



# **A CARIBBEAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE POLICY FRAMEWORK**

**TOWARD A REGIONAL INFORMATION SOCIETY**

## **ISSUE 4.0**

## FOREWORD

The Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF), now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year continues to be at the forefront of fostering the development of the Internet and its resources in the Caribbean. In addition to being the first established Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in the world, the CIGF also has the distinction of establishing the first regional Internet Governance Policy Framework.

The completion of this 4th edition of “A Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework” stands as a testament to the commitment of regional stakeholders towards creating an Internet that effectively serves the people of the Caribbean. This latest version acknowledges the ongoing progression of the Internet and cutting-edge technologies, which are increasingly being integrated into our daily lives. It underscores the importance of broadband access, the establishment of suitable legal frameworks, and the critical need to address issues related to privacy, security, and the enforcement of laws.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> CIGF, the CTU proposed the establishment of national Internet governance (IG) fora, to contribute to the work of the CIGF and receive support and guidance in harmonising (IG) activities across the Caribbean. The continued contributions by the national IGFs in the Caribbean are strengthening the development of IG in the region and are playing a significant role in advancing national agendas in IG.

In 2020, connectivity was placed at the forefront of every discussion of the future. The suddenly increased need for persons to be online to work, continue their education, access basic services, socialise and engage in recreational activities, warranted a reassessment of our perspective and priorities for harmonising Caribbean Internet Governance. This edition of the Policy Framework appropriately refined statements of mission and priorities, particularly in the context of the proposed Caribbean Single ICT Space and the strategic areas of the Framework. It also took into account identified urgent needs and trends e.g., increased interest in big data and cryptocurrency, management/regulation of digital spaces, the current advancement of artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies and the ever-challenging need for cybersecurity and data protection practices and policies.

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union has facilitated the development and implementation of the Policy Framework since it was first issued in 2009. We are deeply appreciative of the expertise and insights provided by Caribbean stakeholders in the update of the Policy Framework. Our thanks also go to the many international Internet organisations that have partnered with us in the execution of its policy projects and activities. We look forward to continued support as we endeavour to build and benefit from an Internet that meets the needs of Caribbean citizens in the current era.

*Rodney Taylor*

**Secretary-General  
Caribbean Telecommunications Union**



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# CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

## A CARIBBEAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE (IG) POLICY FRAMEWORK

### 1 Introduction

Internet Governance (IG) refers to the policies, standards, rules and practices that coordinate and shape global cyberspace<sup>1</sup>. After initially gaining prominence on the world stage through the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2003 - 2005, the topic has progressively grown in importance internationally as the Internet and the information and communication technology (ICT) services it enables, increasingly pervade daily life. This trend was strengthened due to the COVID-19 pandemic with approximately 70% of the global population accessing the Internet, to access education, employment, to socialise and for recreational purposes.<sup>2</sup> Given this impact, which has straddled technical, social, economic and political lines, issues of Internet governance have engaged the attention of the full range of stakeholders including governments, private sector, technical and academic communities and civil society.

It was in 2005 that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat enlisted the assistance of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), CARICOM's specialised institution for ICT, to coordinate Caribbean positions on Internet governance matters in preparation for the final session of the WSIS. Since 2005 therefore, the CTU has convened annual meetings of its multi-stakeholder Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) and other relevant fora to foster regional discussion, progress, consensus and development of appropriate policies and initiatives for sustainable growth of the Internet, digital services and skills (See Appendix 2). This work became and remains an important element for achieving the regional aspiration of creating a CARICOM Single ICT Space, as approved by CARICOM Heads of Government in 2017.

Specifically, these events have served to identify and prioritise IG issues of relevance to the Caribbean to help build consensus on Caribbean positions for regional guidance and for advocacy at international fora. As governments, organisations and individuals increasingly rely on the Internet and digital technologies to operate, innovate and for interactions, IG can be leveraged to aid the development of digital governance. This document compiles and summarises regional views and priorities as they have currently evolved over the years.

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<sup>1</sup> The Internet Governance Project, "What is Internet Governance?", (Atlanta, GA, 2004) accessed March 6, 2023, <https://www.internetgovernance.org/what-is-internet-governance/>

<sup>2</sup> International Telecommunication Union (ITU), "Individuals using the Internet," (Geneva: ITU, 2022), accessed March 6, 2023, <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>.

## **2 Basis and Aims of the Policy Framework**

This policy framework document is a significant product of the work of the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum and provides a foundation upon which a common regional approach to Internet governance might be forged. It proposes a vision for the Caribbean information society, a mission and guiding principles for IG policy development in the Caribbean and makes specific recommendations for priority action. Considerations for successful implementation are also proposed.

The intent of this document is to stimulate development of harmonised national policies and best practices in IG, appropriate to and supportive of the aspirations of the Caribbean for economic and social development. It may also facilitate formulation of Caribbean positions for discussions at international fora and be the basis for regional policy evolution; and possibly for small island developing states (SIDS) in general. The priority recommendations are presented in a format that identifies the specific stakeholders with a role in bringing them to pass.

### **2.1 Internet Governance (IG) – A Working Definition**

The WSIS process produced a working definition for Internet governance which recognised the roles of all stakeholders as follows:

*Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.*

The CIGF has embraced this working definition and in crafting this framework document, has sought to identify and focus attention on those IG items of greatest priority for the Caribbean within the broad scope of the definition.

