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DEFINED
BY IMPACT**



DR. MARIA MYERS-HAMILTON

**Managing Director, Spectrum Management Authority – Jamaica
Chair, CTU Network of Women**

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01

INTRODUCTION

Strengthening the Voice of Caribbean Women in Global Digital Governance

Across the world, digital transformation is reshaping economies, governance systems and societies. From artificial intelligence and cybersecurity to digital public infrastructure and inclusive connectivity, the decisions taken today will influence the future of development for decades to come. In this rapidly evolving landscape, the participation of women in digital leadership and policy-making is no longer simply desirable; it is essential.

For the Caribbean, ensuring that women are represented in international ICT and digital policy forums is particularly important. As Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Caribbean nations face unique opportunities and vulnerabilities in the digital era. The region must navigate issues such as climate resilience, digital inclusion, cybersecurity readiness and technological innovation while ensuring that development remains equitable and sustainable.

Against this backdrop, the participation of Caribbean leadership in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Network of Women (NoW) Advisory Board represents a significant milestone. Through this role, the Caribbean is helping to amplify the voices of women from the region and ensuring that Caribbean perspectives contribute meaningfully to global digital governance discussions.

This growing leadership presence also reflects the region's commitment to advancing gender equality within the ICT sector and supporting women to take their place at decision-making tables at both regional and international levels.

Call to Action for CTU-NoW Members

CTU-NoW invites women across the Caribbean to become active participants in shaping the region's digital future.

Members are encouraged to:

- Participate in CTU-NoW meetings, seminars and leadership initiatives
- Engage in regional and international ICT policy discussions
- Share knowledge and experiences with fellow members of the network
- Promote gender inclusion within national digital development strategies

By working together, the CTU Network of Women can continue to strengthen the presence of Caribbean women in digital leadership and ensure that the region remains an active contributor to global digital governance.

02

DRIVEN BY PURPOSE AND DESIGN BY IMPACT

Dr. Maria Myers-Hamilton

Managing Director, SMA Jamaica | Chair, CTU Network of Women

“Always prioritise the reason behind your actions. Consider how it can foster positive transformations for everyone involved. It is essential that digital literacy becomes affordable and available to all individuals. As driving forces of entrepreneurship, creativity, and economic advancement, we passionately advocate for this vital mission.”

From the age of 18, as an intern navigating the world of database administration until today as Chair of the Caribbean Telecommunications Spectrum Management Task Force and chair of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union Network of Women, Maria Myers Hamilton has followed just where her passions have led her, landing in an area that continues to fuel her drive to deliver and her appetite for making a difference.

It’s a path she has travelled with intention and purpose seeking the guidance of others and making the best of the opportunities which came her way and learning from the experts in those areas into which she boldly stepped. Those steps took her into the glamorous world of telecommunications and the glamorous technology sphere where she embraced every milestone and savoured the huge advancements which were to become the hallmark of the industry.

“My journey began as an eager 18-year-old intern in database administration, learning from a visionary manager who had ingeniously set up a banking system on minicomputers running Unix. This pioneering configuration laid the groundwork for future operating systems and inspired my own passion for coding while managing my server room at a small stock-broking firm,” she recalled.



Managing Director, Spectrum Management Authority – Jamaica | Chair, CTU Network of Women

“As I contemplate the remarkable advancements in technology over the past three decades, it’s evident that we have reached extraordinary milestones that have profoundly transformed our society.

“One pivotal moment for me was attending COMDEX 1990, where Microsoft unveiled its Office Suite for Windows amidst Bill Gates’ compelling keynote speech about “information at your fingertips.” Despite skepticism surrounding these innovations - an all-too-familiar response to change - we now find ourselves benefiting immensely from this operating system’s evolution.”

Noting the major changes that have been a part of the technology landscape over the last 30 years, Hamilton singles out the emergence of mobile communications as a “transformative shift” moving away from traditional landlines towards mobile phones through analog cellular networks heralded by first-generation (1G) technologies, giving way to second-generation (2G), which embraced digital transmission techniques throughout the ‘90s.

“The dawn of mobile internet came with third generation (3G) networks in the early 2000s - a significant leap forward offering faster data transfer rates and enabling comprehensive access to online resources alongside advanced services like High-Speed Packet Access (HSPA) and Voice over IP (VoIP). These emerging technologies diversified our communication possibilities and facilitated enhanced user experiences across communities,” she said.

Reflecting on how these changes impacted IT professionals within her community, Hamilton explained that adopting digital signals not only improved connectivity but also established pathways for true data-driven approaches embodied by General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) initiatives following subsequent releases under 3GPP standards.

