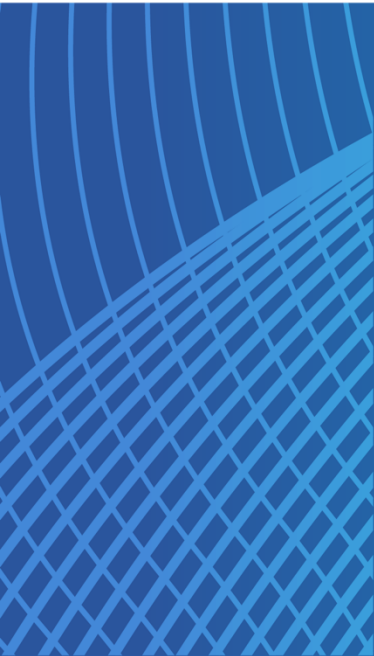




Caribbean Internet Governance Forum

THE CIGF @ 22

Shanea Lewis | Policy Analyst, Caribbean Telecommunications Union
(CTU)

History of the CIGF

- 
- 2005** CTU requested by CARICOM to address Internet governance issues in the context of WSIS
 - 2005** 1st CIGF convened — the world's first regional IGF
 - 2009** Caribbean IG Policy Framework (CIGPF) — 1st Edition published
 - 2013** CIGPF 2nd Edition; IXP workshops begin across the region
 - 2016** CIGPF 3rd Edition; 18 IXP workshops completed
 - 2022** Caribbean Youth IGF (CYIGF) established and launched along with the Small Island Developing States Internet Governance Forum
 - 2024** CIGPF 4th Edition
 - 2025** 21st CIGF — first bilingual forum, hosted in Cuba