### **2.2 Vision for a Caribbean Information Society**

*“A knowledge based, digitally empowered, inclusive society with strong identity and leadership in the global information society.”*

This document proposes a framework for prioritising, harmonising and coordinating action among Caribbean nations towards achieving this vision.

### **2.3 Mission for Caribbean Internet Governance**

The principle of multi-stakeholder participation underpins the mission statement for IG in the Caribbean:

*“To develop and maintain the appropriate people-centred, regional, multi-stakeholder frameworks, mechanisms, policies and procedures to enable:*

- *open, equitable, affordable, flexible, secure and ethical universal service access by Caribbean citizens to high capacity, trusted, inclusive and resilient, national and regional information and communications infrastructure and services, linked to global information and communication resources*
- *ample resources, capacity, including digital skills and competencies, for ethical and lawful:*
  - *creation of Caribbean content and technologies;*
  - *use and distribution of Caribbean and non-Caribbean content and technologies*
- *expedited development of a vibrant digital economy in the Caribbean*
- *meaningful Caribbean participation in global rulemaking processes for the Internet.*

It is recognised that success in the realisation of the mission statement is highly dependent on demonstrated regional commitment, an enduring political will; and the involvement of all stakeholders (policy-makers, regulators, service providers, civil society and end users) at every stage of engagement and development.

## **2.4 Guiding Principles**

The following principles will guide the development and maintenance of a harmonised framework of Internet Governance policies for the region to achieve the vision of a Caribbean information society:

- Inclusiveness and broad stakeholder engagement at the national and regional level
- Flexible policy approaches and governance
- Regionally harmonised policy and regulation
- Equitable treatment of all stakeholder groups
- Capacity building for all stakeholders as necessary
- Regulation that promotes competitive markets and innovation while protecting the rights and basic needs of all users;
- Resilience of infrastructure and services, taking into account disaster preparedness and management needs;
- Consideration of key international developments and good practices.

### 3 A Caribbean IG Policy Framework – Issue 4.0

This Caribbean IG Policy Framework - Issue 4.0 recognises the scope of IG-related issues that are being addressed globally but focuses on and prioritises those topics and issues identified by regional stakeholders as most relevant to Caribbean interests at this time. The importance of these topics and issues will require the collective action of Caribbean Governments to ensure that the policy recommendations are implemented.

#### 3.1 Scope

The following six (6) strategic areas are identified as priority areas for urgent Internet Governance policy development for the Caribbean:

1. Infrastructure for Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate, affordable, inclusive<sup>3</sup>, resilient, meaningful connectivity: broadband or narrowband, wired or wireless, public or private, individual or shared</li> <li>• Minimum standards for service access, connectivity, quality of service (QoS), regulation</li> </ul>
2. Internet Technical Infrastructure and Operations Management	Addressing, domain management, critical Internet infrastructure, technical standards
3. Legal & Regulatory Frameworks and Enforcement	National & regional structures for protecting users’ safety, rights, property and privacy
4. Internet Content Development and Management	Information management, local content development
5. Public Awareness and Capacity Building	ICT4SDGs, local and regional digital skills development
6. Research	Measurement, defined by appropriate Caribbean indicators. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Caribbean ICT and digital transformation metrics</li> <li>• Analysis and status reporting to increase the body of Caribbean IG knowledge and expertise.</li> </ul>

The following sections present key issues related to the strategic areas, with associated priority recommendations and the primary stakeholders responsible for action. Recommendations in each policy area are based on the work of the multi-stakeholder Caribbean Internet Governance Forum and interfaces with other Internet operational entities. In implementing any of these recommendations, periodic evaluation of effectiveness vs intended outcomes should always be incorporated into the implementation process.

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<sup>3</sup> See Appendix 1 for definition

### 3.1.1 Infrastructure for Connectivity

The development of ubiquitous broadband and connectivity infrastructure, appropriately utilising wired, wireless, fixed and mobile access modes, is fundamental for realising the vision for Caribbean IG. It is necessary to formulate appropriate policy goals, objectives, and approaches for the development, deployment, upgrading, accessibility, affordability, service richness, resilience and quality of the telecommunications networks and devices that enable connectivity in the information society.

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Provision of adequate, meaningful and affordable local broadband access capacity	Determine and document in clear terms relevant definitions, targets and time frames for “universal access” (e.g., accessibility, inclusion, broadband access bandwidth, access to emergency services etc);	Governments and Regulators
	Set common regional standards in terms of minimum targets for service reach, penetration and broadband experience, considering relevant international standards/guidelines e.g., by ITU, CITELE, Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development et al.	CTU, OOCUR
	Recognise the pivotal role of ICT in national development policy and plans and provide commensurate support, resources and incentives to invest in infrastructure development (e.g., tax incentives, public/private partnerships, license-buildout requirements etc.).	Governments, with inputs from all stakeholders
	Create a regionally harmonised regulatory ecosystem that encourages equitable and affordable local access capacity	Governments and Regulators
Quality of Service and Quality of Experience issues	Establish national QoS standards and regional benchmarks (based on international standards) to include service reliability, stability, availability (resiliency) and complaints/resolution metrics	Regulators and Operators
	Require service providers to document and publish target QoS metrics in a customer service charter	Regulators
	Assure appropriate network redundancy, stability and management to meet service standards and benchmarks (resilience)	Operators
	Require periodic reports of QoS performance indicators by operators as a condition of their operating licence.	Regulators
	Establish performance reporting standards for operators to capture consumer experience metrics	Regulators
	Ensure and develop adequate systems, capacity and qualified staff for effective operations, maintenance, incident response and reporting	Operators
Provision of adequate and affordable	Through the regulatory framework ensure adequate and affordable international access capacity, ideally promoting diversity of service provision, routing and	Governments and Regulators



