presenter: Benjamin Roseth, Senior Modernization of the State Specialist, IDB
- Moderator: Denyse White, Deputy National Chief Digital Officer, MDT
- Commentators:
 - o Victor Gauto, Country Economist, IDB
 - o Francis Maude, Founder and Chairman, FMA Consulting Group
 - o Cleveland Thomas, Area Representative for the Caribbean, ITU

10:45 – 11:00

Break

A. COLLABORATION ON CARIBBEAN DIGITAL INNOVATION

11:00 – 12:30 Foundational Elements for Digital Government Excellence - e:ID and Interoperability

Siim Sikkut, recognised globally as one of the 20 most influential people in Digital Government, will impart lessons on how to achieve digital government excellence in the Caribbean based on international case studies of digital identity and interoperability platform development. The Ministers will then deliberate in small groups as well as plenary the contours of a regional pilot initiative to advance the digital agenda.

- Moderator: Devindra Ramnarine, Digital Transformation Adviser, MDT
- Presenter: Siim Sikkut, Managing Partner at Digital Nation

12:30 – 1:30

Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 The Digital Infrastructure Ecosystem

Having the benefit of a bespoke policy brief on considerations for data centres to ensure the security and sovereignty of government data as well as cloud computing for achieving critical business and technology goals, the Ministers will deliberate in small groups as well as plenary the contours of a regional pilot initiative to advance the digital agenda.

- Remarks: Valeriya Ionan, Deputy Minister for Eurointegration/ Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine (to be confirmed)
- Facilitator: Senator the Honourable Hassel Bacchus, Minister of Digital Transformation, Trinidad and Tobago

3:30 – 5:30 Rethinking Caribbean Citizenship in the Digital Age: Data, Rights and Innovation

In the near future, can the social contract between Caribbean citizens and the state be re-imagined as an outcome of digital policy? This session invites a public discourse and critique of ICT governance in the region towards identifying priorities for a viable regional strategy to expedite creation of a CARICOM single ICT space.

- National Anthem and Opening Prayer
- Welcome and Introductions: Host
- Remarks: Tariq Alli, General Manager, Caribbean Country Department, IDB
- Feature Address: Dr. the Honourable Keith C. Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Moderated Discussion

- Moderator: Devindra Ramnarine, Digital Transformation Adviser, MDT
- Speakers (tentative):
 - o Siim Sikkut, Managing Partner at Digital Nation
 - o Hebert Paguas, Executive Director, National Agency for e-Government and the Information Society (AGESIC), Uruguay
 - o Honey Dacanay, Director-General, Policy and Service, Government of Canada
 - o Key Takeaways: Devindra Ramnarine (Moderator)
- Expression of Appreciation - Host

5:30 – 7:00

Cocktail Reception for Invited Ministers

DAY 2

May 16, 2023

C. COLLABORATION FOR DIGITAL REGIONAL SECURITY

9:00 – 10:30 Cybersecurity

Having the benefit of a bespoke policy brief on considerations for regional cybersecurity systems and approaches, the Ministers will deliberate in small groups, as well as in plenary, on the contours of a regional pilot initiative to advance the digital agenda.

- Moderator: Miguel Porrua, Sector Principal Specialist – Digital Government, IDB Facilitators: i) Ariel Nowersztern, Sector Senior Specialist – Cybersecurity, IDB
ii) Wayne Nakhid, Deputy National Chief Digital Officer

10:30 – 11:30 Finalisation of Plan of Action / Commitment on Caribbean Digital Collaboration

- ┆ Senator the Honourable Hassel Bacchus, Minister of Digital Transformation, Trinidad and Tobago
- ┆ Closing Remarks: Wendell Mitchell, National Chief Digital Officer, Ministry of Digital Transformation

11:30 – 12:30

Lunch

1:30 – 19:00

CTU's Caribbean ICT Ministers' Executive Briefing Session 2023 : State of Caribbean Cyber Resilience: *Securing a Digital Future*

Time	Session Title	Speakers
13:30	Call to Order + Introduction	Rodney Taylor, Secretary General, CTU
13:35	Welcome Remarks	Michael Abejuela, General Counsel, ARIN
13:40	Feature Presentation: Overview of Technical Factors with Strategic Implications	Oscar Robles Executive Director, LACNIC
13:50	Keynote: Cyber Threats to the Caribbean: Trends for 2023 and Beyond	Adiel Akplogan Vice President Technical Engagement, ICANN

14:00	Q&A Interaction with Feature Presentation and Keynote	Nigel Cassimire, Deputy Secretary-General, CTU
14:20	SESSION #1: Cybersecurity Imperatives: What we are missing in the Caribbean	Ms. Kerry-Ann Barrett, CyberSecurity Program Manager Cyber Security Program at the Organization of American States (OAS-CICTE) Ms Marjo Baayen Director, Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) Lt. Col. Michael Jones, Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS (TBC) Eamonn Sheehy, Director, Public Sector - Cloud Carib Moderation: Nia Nanan, CTU
14:50	SESSION #2: Network resource sovereignty for sustainable digital transformation: A sobering look at the numbers	Bevil Wooding, ARIN Kevon Swift, LACNIC Albert Daniels, ICANN Moderation: Shernon Osepa, ISOC
15:20	SESSION #3: Internet blocking as a tool against malicious conduct: Does it work?	Oscar Robles, LACNIC Kurleigh Prescod - TATT (TBC) Shernon Osepa, ISOC (Confirmed) Moderation: Gary Kalloo, CTU
15:50	Review of Caribbean priorities and capacity-building needs	Rodney Taylor, CTU Bevil Wooding, ARIN Kevon Swift, LACNIC Sen. the Hon. Bacchus, President, CTU
16:05	Closing remarks	Rodney Taylor, Secretary-General, CTU
16:10	OFFICIAL GROUP PHOTO	
16:30	NETWORKING RECEPTION - CTU Stakeholders	