

3rd Small Island Developing States (SIDS) IGF

Navigating the Digital Tide

Resilience • Security • Innovation in SIDS

What the Caribbean should take forward

Mauritius • 31 July–1 August 2026

CTU | **THE DYNAMIC COALITION ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES** | **Halley Movement**

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union, the Dynamic Coalition on Small Island Developing States in the Internet Economy (DC-SIDS) and the Halley Movement

present

3rd SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES Internet Governance Forum

HYBRID | **THEME** | NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL TIDE: RESILIENCE, SECURITY AND INNOVATION IN SIDS

Partners: 31st JULY AND 1st AUGUST 2026 | MAURITIUS TIME: 2PM-5PM UTC+4

Register at www.ctu.int

A SIDS forum designed to connect three regions

CARIBBEAN

**First SIDS IGF
in the Indian Ocean**

PACIFIC

**Common agenda:
Internet governance +
digital resilience**

AIMS

**Bridge, compare,
and coordinate**

The 2026 meeting was explicitly framed as a stocktake of progress, challenges and emerging priorities.

Four themes — one resilience agenda

01 Why the IGF matters

The IGF is framed as a mechanism for SIDS to exchange experience, develop common positions and participate more effectively in national, regional and global Internet-governance processes.

02 The Digital Leap

Advanced technologies—especially AI, data analytics and emerging technologies—can allow SIDS to bypass legacy constraints. The condition is that leapfrogging must be secure, resilient, affordable and governed.

03 Climate ↔ Cyber resilience

SIDS face physical climate exposure and increasingly complex cyber exposure. Resilience therefore needs to be treated as one connected ecosystem spanning infrastructure, data, communications, institutions and people.

04 Charting our own course

SIDS need stronger policy agency: local and regional rules for AI and data, stronger Internet/DNS security, climate-resilient infrastructure investment, youth participation and a coordinated voice internationally.

The strongest message: resilience is not a sector

CLIMATE

CYBER

INFRASTRUCTURE

GOVERNANCE

Design digital resilience in from the start.

Infrastructure • procurement • architecture • data • continuity • people

Five messages worth carrying home

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|-----------|--|--|
| 01 | Resilience is a design requirement | Do not bolt cybersecurity or climate resilience onto digital projects after deployment. Build resilience into infrastructure, procurement, architecture, governance and operating models from the start. |
| 02 | Leapfrogging requires guardrails | AI and advanced digital tools can compress development timelines, but weak data governance, skills gaps, cyber controls and vendor dependency can simply create new forms of fragility. |
| 03 | Island scale makes cooperation economic | Many SIDS cannot sustain specialist capability independently. Regional centres of expertise, shared services, common standards, coordinated procurement and trusted information-sharing can reduce the cost of resilience. |
| 04 | Internet governance is strategic capacity | Participation in IGF processes is not ceremonial. It is a mechanism for shaping rules, standards, narratives and partnerships before they become constraints on SIDS. |
| 05 | Youth must be part of the operating model | Youth participation should move beyond representation toward skills pipelines, innovation, policy development and practical roles in national and regional digital resilience. |

Why this matters disproportionately to small states

A small state cannot economically duplicate every capability it needs.

So the strategic answer is not to become self-sufficient at everything.

It is to become better at cooperating.

Shared expertise

Common standards

Trusted information

Collective voice

What the Caribbean should do with the lessons

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|-----------|--|--|
| 01 | Turn SIDS lessons into Caribbean policy | Map SIDS IGF messages against CIGF/CARICOM digital priorities and identify the small number of issues where a Caribbean common position adds leverage. |
| 02 | Build shared cyber-resilience capacity | Strengthen regional information sharing, incident readiness, DNS security awareness, critical-infrastructure resilience and practical exercises. |
| 03 | Make resilience a procurement criterion | Use common principles for cloud, AI, digital government, submarine connectivity and other critical digital investments—security, continuity, interoperability, data governance and climate exposure. |
| 04 | Create a SIDS digital-policy pipeline | Connect national IGFs, CIGF, DC-SIDS and global IGF participation so that issues move from local experience → regional synthesis → global advocacy → implementation. |
| 05 | Measure follow-through | Track a small set of action indicators: policies advanced, joint initiatives launched, capacity built, incidents/exercises completed, and global processes influenced. |

The test of success is follow-through

CIGF / SIDS IGF



PRIORITIES



OWNERS



MEASURES

A short action portfolio beats a long list of recommendations.



ONE DIGITAL FUTURE

Across oceans, we share the same resilience problem.

The opportunity is to turn that common exposure into common capability — and a stronger SIDS voice.

Archive: <https://isoc.live/21700/>

Thank you

Sources: ISOC Live SIDS IGF recap • CTU event page • CTU post-event summary • Government of Mauritius