<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Priority Recommendations</b>	<b>Primary Action by</b>
international access capacity	infrastructure/technology options, while respecting any applicable international (including trade) agreements	
Governance of infrastructure: (Regulation/Competition/Universal Service Obligation)	Establish and implement appropriate and appropriately harmonised legislation, policies and structures (e.g., competitive markets, technology independence, etc.) to facilitate investment in fit-for-purpose infrastructure, viable competition, service expansion, flexible accessibility options and innovation	Governments and Regulators
	Maintain sound regulatory and institutional frameworks and provisions which enable equitable funding for defined universal access requirements	Governments and Regulators
Stimulating the development of broadband facilities and applications	Articulate and drive developmental objectives and projects which provide incentives for broadband build-out e.g., re distance learning, telemedicine, public Wi-Fi, community networks etc.	Governments
	Develop Public Sector communications infrastructure to facilitate the utilisation of broadband services to enhance the quality and delivery of Government services	Governments
	Encourage public/private sector partnerships to facilitate infrastructure build-out for specific priority sectors or purposes (e.g., local innovation) along with target time frames	Governments
	Identify and seize service development and investment opportunities	Operators, Entrepreneurs

### 3.1.2 Internet Technical Infrastructure and Operations Management

The development of Internet infrastructure relates to guiding the evolution, adoption and utilisation of critical Internet infrastructure elements that run on top of the basic telecommunications connectivity infrastructure. It specifies the appropriate technical standards and methods for Internet addressing, network security, stability and resiliency, number resource and domain management to promote and enhance efficient and effective Internet utilisation in the Caribbean.

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Internet exchange points	Create and maintain an environment which facilitates interconnection among local and regional Internet service providers for cost-effective operations and to foster generation of local Internet content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● minimum of one Internet exchange point (IXP) per country with local DNS root server and IPv6 routing capability</li> <li>● regulatory policy for local traffic to be switched locally and for reporting of traffic statistics by ISP concessionaires</li> </ul>	Governments and Regulators
	Identify and seize opportunities for economic local and regional interconnection, to minimise response times for local and regional services and optimise utilisation of international bandwidth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● synergies with research networks</li> <li>● public / private partnerships</li> </ul>	Operators and Entrepreneurs
Internet Numbering Resources Allocation and Domain Name System (DNS) Management	Promote enhanced resiliency and autonomy of local enterprise networks by increasing the number of autonomous systems	Enterprises and Operators
	Ensure, maintain and increase Caribbean stakeholder involvement in the business, processes and procedures of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the two regional Internet registries serving the Caribbean (i.e., ARIN, the American Registry for Internet Numbers, and LACNIC, the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Registry): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● policy development processes</li> <li>● stakeholder-specific committees and fora</li> <li>● on site and web based participatory modes</li> </ul>	Governments, Regulators, Stakeholder Organisations e.g. CTU, CANTO, NGOs et al.
	Promote and support accelerated adoption of IPv6 routing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ccTLDs to provide IPv6 services immediately</li> <li>● new procurements to be IPv6 ready</li> <li>● Government leadership</li> <li>● limit/reject import of IPv4-only equipment</li> <li>● promote and support IPv6 educational incentives</li> </ul>	All Stakeholders
	Promote the deployment of RPKI as a way to increase routing security and resilience	Technical Community, Operators
	Research, evaluate and seize future opportunities for establishment of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs)	Entrepreneurs

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
	Pursue and capitalise on formal cooperation agreements e.g., among the CTU, ARIN and LACNIC et al.	CTU
Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) Management and Operations	Ensure appropriately sound adherence to the ICANN accountability framework (Government / ccTLD / ICANN relationship)	ccTLDs, Governments
	Conduct and publish ongoing research on the status of Caribbean ccTLDs for cooperation and benchmarking	ccTLDs, CTU
	Establish a forum or mechanism for regional ccTLD collaboration for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● set up and continuous improvement of standards, policies, procedures and management processes</li> <li>● identifying and promulgating best practices e.g., from ICANN's ccNSO forum, CITELE etc.</li> <li>● advocacy and promotion of education and capacity building among ccTLD operators and the user community</li> </ul>	ccTLDs
Technical and Operational Standards	Identify and engage with the relevant fora involved with Internet technical standards development e.g., Internet Society (ISOC) and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)	CTU, Stakeholder Organisations
	Nurture and maintain regional technical fora e.g., Caribbean Network Operators Group (CaribNOG), to build capacity, share expertise and continually enhance the efficiency, security and availability of Internet networks and services	CTU, Stakeholder Organisations
	Promote the maintenance of adequate Caribbean expertise and participation in the technical standards development work and proceedings of the Internet, in order to assure appropriate advice to regional stakeholders on the applicability, adoption and retention of existing and emerging technical and operational standards e.g., re IPv6, ENUM (the protocol for mapping of telephone numbers to Internet services), IP network security etc.	Academic Institutions, Operators, Regional Organisations e.g., CTU, CANTO, CROSOQ et al
Cyber-security <sup>4</sup> and Spam	Ensure coordinated and sustained national and regional approaches to cyber-security and related threats consistent with international standards (e.g., from OAS-CICTE, ITU, ITIL, the USA's NIST Cybersecurity Framework etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- national cybersecurity<sup>5</sup> policy and strategy</li> <li>- harmonised regional policy and strategy</li> </ul>	Governments CARICOM IMPACS
	Research and appropriately apply good/best practice guidelines for the prevention or minimisation of security vulnerabilities in network operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use of DNSSEC for routing protection</li> <li>- ISO 27000 Internet security standards</li> </ul>	All stakeholders
	Leverage international relationships and organisations (e.g., OAS-CITEL/CICTE, ARIN, LACNIC, ITU, COMNET Foundation et	All Stakeholders