22

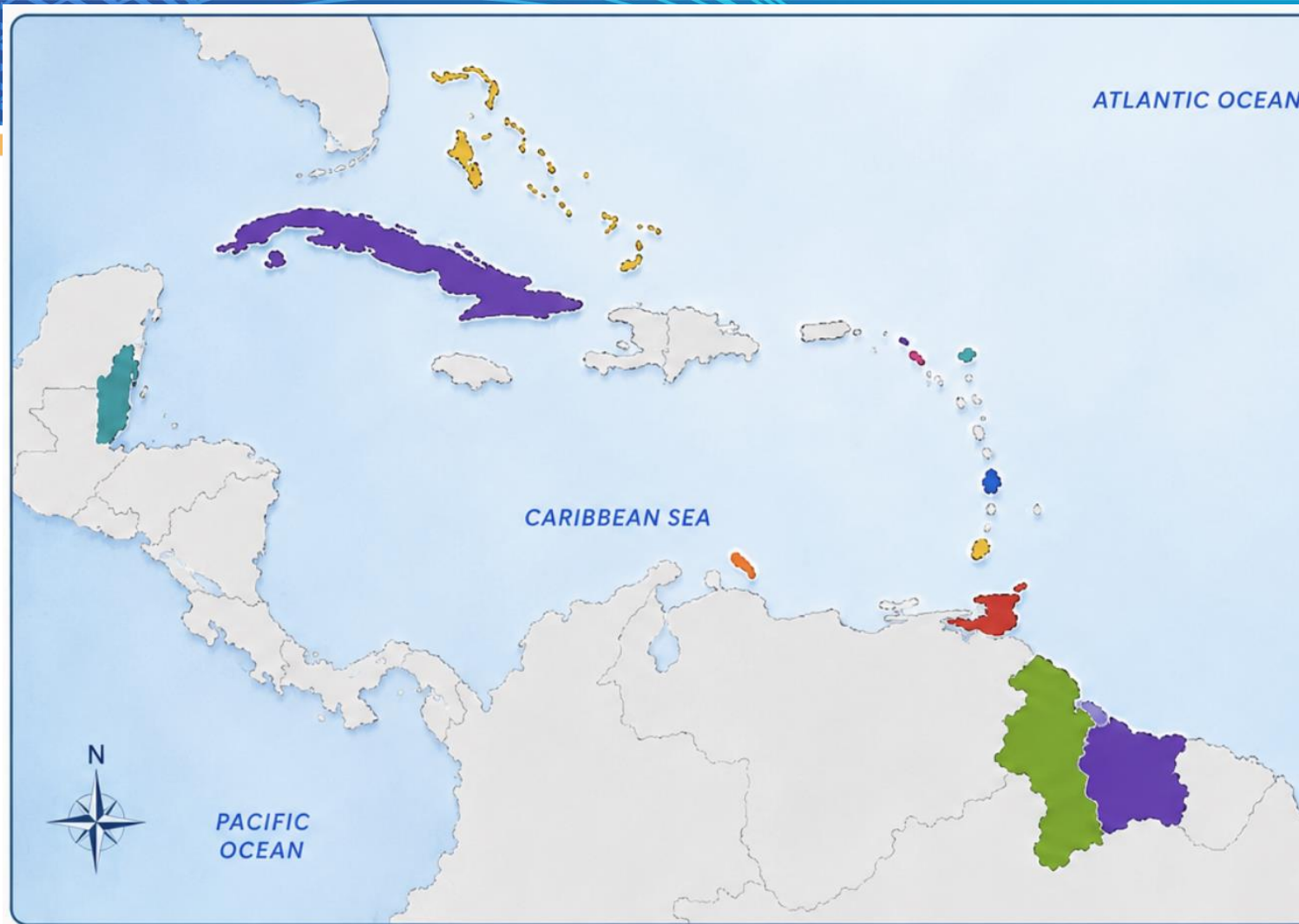
Editions

22

Years

13

Host Countries



1st	2005		Guyana
2nd	2006		Grenada
3rd	2007		Curaçao
4th	2008		Curaçao
5th	2009		St. Kitts & Nevis
6th	2010		St. Maarten
7th	2011		Trinidad & Tobago
8th	2012		St. Lucia
9th	2013		Curaçao
10th	2014		Bahamas
11th	2015		Trinidad & Tobago
12th	2016		Belize
13th	2017		British Virgin Islands
14th	2018		Suriname
15th	2019		Trinidad & Tobago
16th	2020		Virtual
17th	2021		Virtual
18th	2022		Virtual
19th	2023		Trinidad & Tobago
20th	2024		Guyana
21st	2025		Cuba
22nd	2026		Grenada

21 Years of Achievements (2005–2025)

1 Policy Framework

4 editions of the Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework (CIGPF) — the first of its kind in any region

4 Youth Engagement

CYIGF established 2022; now a UN-recognised NRI. 4th edition co-hosted with 21st CIGF

2 IXP Capacity Building

18 Internet Exchange Point (IXP) workshops across 18 Caribbean countries

3 Capacity Building

23+ workshops on IG technical & policy issues with ISOC, ARIN, ICANN, LACNIC and others

5 Global Representation

Caribbean perspectives carried into IGF, ICANN, ITU, WSIS+20 and Global Digital Compact processes

144

Total Participants

77

In-Person Attendees

34+

Countries Represented

1st

Bilingual CIGF

4th

CYIGF Co-located

Strategic Themes

Artificial Intelligence

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure

Global Governance (WSIS+20 & GDC)

