

# Multistakeholder Consultation on the Inclusion of Data Governance in the CIGPF

*Theme: Internet Governance & Data Governance in the  
Caribbean Policy Landscape*

# The Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework (CIGPF) Issue 4.0 (2024)

- First published in 2009 — currently in its fourth edition
- Developed through the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF)
- Anchored in the WSIS Tunis Agenda definition of Internet governance
- Its' vision for a Caribbean Information Society proposes a framework for prioritising, harmonising and coordinating action among Caribbean nations towards achieving this vision.

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

# The Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework (CIGPF) Issue 4.0 (2024)

- Its' mission for Caribbean Internet Governance:
  - to develop and sustain people-centred, multistakeholder regional frameworks that ensure Caribbean citizens have universal, affordable and secure access to high-quality ICT infrastructure;
  - that the region has the skills and capacity to create, use and distribute digital content and technologies ethically;
  - and that the Caribbean can build a thriving digital economy while meaningfully shaping global Internet governance.
- Six strategic areas:

**Connectivity**

**Technical Infrastructure**

**Legal Frameworks**

**Content Development**

**Capacity Building**

**Research**

# The Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework (CIGPF) Issue 4.0 (2024)

- Operationally, CTU Secretariat serves as the central coordinating body for regional Internet governance activities, providing continuity and institutional memory across stakeholder groups, with the CIGF as the primary multistakeholder assembly. The framework allows for the formation of **ad hoc dynamic coalitions** drawn from the broader stakeholder community to address specific, targeted IG issues as they arise, enabling flexibility without disrupting the core structure.
- Periodic Review
  - The CIGPF is a **living document**, subject to ongoing review as regional circumstances and global developments evolve, with review conducted at minimum annually, through the CIGF or other mechanisms as required, ensuring the framework remains relevant and responsive.
  - Key external triggers for review include: WSIS process outcomes, UN IGF proceedings, the Global Digital Compact and the **WSIS+20 review** concluded in December 2025.

# WSIS Definition of Internet Governance

*Internet governance refers to the development and application of shared principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures shaping the evolution and use of the Internet.*

Characteristics of Internet Governance Include:

Multistakeholderism

Decentralisation

Inclusivity

Transparency

Development

Consensus

Openness

Interoperability

Accountability

Collaboration

Adaptability

# Global Digital Compact (GDC)

- Adopted in 2024, the GDC is an established globally agreed framework on digital cooperation.
- It's core areas include:

Universal and meaningful  
Connectivity

Digital Inclusion

Internet  
Governance

Data Governance

Artificial Intelligence

Digital Trust and  
Security

Human rights  
online

Digital Public  
Infrastructure

- Calls for frameworks addressing privacy, cross-border data flows, equitable access and AI governance
- Recognises challenges faced by developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

# WSIS+20 Review Outcomes

- The WSIS+20 review treats Internet governance and data governance as related but distinct policy domains
- Links data governance to development, human rights, innovation and economic growth

## Key Data Governance Linkages

Development

Human Rights

Innovation

Economic Growth

# What is Data Governance?

- **OECD**

“Data governance refers to the formal arrangements regarding the collection, storage, access, sharing and use of data.”

Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *OECD Digital Economy Papers and Data Governance Frameworks*.

- **World Bank**

“Data governance is the set of rules, processes, and institutions through which decisions about data are made and implemented.”

Source: World Bank, *World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives*.