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix 1 for definition

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix 1 for definition

<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Priority Recommendations</b>	<b>Primary Action by</b>
	al) to identify and apply international technical, legal and administrative best practices to control security and misuse of Internet resources	
	Evaluate and adopt appropriate models for computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs) for cyber-security and attack mitigation	Operators and Stakeholder Organisations
	Promote public awareness of cyber-security related practices and activities as well as cybercrime trends	All Stakeholders

**3.1.3 Legal Frameworks and Enforcement**

Safe and lawful use of the Internet requires the identification, establishment and maintenance of appropriate evidence-based, national and regional strategies, practices, legislation and initiatives to:

- Ensure good governance of the use and misuse of Internet resources e.g., re user data security, digital identity, authentication, spam, cyber-crime etc.
- protect the rights, including the rights of freedom of expression, privacy, access to information and intellectual property of Internet users and content providers.

Initiatives should foster action that is urgent, concrete, deliberate, strategic, coordinated, collaborative and sustainable.

<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Priority Recommendations</b>	<b>Primary Action by</b>
Legal Frameworks and Enforcement (To support and facilitate certainty and predictability in the legal and regulatory environment)	Examine, compare, document and analyse existing national strategies, initiatives, policies and legislation and make recommendations for regional harmonisation	Academic Institutions, CTU, CARICOM Secretariat
	Propose and support implementation of best practices for regional application; (these may include treaties, laws, regulations, self-regulation norms, codes of conduct etc. e.g., an e-Commerce Protocol pursuant to Art. 239 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.)	Governments and Stakeholder Organisations
	Review and appropriately reform and harmonise existing laws with direct implications for Internet governance related activities e.g., re child online protection, human rights, misinformation and disinformation etc.	Governments
	Assess, customise and appropriately adopt recommendations and model legislation developed through donor funded projects to achieve harmonisation of legal and regulatory frameworks in the Caribbean	CARICOM Secretariat, CTU, CARICOM IMPACS, Governments
	Establish and maintain supportive enabling legislation and regulatory frameworks to govern the conduct of e-transactions:	Governments

<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Priority Recommendations</b>	<b>Primary Action by</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- digital identity and authentication</li> <li>- e-payment methods</li> <li>- data security/protection and privacy (ref. UNGA Resolution 68/167 of 2013)</li> <li>- intellectual property rights</li> <li>- e-commerce / e-business / e-government</li> </ul>	
Dispute Resolution	Maintain multiple options for dispute resolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms</li> <li>- uniform dispute resolution procedure (UDRP)</li> <li>- mediation</li> <li>- formal legal proceedings</li> </ul>	Governments and Stakeholder Organisations
	Support the education of judicial and enforcement personnel regarding the impact of ICTs on judicial proceedings	Regional Organisations, CAJS, OCCBA, Governments and Regulators
Cyber-crime	Ensure coordinated and sustained national and regional approaches against cyber-crime by supporting or adopting enforcement frameworks consistent with regional and international best practices / guidelines e.g., CARICOM-developed initiatives or the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention) and the emerging UN convention on countering the use of ICT for criminal purposes	Governments, Judiciary, Civil society interest groups (legal, media, commercial)
	Facilitate, encourage and participate in national and international efforts to control and prosecute cyber-crimes	Operators, Law Enforcement, Regulators, Civil Society, Judiciary
	Synergise efforts to combat cybercrime by leveraging, harmonising and coordinating relationships and initiatives at the regional, Commonwealth and global levels (e.g., OAS-CITEL/CICTE, ARIN, LACNIC, ITU, COMNET Foundation et al)	Governments, Regulators, CARICOM organs, Civil Society, Judiciary
	Continue and enhance support for the education of judicial and enforcement personnel in detecting and prosecuting cyber-crimes and regarding the impact of ICTs on judicial proceedings	Regional Organisations, Governments and Regulators
	Promote public awareness and support of cyber-crime related activities	All stakeholders
Certification	Provide administrative framework for the recognition of digital certificates for electronic activities / transactions	Governments and Stakeholder Organisations
	Coordinate national efforts with existing international efforts	All Stakeholders
	Evaluate and seize viable opportunities for the set-up of regional certification agencies	Governments, Entrepreneurs

### 3.1.4 Internet Content Development and Management

The development and management of content requires targeted action to spur the creation, collation and distribution of regional information and applications for economic and social development e.g. re comprehensive disaster management, e-commerce/business, e-government, distance learning, tele-medicine, collaboration, entertainment and more.