Data Governance

Online Safety & Digital Harms

Youth & Women Empowerment

CIGF Participation • 21st Edition Statistics

144

Total
Participants

77

In-Person
Attendees

67

Virtual
Attendees

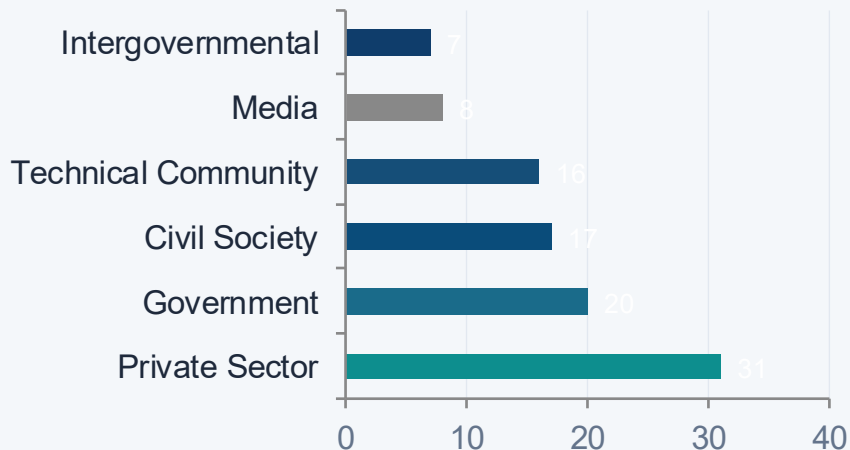
34+

Countries

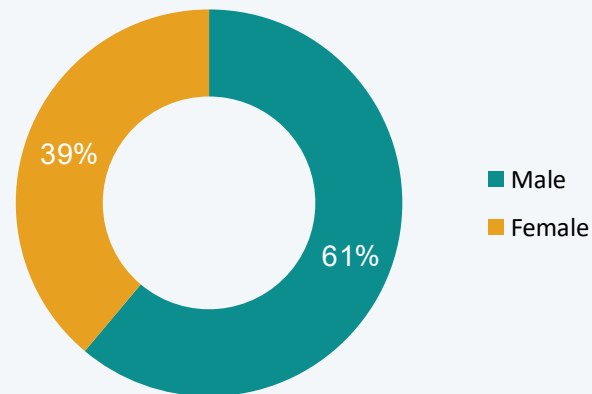
88♂ / 56♀

Gender
Distribution

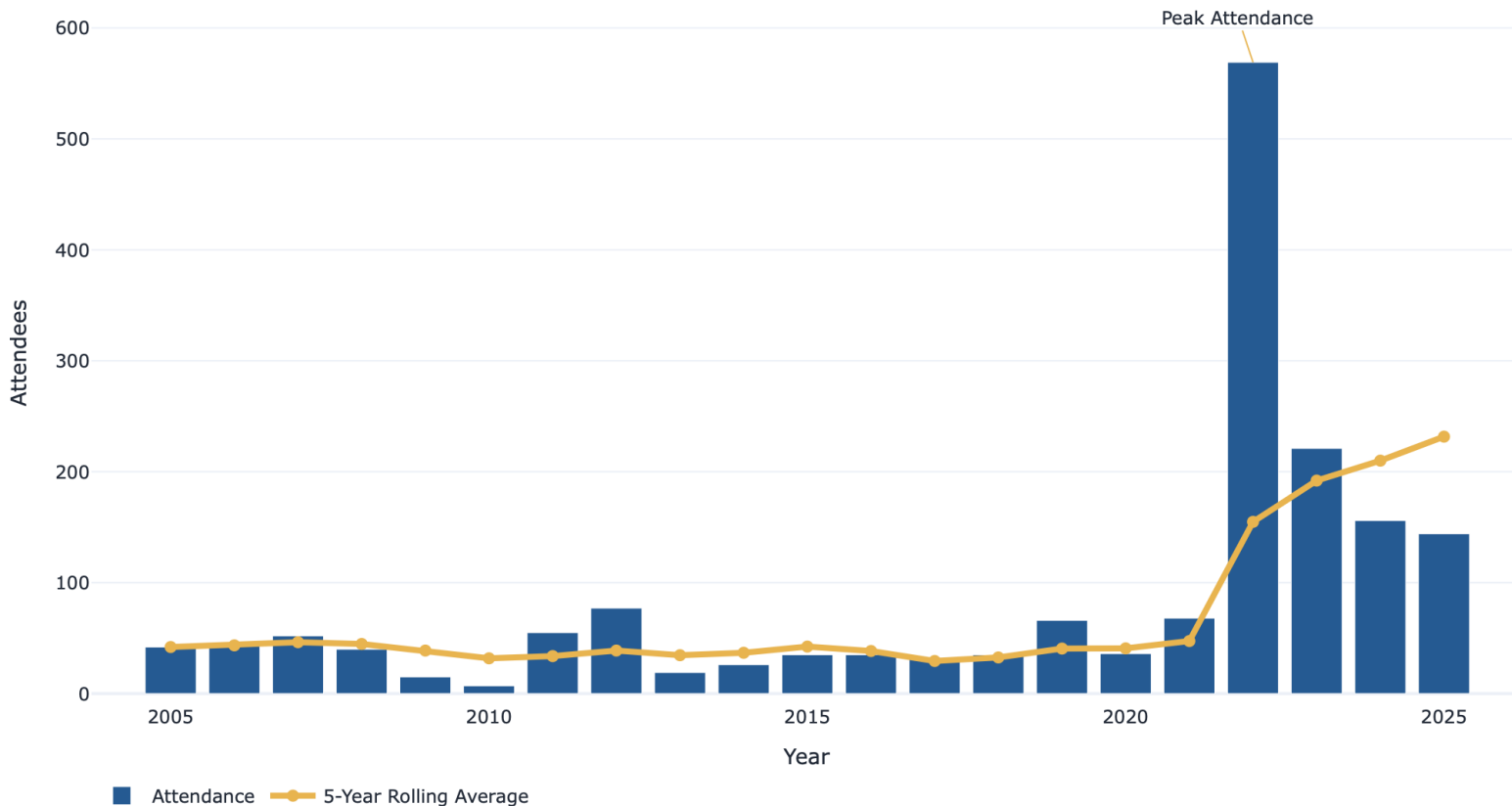
Stakeholder Distribution



Gender Distribution



21 Years - CIGF Participation Trend Analysis 2005 - 2025



Persistent Challenges

Despite two decades of achievement, key challenges remain:

Limited national implementation

Regional policy recommendations do not always translate to national action. A disconnect persists between the CIGF's regional outputs and real change on the ground.

Capacity and resource gaps

Many Caribbean states lack the human capital, institutional structures and financial resources needed to effectively participate in and implement IG priorities.

Visibility at government level

Internet governance remains a niche area for many national governments, limiting political will and budgetary commitment.

Duplication of efforts

Without strong coordination mechanisms, regional organisations sometimes work in parallel rather than in concert, diluting impact.

Digital and AI divides

Broadband penetration at 56%, aging infrastructure and limited AI research capacity leave the Caribbean at risk of being left behind in the global digital economy.

The Road Ahead

• Strategic Priorities for Caribbean IG

1 Strengthen National IGFs

Reinforce national internet governance forums across the Caribbean. Ensure CIGF outputs embed at the national level through NIGFs, task forces, and advocacy groups.

2 Modernise the CIGPF

