



**Caribbean ICT Ministers' Executive Briefing Session 2023**  
**State of Caribbean Cyber Resilience:**  
*Securing a Digital Future*  
**Location: Caribbean Telecommunications Union Secretariat**

16 May 2023 (1:30 PM - 5:00 PM UTC-4)

## **SPEAKER/MODERATOR BRIEFING NOTES**

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) welcomes your participation at our upcoming meeting titled: **Caribbean ICT Ministers' Executive Briefing Session 2023 - State of Caribbean Cyber Resilience: *Securing a Digital Future***. This event will be held at the CTU's Head Office, 4 Mary Street, St. Clair, Trinidad and Tobago on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023** from **1:30 p.m. A.S.T.**

In order to help your presentation run smoothly, we are providing a number of services and facilities for you. Please read the following guidelines to help ensure your presentation is successful.

## **General Information to guide your presentation**

Incorporated below are session descriptions and agenda to guide your presentation with a practical focus, addressing the theme of your contribution.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC), the American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN), the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) are honoured to host the 2023 Caribbean Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Ministers' Executive Briefing Session on Tuesday 16th May 2023, in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago at the CTU Headquarters. The theme of the session is "**State of Caribbean Cyber Resilience: Securing a Digital Future**."

This Executive Briefing Session will follow the Executive Sessions on Digital Leadership in the Caribbean being organised by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Digital Transformation and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on the 15th and 16th May 2023. It will provide an opportunity for representatives from the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) in the Caribbean, ARIN, LACNIC, ICANN and other Internet experts to engage decision makers in dialogue on Caribbean cyber security resilience to secure our digital future. The Executive Briefing Session will take place with the kind support of Cloud Carib and Fortinet.

## FOCUS AREAS AND OBJECTIVES:

The Executive Briefing Session will bring together ICT Ministers, ICT Advisors, and international Internet experts to discuss selected Internet-related public policy issues and foster exchanges of information and experiences within a trusted space. It is complementary to the digital leadership talks taking place on 15-16 May 2023. Proposed thematic areas include:

- **Cybersecurity Policy:** discussing cybercrime trends in 2023; security design for information systems; legal liability regimes and compliance standards; information sharing on cyber threats, and cooperation for cyber investigations and electronic evidence collection
- **Network Autonomy and Resilience:** exploring the importance of number resource autonomy and portability; the implications of network autonomy for jurisdictional matters, disaster planning, and preparedness; and the role of Internet Exchange Points in boosting the Internet economy
- **Internet Blocking:** examining how number resources enable online content; legal bases for court orders for removal or disablement of data; and the unintended consequences of website blocking

The Session's objectives are to:

- Offer perspectives from international technical experts on critical factors that underpin successful digital transformation
- Create a trusted space for knowledge and experience exchange while highlighting best practices for network and cyber resilience
- Provide concrete inputs to foster effective policy and legal approaches for the discussed issue areas

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### SESSION #1

**TITLE:** Cybersecurity Imperatives: What we are missing in the Caribbean

#### OVERVIEW:

As digital transformation accelerates in the Caribbean, businesses and societies are experiencing exponential growth in opportunities for improved efficiency, quality and productivity. However, these opportunities come with increased exposure to pernicious digital and cyber risks. Globally, cybercriminals are becoming more organised and industrialised in their operations with a growing commoditisation of their capabilities - while malware and other malicious tools are being widely distributed to would-be cybercriminals "as-a-service", experienced groups now seek profit from higher up on the cybercrime value chain to avoid detection from law enforcement. Criminals have also taken note of the region's low level of cyber resilience as evidenced by the increasing number of reported attacks against [financial, commercial and government targets](#).

In this context, it is critical to assess the Caribbean's preparedness for cybersecurity and to prioritise steps to build capacity and capabilities in the short, medium, and long term. This panel will explore the maturity of cybersecurity capabilities in the Caribbean; existing regional frameworks to prevent and mitigate cyber threats; and opportunities for collaboration and capacity building at a global level.