Key Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Local Content Development	Create the enabling environment (appropriate infrastructure and institutional support) for the recognition and protection of Caribbean electronic content	Governments and Stakeholder Organisations
	Promote electronic rights management activities (for protection of rights holders) and create and make available open data sets to promote transparency and entrepreneurship	Governments, Stakeholder Organisations, Content Providers
	Promote and pursue the creation, packaging and dissemination / distribution and monetisation of local content (e-marketing of products and services)	Entrepreneurs
	Digitise and back-up national archives, records, historical reports and local media content	Regional Media Houses, Governments
	Create and facilitate initiatives for on-line distribution of informational and cultural content of regional interest e.g., news, sports, entertainment products etc.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Caribbean information portal and / or special domains (e.g., .Caribbean)</li> <li>- creation of regional repositories for scholarly content, national statistics, regional archives, country profiles etc.</li> <li>- profiling of successful content development initiatives including before regional Heads</li> </ul>	Regional Media Houses, Governments
	Determine and implement strategies to encourage and equip Caribbean businesses to increase their volume of business done on the Internet e.g., tax incentives, a regional coordinating body for mobilising content creators etc.	Policy-makers
	Plan and implement effective e-Government initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government services on-line</li> <li>- Invest in “social” bandwidth to enhance the quality of service delivery e.g., tele-health, community development applications etc.</li> </ul>	Governments
	Disaster Mitigation and Management	Promote use of Internet tools and resources for enhanced performance in comprehensive disaster management

### 3.1.5 Public Awareness and Capacity Building

Building public awareness, human and institutional capacity are integral to the realisation of the vision for a successful Caribbean information society. Broad spectrum educational initiatives and other actions (e.g., the CTU’s Caribbean ICT Roadshow, etc.) would be continued in order to:

- raise the profile, value and possibilities of the Internet in the consciousness of the general public in the Caribbean
- accelerate the growth of regional expertise and involvement in Internet operational and governance activities to ensure appropriate representation and protection of Caribbean interests and efficient and effective regional Internet operations
- enhance the knowledge and expertise of all Caribbean stakeholders to exploit usage of the Internet and its information resources for achieving national and regional social and economic development goals
- minimise adverse impacts of technology adoption by enhancing strategic awareness of potential negative effects and mitigation strategies e.g., re e-waste
- cultivate regional champions and innovators for ICT-led development
- communicate the importance of safe and secure use of the Internet.

Issue	Priority Recommendations	Primary Action by
Strategic Awareness	Promote Internet awareness building events (e.g., ICT “Road shows”, competitions etc.) in all Caribbean territories utilising distinguished speakers and experts and engaging activities to attract and educate target audiences	Stakeholder Organisations, CTU
	Enable exposure of local and regional practitioners to current Internet experts and best practices through appropriate coordination among relevant stakeholders, institutional linkages and participation in international events to build expertise	Funding Agencies, Stakeholder Organisations
	Enhance awareness and concern re potential negative effects of technology and mitigation strategies e.g., e-waste	Civil Society Groups, governments, International Organisations
	Engage the resources and expertise of the Caribbean diaspora in building public awareness, education and the development of the regional information society	All stakeholders
	Ensure capacity building efforts are appropriately inclusive and equitably accessible (e.g., youth involvement, gender equity, persons with disabilities etc.)	All stakeholders
	Engage all forms of media to promote awareness of issues raised or made more acute by the Internet and relevant activities	All stakeholders

Capacity Building	Organise and / or host appropriate training programmes and seminars to meet identified training needs	Academic Institutions, Regional Organisations
	Conduct outreach programmes and seminars with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy makers</li> <li>- Law enforcement</li> <li>- The Judiciary</li> <li>- National Security</li> <li>- Civil Society</li> </ul> to build ICT expertise and encourage requisite collaboration and cooperation for combating cyber-crime	Governments Academic Institutions, Regional Organisations
	Equip regional and local tertiary institutions with the skills and resources to deliver required academic programmes to meet technical training requirements	Governments, Academic Institutions
	Develop and strengthen appropriate regional sector and industry fora for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● technical standards, operations and review (e.g., CaribNOG)</li> <li>● curriculum development</li> <li>● e-commerce / e-business development planning and review</li> <li>● regulatory assessment and review</li> <li>● policy and legislative assessment and review</li> </ul>	Operators, Service Providers  Academia  Operators, Service Providers, Entrepreneurs  Regulators, Regional Organisations  Governments, Regional Organisations



### 3.1.6 Research

Forward planning for IG must be guided by reliable data obtained through research. Systems must be designed to produce, on an ongoing basis, appropriate national and regional information and knowledge society metrics related to infrastructure development, information literacy and the affordability, quality and usage of services and access. Common regional measurement and dissemination methodologies should also be developed and maintained.