Update the Caribbean IG Policy Framework to address AI governance, data protection, cybersecurity and emerging digital harms. Incorporate outputs of the Caribbean AI Task Force.

3 Assert Caribbean Voice Globally

Actively participate in WSIS+20, GDC, IGF, ICANN, and ITU processes. Ensure Caribbean perspectives shape the outcomes of these critical global governance mechanisms.

4 Expand Youth & Women Leadership

Grow the CYIGF and the Caribbean ICT Youth Network (CIYN). Replicate Cuba's gender inclusion model across the region through mentorship, training, and leadership pipelines.

5 Build Digital & AI Resilience

Invest in broadband, IXPs, and subsea cable resilience. Develop regional AI capacity, data governance hubs, and interoperability standards to close the digital divide.

6 Harmonise Regulatory Frameworks

Pursue regulatory harmonisation across Caribbean states. Draw on African frameworks as models. Advance the CARICOM Single ICT Space. Strengthen the CIGF as coordination mechanism.

What Can You Do?

1

Get involved

All stakeholder voices are invited and essential — this forum belongs to everyone.

2

Participate actively

Join the CIGF and its national equivalents; bring colleagues and new voices.

3

Follow IG developments

Stay updated at www.ctu.int and the websites of partner organisations.

4

Embed CIGPF recommendations

Take framework recommendations back and translate them into national ICT policy.

5

Submit feedback

Share ideas and comments at CIGF@ctu.int — your input shapes next year's agenda.

6

Champion inclusion

Advocate for youth and women's full participation in digital governance at home.

Together, we can build a connected, resilient and inclusive digital Caribbean.

www.ctu.int · CIGF@ctu.int · [@TheCTUnion](https://twitter.com/TheCTUnion) · [#CIGF2026](https://twitter.com/CIGF2026) · [#22CIGF](https://twitter.com/#22CIGF)