



From IGF to GDC:
A New Era of Global Digital Governance: A SIDS Perspective
Open Forum

At the
**United Nations Internet
Governance Forum**

Venue: Kyoto, Japan
Date: 12th October 2023
Time: 9:45-11:15 (JST)
20:45-22:15 (AST-11th Oct)

Register at: www.ctu.int

Logos for Caribbean Internet Governance Forum, Caribbean YOUTH Internet Governance Forum, TTMAG, and Internet Society Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are also present.

**Open Forum: 'From IGF to GDC – A New Era of Global Digital Governance: A SIDS Perspective'
Organised by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union**

Location: WS 10 – Room I

BACKGROUND:

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) is a treaty based, intergovernmental, international organisation dedicated to promoting and supporting the development of the Caribbean information and communications technologies (ICT) sector for the socio-economic development of the region.

The CTU has been coordinating the work of the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum over the past 18 years. This NRI has recently been focusing on the challenges with:

- The monetisation of local content and the impact on the digital economy;
- OTTs and the impact on investment in the regional telecom industry;
- Content regulation, community standards and AI; and
- The evolving cybersecurity threat landscape of developing countries, all from a developing country perspective and the Caribbean small states in particular.

This open forum aims to share specific experiences on the challenges previously mentioned and advance the discussions on issues of global inequality in the new digital global economy. These discussions will be contextualised within the UN Sustainable Development Goals 8, 9, and 10, and help developing countries formulate specific proposals and recommendations for the Global Digital Compact (GDC), as they prepare for the Future of the World Summit. The aim is to ensure that that GDC takes into account the shortcomings of the UN IGF process, specifically as it relates to DCs and SIDS, and identifies opportunities and mechanisms to address these shortcomings. All of the issues that will be addressed in the open forum,

which takes the format of a panel discussion, are issues that the Caribbean is currently grappling with and which are presenting major social and economic developmental challenges to the region.

While the IGF remains a valuable forum for fostering dialogue, sharing best practices, and raising awareness about internet governance issues, using a multistakeholder approach, power imbalances exist. There are power imbalances among the participating stakeholders which can undermine the inclusivity and effectiveness of the discussions. Developing countries and marginalized communities may have limited resources and representation compared to governments and powerful corporations, which can lead to unequal decision-making processes. The IGF has provided a useful framework for global discussions around internet governance. The session will present and discuss multiple challenges being faced by developing countries within the current global operational framework, offering a unique Caribbean perspective.

Interaction between onsite and online speakers and attendees will be facilitated via an online moderator that will flag questions, comments and other actions of online participants to the onsite moderator. The discussion will be framed by both co-moderators.

AGENDA

TIME (JST/UTC+9)	AGENDA
9:30 - 9:45	Panellists are asked to arrive at WS 10 – Room 1, 15 minutes before the session commences, for both technical check and greeting/exchange with the moderator and other panellists.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simultaneous interpretation will be in the six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish) as well as live captioning • The session can be joined via Zoom here: https://intgovforum.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEucuihrT4pE9VXFZ6GWP2gQNOjl19VqgLQ
9:45 – 9:55	<p>Moderators' Introductions</p> <p>On-site Moderator: Ms. Jewel Forde, Television Producer and Presenter</p> <p>Ms. Forde opens the session and welcomes all participants. He gives a quick overview of the session noting the general discussion theme. Ms. Forde introduces the Online Moderator and each of the panellists by name and affiliation.</p> <p>Online Moderator: Ms. Michele Marius</p> <p>Ms. Marius gives brief opening remarks on the general discussion theme and objective of the Open Forum.</p> <p>Panellists: <i>[In-Person]</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Tracy Hackshaw, Director, Trinidad and Tobago Multistakeholder Advisory Group 2. Mr. Quintin Chou-Lambert, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ms. Olga Cavalli, Co-founder/Director South School on Internet Governance SSIG 4. Ms. Sylvia Cadena, Acting CEO, APNIC Foundation 5. Mr. Rodney Taylor, Secretary-General, Caribbean Telecommunications Union 6. Ms. Sorina Teleanu, Director of Knowledge, DiploFoundation <p><i>[Online]</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Mr. Otis Osbourne, Actg. HOD, Dept. of Information Technology at University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC) 8. Mr. Shernon Osepa, Internet Governance and Cybersecurity Policy Advisor
9:55 – 10:11 (2 minutes per speaker)	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>What are the main internet governance challenges you believe have been facing SIDS and how has the IGF served as a platform to mitigate against those challenges?</p>
10:11 – 10:27 (2 minutes per speaker)	<p>Question 1:</p> <p>How do you see the acceptance of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) changing the digital governance landscape and addressing global inequalities facing SIDS in the new digital global economy?</p>
10:27 – 10:43 (2 minutes per speaker)	<p>Question 2:</p> <p>Is the GDC positioned to address the shortcomings of the IGF process, and if so, what are the opportunities and mechanisms to address these shortcomings?</p>
10:43 – 11:00 (2 minutes per speaker)	<p>Question 3:</p> <p>Specifically, from a SIDS perspective, what are the real benefits these vulnerable countries can derive from the GDC, is the GDC a duplication of current processes, and should the IGF process and GDC be kept separate or should there be an evolution of one to the other?</p>
11:00 – 11:13	<p>Open Floor</p>
11:13 – 11:15	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Ms. Jewel Forde</p>