Research should also address the risks, opportunities, threats and implications of evolving and emergent technological and market trends e.g., artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and cybercrime, Internet of things, regional mergers and acquisitions etc.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Priority Recommendations</b>	<b>Primary Action by</b>
Research	Research, measure and report on an ongoing basis the status of development of the Caribbean information society to enable identification of target areas for investment and topics for education and training	Academic Institutions, Planning & Developmental Agencies, Industry Organisations, National Statistical Offices, CTU
	Apply and develop appropriate metrics for measuring and user-friendly reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alternative presentations of research findings to facilitate use by policy makers and other stakeholders</li> <li>- Abide by open data standards</li> </ul>	Academic Institutions, Planning & Developmental Agencies, Industry Organisations, National Statistical Offices, CTU
	Identify significant technological and market developments and undertake relevant research studies to inform policies and plans	Academic Institutions, Regulators, Planning & Developmental Agencies, Industry Organisations, CTU

## 4 Operational Structure

The processes for facilitating regional consensus building in matters of IG and promoting harmonisation of national policies require an operational structure to coordinate regional IG activities. The structure must facilitate:

- clarifying the institutional arrangements to enable stable and secure functioning of existing and new governance mechanisms;
- promoting initiatives that are goal oriented and goal specific;
- ensuring support for national and regional priorities;
- identifying and facilitating technical, financial and resource support as might be applicable; and
- exploring flexible and dynamic governance models to meet regional needs.

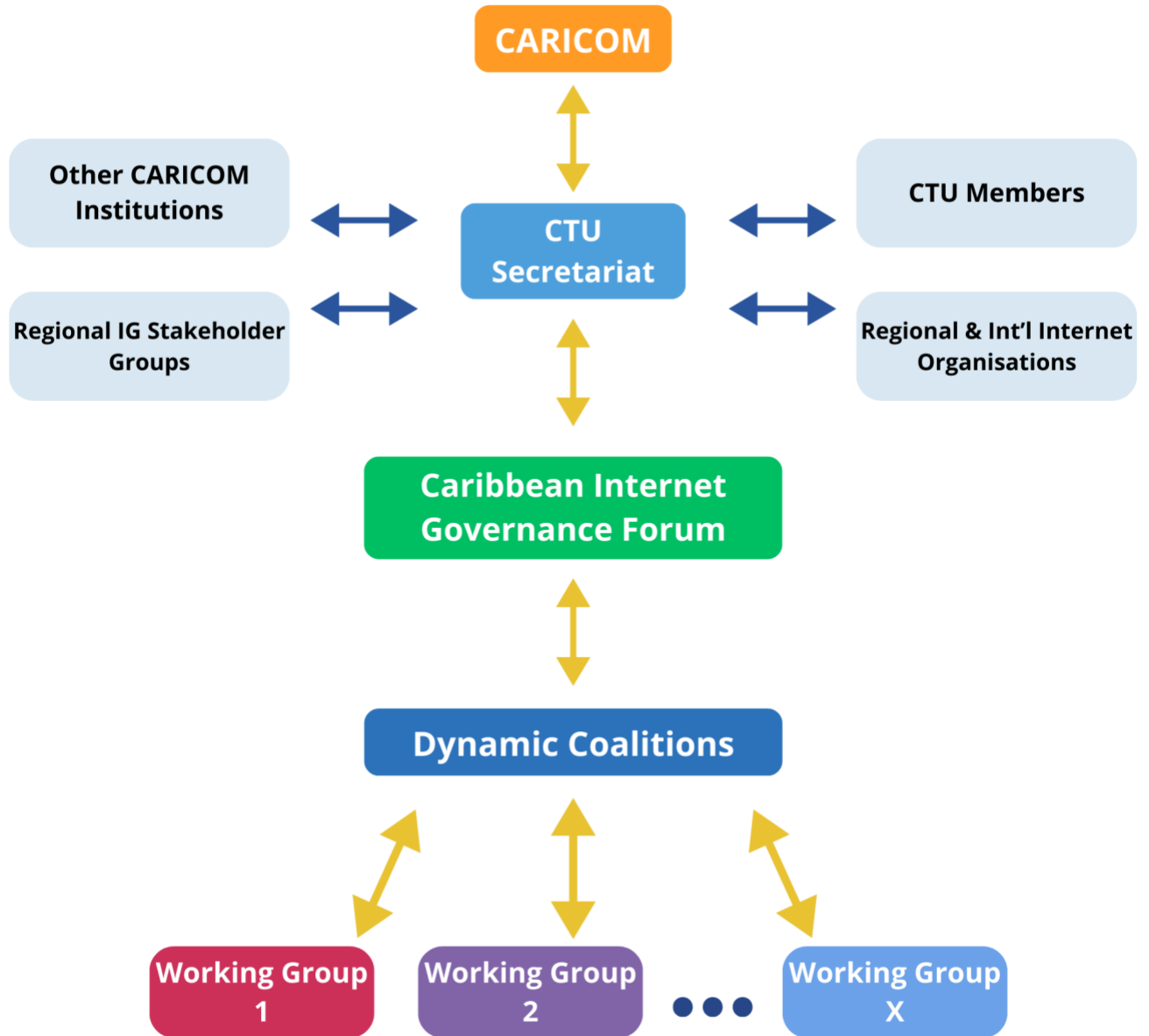
Capitalising on prior experience and the presence of certain pre-existing resource structures, it is proposed that the CTU Secretariat continue to play a coordinating role among the involved stakeholders and groups in the near term in order to continue moving the work forward. The multi-stakeholder Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) which includes government policy makers, regulators, operators, content providers, Internet societies, academic institutions, civil society groups and the general public, would continue to function as the main collaborative assembly, both real and virtual, through which policy proposals are developed and evaluated. This universe of stakeholders may also provide nominated resources to serve on ad hoc “dynamic coalitions” to address specific IG projects or matters from time to time.