“My responsibilities grew as well. I needed redundancy measures such as hot/warm sites while overseeing RBTT Bank Jamaica Limited’s merger into one cohesive platform comprising four distinct systems during challenging times filled with lessons learned outside formal classrooms through collaboration among teammates dedicated to shared objectives aimed at delivering excellence consistently,” she said.

Dr. Hamilton also recalled that there were no regulators governing spectrum use back then.

According to her, “When interference arose between entities affecting transmissions directly or indirectly, challenges emerged requiring resourcefulness with antenna repositioning or signal adjustments until a resolution was reached. Moral suasion alone wasn’t enough without robust infrastructure support when liberalisation arrived along with the Spectrum Management Authority being created just years later after much effort advocating regulatory improvements since February 2000 onward.”

The ICT professional also saw new leadership roles becoming available including the barrier-breaking ones in areas previously dominated by males and “historically

rooted in deep-seated cultures spanning nearly nine-decade-old organisations”.

One of these, she noted, was the Jamaica Public Service Company where, as the first female leader, she helped to develop cohesive work principles that empowered staff and equipped the team of more than 100 to face unprecedented storms and challenging environments together, building a culture of growth.

She insists that the positive role of women in today’s landscape is undeniable, “leading various sectors within ICT especially encouraging those nurturing ambitions to pursue careers spanning diverse fields such as the metaverse, cybersecurity, ethical hacking, artificial intelligence, telecommunication law, engineering, and satellite management”.

Dr Hamilton stressed the importance of bridging gender disparities within contemporary discussions and urged collaborative efforts to unite governments, regulators, and private sector stakeholders. This, she added, would harness potential talents to create equal opportunity frameworks designed to empower young girls, nurture skills in problem-solving, critical thinking, adaptability, and continuous education capabilities.

In addition, paying closer attention to narrowing the gender divide, she suggested would leverage emerging trends supporting capacity-building endeavors promoting inclusivity, equity, and progress leading to meaningful transformations.

She said shaping the aspirations of tomorrow’s hopefuls while striving to achieve harmony and to jointly uplift communities and strengthen foundations would enrich a collective human experience and inspire generations to come.

“In forging bright futures, boundless possibilities await brave hearts willing to take risks, embark on journeys unknown, full of faith, determination, courage, and unwavering belief that dreams are attainable to be able to reach the heights envisioned,” she added.

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03



ANGUILLA COUNTRY PROFILE

Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing, Information Technology and e-Government Services

Aligning National Achievements with Regional and Global Digital Government Benchmarks

NATIONAL DIGITAL GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

Anguilla has steadily advanced its public sector digital transformation agenda through deliberate institutional development, strategic ICT governance and forward-looking policy decisions. Central to this progress is the **Department of Information Technology and E-Government Services**, the Government's lead technical authority for information systems, digital infrastructure and e-government implementation in the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing, Information Technology and e-Government Services under the leadership of the Honourable Jose Vanterpool.

The department operates under the Ministry of Communications with a clear mission to: develop, implement and manage the most advanced appropriate Information Systems Strategy and Technology to meet the present and future needs of the Government of Anguilla.

This mandate closely aligns with regional digital government priorities articulated by Caribbean institutions and international development partners, including the principles of **efficient service delivery**,

interoperability, institutional resilience, capacity building and sustainable digital economies.

Alignment with regional and international E-Government benchmarks is critical to the work of the department and enables delivery on its mission and mandate. These benchmarks include:



Honourable Jose Vanterpool,
Minister of Infrastructure,
Communications, Utilities,
Housing, Information Technology
and e-Government Services,
Government of Anguilla

1. DIGITAL GOVERNMENT GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

Benchmark: Whole-of-government ICT coordination and standardisation.

The department provides **centralised ICT governance**, ensuring consistency in systems architecture, procurement, security and service delivery across Government. This approach aligns with regional best practices promoted by Caribbean ICT bodies and supports interoperability, cost efficiency and risk reduction.

2. ICT INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY

Benchmark: Reliable, secure and scalable government infrastructure.

The department's leadership in telecommunications design, network management and structured cabling has resulted in a **modern, resilient government ICT backbone**, enabling ministries and statutory bodies to operate efficiently and securely.

3. DIGITAL SERVICE ENABLEMENT AND E-GOVERNMENT FOUNDATIONS

Benchmark: Readiness for online public services and digital interaction.

Through systems management, web services and end-user support, the Department has established the **foundational layers required for e-government**, positioning Anguilla to expand digital public services and improve citizen engagement in line with regional digital transformation agendas.

