

Report on TTIGF 2024

Presented by

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Trinidad & Tobago Multistakeholder Advisory Group (TTMAG)



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Introduction to TTIGF 2024



- The Trinidad and Tobago Internet Governance Forum (TTIGF) is an annual multi-stakeholder platform aimed at facilitating dialogue on Internet-related public policy issues, helping to shape the future of the internet in the country.
- The 2024 forum was themed “The Internet We Want” and focused on navigating a Trust-Driven Digital Economy, addressing the importance of trust in digital systems for economic development, security, and privacy.

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Key Discussions and Themes



- **Privacy & Data Protection**

- There was a significant focus on enhancing data protection laws to safeguard personal data in the digital economy. The discussions emphasized the need for a robust legislative framework that aligns with global standards, particularly in the context of growing concerns over data breaches and misuse.

- **Digital Transformation**

- The forum highlighted ongoing digital transformation initiatives, such as expanding e-government services, improving digital infrastructure, and promoting digital literacy. There was a consensus on the need for both government and private sector collaboration to drive these initiatives forward.

- **Access & Inclusivity**

- The discussion identified key barriers to digital inclusivity, such as limited Internet access in rural and underserved areas, affordability issues, and the lack of digital literacy among certain segments of the population. Strategies were proposed to address these challenges, including public-private partnerships and targeted investment in infrastructure.

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Policy Recommendations



- **Data Protection Legislation**

- The participants recommended revising and strengthening data protection laws to better protect citizens' privacy. Specific suggestions included updating existing legislation to incorporate new technologies and practices, ensuring compliance with international data protection standards, and implementing stricter penalties for data breaches.

- **Cybersecurity Framework**

- The forum emphasized the need for a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy that includes improving the resilience of critical infrastructure, enhancing cyber threat intelligence sharing, and increasing public awareness about cybersecurity best practices.

- **Capacity Building**

- There was a strong push for capacity building, particularly in digital literacy. This includes providing training programs for both the general public and professionals to better understand and navigate the digital environment. Additionally, recommendations were made to integrate digital literacy into the national education curriculum.

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Challenges Identified

- **Digital Divide**

- Significant gaps in digital access were highlighted, particularly in rural and underserved communities. These include inadequate Internet infrastructure, high costs of connectivity, and a lack of devices such as smartphones or computers. The panelists stressed the need for targeted interventions to address these issues, such as government subsidies or incentives for telecom providers to expand coverage.

- **Cybersecurity Concerns**

- Growing cybersecurity threats were identified, including the rise in cyberattacks on both private and public sectors. The lack of robust cybersecurity frameworks in many organizations was noted as a critical weakness, necessitating immediate action.

- **Legislative Gaps**

- Current legislation lags behind technological advancements, especially in areas such as data protection, privacy, and digital identity management. There were calls for a comprehensive review of existing laws to ensure they are fit for the digital age.

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Actions and Way Forward



- **Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration**

- There was an identified need for ongoing collaboration among government entities, private companies, civil society, and international partners. This collaborative approach is essential to effectively implement the recommendations and address the identified challenges.

- **Implementation Roadmap**

- The panelists suggested creating a detailed implementation roadmap that includes clear timelines, responsibilities, and metrics for success. This roadmap should be developed with input from all relevant stakeholders to ensure buy-in and accountability.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- To track progress, the discussion recommended establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework. This would involve regular reporting on the status of implementation, as well as periodic reviews to adjust strategies as needed.

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2025

**BUILDING OUR MULTISTAKEHOLDER
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WEBINAR



**24th August,
2024
11:00 am
via Zoom**



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