Interfaces would also be utilised with existing regional groups working on Internet or ICT development planning or projects in order to receive relevant inputs and achieve working synergies e.g., the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean ICT Virtual Community (CIVIC) and others.

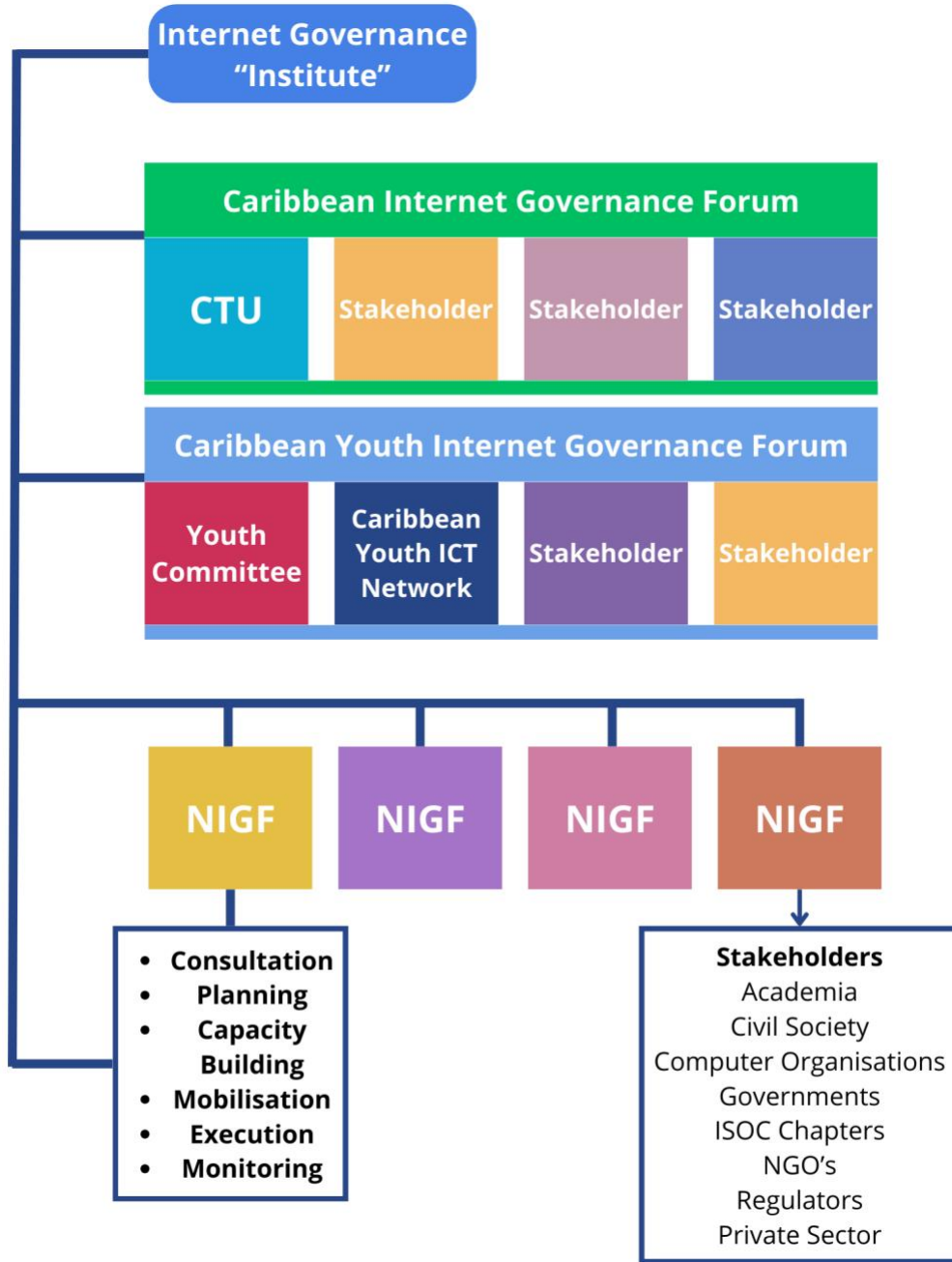
However, having recognised the need for more focussed and effective follow up action on IG initiatives and developments at the national level, there is a current thrust to stimulate the formation of national multi-stakeholder fora (national IGFs) in each of the Caribbean States. This thrust is also intended to enhance the regional pool of expertise in IG by increasing the number of persons understanding, involved with and contributing to the issues regionally and ultimately growing and sustaining Caribbean influence in the global IG fora. Diagrams of the initial operational structure and the evolving (medium term) operational structure are given below.