Our expert panelists will discuss:

- The current state of cybersecurity in the Caribbean, including common cyber threats and their impact on small economies;
- The maturity of cybersecurity capabilities in the region as observed through the IDB's [cybersecurity capability maturity model \(CMM\) for nations](#), and unique challenges faced by Caribbean nations in addressing shortcomings;
- Existing regional frameworks for preventing and mitigating cyber threats, including legal frameworks criminalising evolving malicious conduct on the one hand, and facilitating international cooperation on the other; and
- Opportunities for strengthening collaboration and capacity building at a global level, including addressing the shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals

## **SESSION #2:**

**TITLE:** Network resource sovereignty for sustainable digital transformation - A sobering look at the numbers

### **Panel Synopsis:**

This panel discussion aims to shed light on the sobering story behind the statistics on internet number resource distribution and utilization in the Caribbean. By bringing together experts from ICANN, ARIN and LACNIC, the discussion will provide valuable insights into the current state of internet number resource distribution and utilization in the region and explore possible strategies for improving the situation. The audience will leave with a deeper understanding of the issues and challenges involved in internet number resource administration in the Caribbean and the importance of sustainable digital transformation for the region's development.

### **Context for the Discussion**

The internet has become an integral part of modern society, enabling various economic, social and political activities. However, for the internet to function effectively, it requires resources such as IP addresses and autonomous system numbers (ASN). The administration of these resources is the responsibility of regional internet registries (RIRs) such as ARIN and LACNIC.

In the Caribbean, the lack of distribution and utilization of internet number resources have been a cause for concern. The statistics paint a sobering picture of limited adoption and insufficient technical awareness regarding the role number resources and network autonomy play in building resilient digital economies.

The panel discussion will be moderated by a knowledgeable and experienced facilitator, who will guide the discussion and ensure that all panelists have an opportunity to contribute. The discussion will begin with an overview of internet number resource distribution and utilization in the Caribbean, followed by an analysis of the statistics.

The panelists will then discuss the implications of the statistics and explore possible solutions and strategies for improving internet number resource distribution and utilization in the Caribbean. The discussion will also include questions and comments from the audience, who will have an opportunity to engage with the panelists and share their views.

### Objectives:

- To provide an overview of internet number resource distribution and utilization in the Caribbean;
- To analyze the statistics on internet number resource distribution and utilization in the Caribbean;
- To discuss the implications of the current state of internet number resource distribution and utilization in the Caribbean; and
- To explore possible solutions and strategies for improving internet number resource distribution and utilization in the Caribbean.

## SESSION #3

**TITLE:** Internet blocking as a tool against malicious conduct: Does it work?

### OVERVIEW:

As governments worldwide increasingly turn to [Internet blocking as a tool to prevent access to illegal content](#), it is important to examine the technical and legal implications of such measures. While there is little consensus on what constitutes illegal content, it is often assumed that blocking access to a website or application is a simple process that will yield the expected legal outcome. However, the reality is that content blocking can have [unintended consequences](#) that may affect the Internet's technical stability.

[Studies](#) from various nations across Latin America and the Caribbean demonstrate that content blocking is often decided by courts, except in cases of "manifest illegality" such as child sexual abuse material, and advocating genocide or sedition. For the Caribbean's digital transformation, a public policy basis that is gaining attention is intellectual property infringement, where the protection of the region's digital creatives is at the top of mind. While it is important to ensure that intellectual property and cyber laws are designed in alignment to technological neutrality principles, the lack of guidance on using content blocking as a public policy tool risks generating serious technical harm and administrative burdens. Our panelists will discuss the potential risks and benefits of Internet blocking, and how policymakers can make informed decisions about its use.

The specific topics to be explored include:

- Public policy bases and specific cases on Internet content blocking from across Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Caribbean regulatory challenges in addressing intellectual property protection and other concerns online;
- Content blocking techniques, and technical and legal implications for blocking orders; and
- Recommendations and real practices that contribute to problem solving.