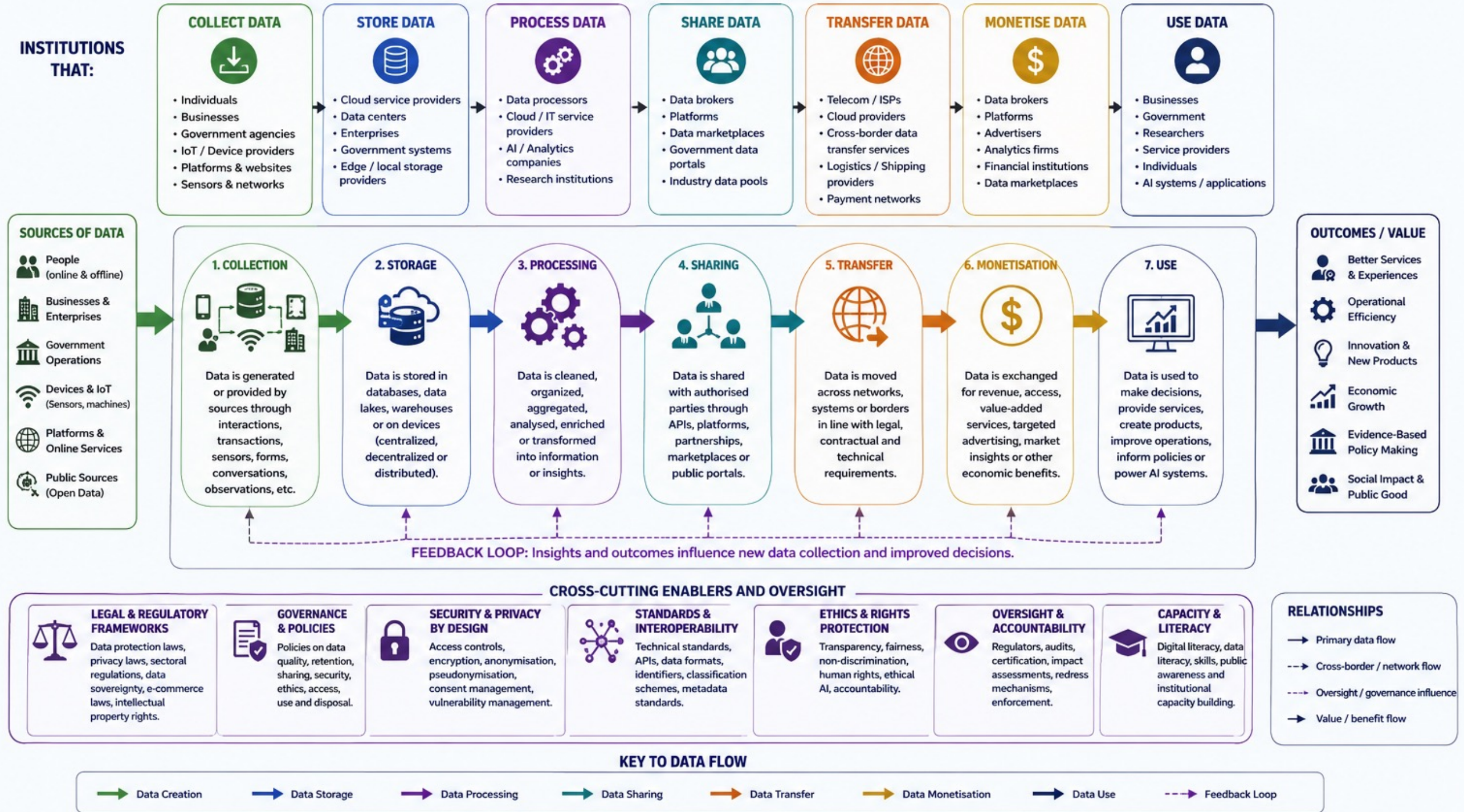
- **UNCTAD**

“Data governance encompasses the rules, standards and arrangements for the collection, control, sharing and use of data.”

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Digital Economy Report*.

# THE DATA ECOSYSTEM: INSTITUTIONS, ROLES AND DATA FLOW

How data moves across institutions and is collected, stored, processed, shared, transferred, monetised and used to create value.



**TRUST, RIGHTS, SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY ARE FOUNDATIONAL TO THE ENTIRE DATA ECOSYSTEM.**  
They enable responsible data practices that respect individuals, support innovation and deliver inclusive economic and social benefits.

# Why Data Governance Matters for the Caribbean

- Most data processing systems are located outside the region
- Challenges include data sovereignty, economic dependency and limited regional control over strategic datasets
- Caribbean-generated data is often processed externally and returned as paid digital services

# Internet Governance & Data Governance

## Shared Characteristics

- ❖ Fostering digital trust and resilience
- ❖ Requiring policy, legal, technical and institutional frameworks
- ❖ Involving cybersecurity and privacy considerations
- ❖ Relying on stakeholder collaboration
- ❖ Are essential for digital transformation and AI ecosystems.
- ❖ Increasingly involve cross-border governance challenges
- ❖ Are important for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including Caribbean countries, due to concerns around sovereignty, resilience, and digital dependency

# Internet Governance vs Data Governance

Classification Dimension	Internet Governance	Data Governance
<b>Object of Governance</b>	Governs the Internet ecosystem and its operation.	Governs data and information assets.
<b>Functional Dimension</b>	Focuses on how digital networks and online systems function, interoperate and are coordinated.	Focuses on how data is managed, protected, and utilised.
<b>Infrastructure vs Asset Orientation</b>	Infrastructure- and ecosystem-oriented.	Information- and asset-oriented.
<b>Institutional Dimension</b>	Predominantly global and multi-stakeholder.	Often organisational, sectoral or state/regulator-driven.
<b>Policy Dimension</b>	Concerned with Internet policy, digital rights, connectivity and platform governance.	Concerned with privacy, compliance, access control and data stewardship.
<b>Technical Dimension</b>	Includes protocols, routing, DNS, interoperability and Internet standards.	Includes databases, metadata, lifecycle management, classification and data architecture.
<b>Regulatory Dimension</b>	Linked to telecommunications, cyber policy and international digital cooperation.	Linked to data protection, privacy, records management and data-sharing rules.
<b>Jurisdictional Dimension</b>	Often transnational and globally coordinated.	Frequently tied to national laws and institutional controls.
<b>Operational Dimension</b>	Manages Internet coordination and ecosystem stability.	Manages data quality, governance processes, and accountability mechanisms.
<b>Rights-Based Dimension</b>	Emphasises access, freedom of expression and openness.	Emphasises privacy, consent, ownership and ethical use of data.
<b>Economic Dimension</b>	Supports digital connectivity and Internet-enabled economies.	Supports data-driven innovation, analytics and AI ecosystems.

# Current Data Governance References within the CIGPF

CIGPF Section	Current Data Reference	Gap
<b>3.1.3 Legal Frameworks and Enforcement</b>	Recommends the establishment and uphold laws and regulations that ensure secure, protected, and privacy-respecting electronic transactions, in line with UN standards on digital privacy.	Lack of framework for data ownership, cross-border data flows, data sovereignty or the governance of data generated offline or outside Internet transactions and subsequently used via the Internet.
<b>3.1.4 Internet Content Development</b>	Recommends creating and making available “open data sets to promote transparency and entrepreneurship.”	No governance framework for open government data, public sector data standards or conditions under which public data may be used.
<b>3.1.2 Technical Infrastructure – Cybersecurity</b>	Address data security as a network operations and cybersecurity concern, including incident response, ISO 27000 standards and CSIRT frameworks	Security of data in transit over the Internet is addressed. However, governance of data at rest, data in AI systems and data generated in offline contexts is absent.

# Policy Pathways for the Caribbean

## Option 1

**Expand the CIGPF to incorporate data governance**

## Option 2

**Develop a Caribbean Digital Governance Policy Framework (CDGPF)**

## Option 3

**Other Options**

*All options require broad multistakeholder engagement.*

# Further Comments

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