# Operational Structure for Caribbean Internet Governance

Initial



**Operational Structure for Caribbean Internet Governance  
Evolving (Current and Medium Term)**



## **5 Implementation Strategy**

The CTU has been coordinating implementation of the various proposals herein. However, in order to enhance the capacity for and effectiveness of IG in the Caribbean, a strategy of promotion of national multi-stakeholder groups is now being emphasised. In addition, efforts towards the long-term goal of building a Caribbean information society will continue to include:

- managing the collaborative mechanisms for multi-stakeholder participation e.g., on-line discussion fora, contact lists etc.;
- use of “dynamic coalitions”, as appropriate, to carry through on the development/implementation of the framework and to work with Caribbean member states; and
- engaging resources and expertise from regional and international organisations and the Caribbean diaspora to assist the work.

## **6 Measurement and Monitoring**

Management of development towards the goal of achieving a Caribbean information society requires that progress be monitored and measured on an ongoing basis. As recommended in section 3.1.6 above, therefore, regional agencies should ensure the sustained production of appropriate information and knowledge society metrics of infrastructure development, information literacy, service/access affordability, quality, adoption and usage. This information should be measured and made available for all Caribbean territories and disseminated to inform national and regional development planning. This work should be implemented by policy development groups e.g., governments, CARICOM and/ or CTU Secretariats, regional academic institutions or regional organisations. Development financing agencies could also be approached for funding, resources or expertise as required.

## **7 Periodic Review**

The proposals and recommendations in this IG Policy Framework have been formulated via multi-stakeholder input through annual meetings of the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum and on-line communications. As regional circumstances and international developments evolve, notably via implementation of the WSIS+10 recommendations, meetings of the UN’s IGF, the current initiative to develop a Global Digital Compact and the impending WSIS+20 review, the recommendations would be subject to ongoing review. Opportunity for such review will be undertaken at least annually through the medium of the CIGF or otherwise as required.

## **8 Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms**

1. Inclusive refers to the incorporation of all diverse groups, encompassing persons with disabilities, women, youth and those deemed vulnerable, for example. (Dictionary 2023)
2. Info security vs cybersecurity: Information Security refers to protecting information from unauthorised access, data breaches and cyber threats, while cybersecurity focuses on protecting the information systems and networks. (Governance 2023)
3. National Cybersecurity refers collectively to the series of actions taken to implement the cybersecurity of a nation and its citizens, with the end result being redress or justice for all victims. (Swift 2024)

## 9 Appendix 2: Possible Terms of Reference for Regional IG Dynamic Coalitions

1. Identify the public policy issues relevant to Internet Governance in the region and facilitate research for incorporation of international best practice and the setting of a Regional IG Agenda
2. Develop a common understanding of and approach to Caribbean Internet Governance
3. Forge strategic relationships with relevant decision-making bodies
4. Define, implement and manage appropriate mechanisms for the full and active participation of all relevant stakeholders
5. Advise on representation of the region's views on the specific IG issue under consideration at all pertinent international fora
6. Develop a common framework for the engagement of Caribbean Internet Governance stakeholders
7. Develop a framework for the harmonisation of relevant regional initiatives e.g., Infrastructure and technology utilization, Domain Management, Content Development, Legislation et cetera
8. Commission Working Groups to execute the mandate of the Dynamic Coalition, specifically:
  - The Working Groups will produce workstream-specific action plans to be presented for consideration and appropriate action
  - The Coalition will produce an action plan to be presented for consideration and appropriate action
9. Establish and Manage a Caribbean Internet Governance Secretariat to:
  - Provide substantive, organizational, administrative and technical support to the Dynamic Coalition
  - Manage financial and other resource contributions
  - Facilitate appropriate public awareness initiatives relevant the internet and internet governance
10. Identify, prioritise and facilitate implementation of project initiatives to support the recommendations of the policy framework.

**10 Appendix 3: List of Relevant Caribbean Internet Governance Events**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> CIGF:</b> 5 – 6 September 2005	Georgetown, Guyana
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> CIGF:</b> 1 - 3 November 2006	Pt. Salines, Grenada Held jointly with the Caribbean Internet Forum (CIF), another regional Internet development group
<b>Ministerial Seminar on Internet Governance</b> 18 -20 April 2007	Paradise Cove, Anguilla
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> CIGF:</b> 16 – 17 August 2007	Willemstad, Curacao
<b>4<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 23 – 24 July 2008	Willemstad, Curacao Held jointly with LACNIC Caribbean 3
<b>5<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 24 – 26 August 2009	Frigate Bay, St. Kitts and Nevis Held jointly with the Caribbean ICT Roadshow
<b>6<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 15 – 17 August 2010	St. Maarten Held jointly with the Caribbean ICT Roadshow
<b>7<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 8 – 11 August 2011	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago Held jointly with the Latin American and Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the global IGF
<b>8<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 29 – 30 August 2012	Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia
<b>9<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 9 – 11 September 2013	Willemstad, Curacao Held jointly with the Caribbean ICT Roadshow
<b>10<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 6 – 8 August 2014	Nassau, The Bahamas
<b>11<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 26 – 28 August 2015	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
<b>12<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 10 – 12 August 2016	Belize City, Belize
<b>13<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 21 – 23 August 2017	Tortola, British Virgin Islands
<b>14<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 21 – 23 May 2018	Paramaribo, Suriname
<b>15<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 2 – 3 May 2019	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
<b>16<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 26 – 28 August 2020	Virtual
<b>17<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 24 – 25 August 2021	Virtual



<b>18<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 24 – 26 August 2022	Virtual
<b>19<sup>th</sup> CIGF</b> 22 – 24 August 2023	Hybrid; Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

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