## Presentations

### PowerPoint Presentation

Kindly email presentations to [francola.john@ctu.int](mailto:francola.john@ctu.int) by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

## Speaker / Moderator Procedures

Speakers who are part of panel discussions are requested to limit their speaking time to a **Maximum of ten (10)** minutes in total. The Agenda is below for your information, outlining the number of speakers and the Moderator assigned for each panel session.

Panelists can choose to present via a PowerPoint presentation or without. Each session will be an interactive discussion followed by a Question and Answer segment on the discussion points.

The Moderator of your panel will introduce the title of your session, introduce you as the speaker and will moderate questions from the audience. During the last 5 minutes, Moderators will present a summary of the session and reflect on the contributions made by each speaker.

If you need any further assistance, please contact the CTU session Management Team:

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We wish you the very best with your presentation.



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**AGENDA**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
13:30	Call to Order and Introduction	<b>Mr. Rodney Taylor</b> Secretary General CTU
13:35	Welcome Remarks	<b>Mr. Michael Abejuela</b> General Counsel ARIN
13:40	Feature Presentation: Overview of Technical Factors with Strategic Implications	<b>Mr. Oscar Robles</b> Executive Director LACNIC
13:50	<b>Keynote: Cyber Threats to the Caribbean: Trends for 2023 and Beyond</b>	<b>Mr. Adiel Akplogan</b> Vice President Technical Engagement, ICANN
14:00	Q&A Interaction with Feature Presentation and Keynote	<b>Mr. Rodney Taylor</b> Secretary General, CTU
14:20	<b>SESSION #1: Cybersecurity Imperatives: What we are missing in the Caribbean?</b>	<b>Ms. Marjo Baayen</b> Director Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) <b>Mr. Dale Joseph</b> Cybercrime Policy Specialist CARICOM IMPACS <b>Mr. Eamonn Sheehy</b> Director, Public Sector, Cloud Carib <b>Mr. Devanand Ramsingh</b> Major Account Manager, Fortinet <b>Moderator: Ms. Kerry-Ann Barrett</b> CyberSecurity Program Manager Cyber Security Program at the Organization of American States (OAS-CICTE)
14:50	<b>Interactive Question and Answer segment</b>	<b>Ms. Kerry-Ann Barrett, CICTE-OAS</b>

Time	Session Title	Speakers
14:55	<b>SESSION #2:</b> Network resource sovereignty for sustainable digital transformation: A sobering look at the numbers	<b>Mr. Bevil Wooding</b> Director, Caribbean Affairs, ARIN <b>Mr. Kevon Swift</b> Head of Strategic Relations and Integration, LACNIC <b>Mr. Albert Daniels</b> Senior Manager for Stakeholder Engagement for the Caribbean, ICANN <b>Moderator: Mr. Shernon Osepa</b> Director of Caribbean Affairs, ISOC
15:25	<b>Interactive Question and Answer segment</b>	<b>Mr. Shernon Osepa, ISOC</b>
15:30	<b>SESSION #3:</b> Internet blocking as a tool against malicious conduct: Does it work?	<b>Mr. Oscar Robles, LACNIC</b> <b>Mr. Kurleigh Prescod</b> Executive Officer Technology & Engineering, TATT <b>Mr. Karel Douglas</b> Executive Officer, Legal and Enforcement, TATT <b>Mr. Shernon Osepa, ISOC</b> <b>Moderator: Mr. Gary Kalloo</b> Director, Business Development and Implementation Support, CTU
16:00	<b>Interactive Question and Answer segment</b>	<b>Mr. Gary Kalloo</b>
16:05	Review of Caribbean priorities and capacity-building needs	<b>Mr. Rodney Taylor, CTU</b> <b>Mr. Bevil Wooding, ARIN</b> <b>Mr. Kevon Swift, LACNIC</b> <b>Sen. the Hon. Hassel Bacchus</b> Minister of Digital Transformation, Trinidad and Tobago and President, CTU
16:25	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<b>Mr. Rodney Taylor, CTU</b>
16:30	<b>OFFICIAL GROUP PHOTO</b>	
17:00	<b>NETWORKING RECEPTION - CTU Stakeholders</b>	