Strategic Digital Asset: The Success of the .ai Domain

One of Anguilla's most globally-significant digital achievements has been the **successful ownership, management and monetisation of the .ai country code top-level domain (ccTLD)**.

Originally a technical identifier, the .ai domain has evolved into a **high-value national digital asset**, driven by global growth in artificial intelligence technologies. Through effective governance and strategic stewardship, Anguilla has transformed the domain into a **major**

source of national revenue, demonstrating how small jurisdictions can leverage digital assets for economic diversification.

Anguilla is positioned to participate meaningfully in **regional digital government initiatives**, cybersecurity cooperation and future e-government integration efforts. This achievement aligns strongly with international benchmarks on:

- **Digital economy development**
- **Innovation-driven growth**
- **Sovereign digital asset management**

Anguilla is **regionally-unique and globally-recognised**, serving as a case study in sovereign digital asset management. Importantly, the success of .ai underscores the strengthening of digital government in Anguilla positioning the country as a recognised digital jurisdiction and **global digital brand with demonstrated sovereign digital asset management and an innovator in the digital economy**.

Anguilla's experience demonstrates that **size is not a barrier to digital leadership**. Through the evolution of the Department of Information Technology and E-Government Services, the Government has laid strong foundations for digital governance, economic innovation and sustainable public administration.

As regional and global digital agendas continue to evolve, Anguilla stands as a compelling example of how strategic ICT investment, institutional maturity and innovative asset management can deliver long-term national value.



04

SCALING SMART

Why Capacity, Not Technology, Is the Caribbean's Digital Constraint

The Caribbean has never lacked ambition. What it has lacked, at times, is scale. Small populations limit domestic markets; fragmented regulation shrinks regional ones. For decades, geography magnified these constraints. Fortunately, the digital era is unusually forgiving to places that can organise themselves. Data crosses borders more easily than bananas, and software exports do not require deep-water ports. Distance is no longer the binding constraint. Capacity is.

Capacity, in this context, is not just bandwidth or compute power. It is people: the ability to design systems, translate policy into platforms, govern data responsibly, and deliver services that work across borders. As Caribbean countries increasingly treat data, platforms, and interoperability as economic infrastructure, the central question is no longer whether the region can digitise, but who will build, govern, and operate the systems that make digital transformation real.

This is where an uncomfortable truth emerges. The Caribbean's capacity challenge is, in part, a gender challenge.

Globally, digital access has improved, but parity remains elusive. In 2024, roughly 70 per cent of men were online compared to 65 per cent of women, leaving an estimated 189 million more men than women connected worldwide. Leadership gaps are wider still. As of January 2026, only about one-fifth of ICT ministers globally are women, according to ITU tracking. In Latin America and the Caribbean, connectivity has expanded rapidly, yet inequalities persist beneath the headline numbers. Women account for only 22 per cent of ICT graduates in the region, according to OECD data, constraining an already limited talent pool.

In small island states, these gaps bite harder. Tight labour markets magnify every exclusion.

When digital projects depend on a small number of capable implementers, repeatedly

drawing from the same narrow pool is not only inequitable; it is inefficient. In capacity-constrained economies, exclusion carries an outsized cost.

Digital transformation in the Caribbean is often framed as a question of infrastructure: fibre routes, data centres, cloud adoption. These are necessary, but insufficient. Systems do not design themselves. Data does not govern itself. Platforms do not scale sustainably without people who understand local institutions, regional realities, and cross-border coordination.

The risk, if left unaddressed, is not simply slower progress. It is brittle progress: systems that look modern but lack the human depth to adapt, govern risk, or respond to shocks. In that context, the gender composition of the region's digital workforce and leadership is not a secondary concern. It goes directly to the heart of whether digital transformation in small-island states can be durable, credible, and fit for purpose.



By Nathaly Carolina, COO, DataAxis

Recognising the problem, however, is only the first step. Across the region, a more deliberate approach is beginning to take shape—one that treats inclusion as a condition for delivery, not an afterthought. Partnerships, institutions, and policy tools are being reoriented to widen the talent pool, align incentives, and turn capacity-building into something concrete and measurable.

What matters now is how these ideas are translated into practice: how procurement can be used to build skills, how interoperability can expand labour markets, and how women can be positioned not just as participants, but as builders and governors of the region's digital systems. That shift—from diagnosis to delivery—is where the Caribbean's digital future will ultimately be decided.

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Her CyberTracks

Cybersecurity capacity building programme for women

Promoting the equal, full and meaningful representation of women in cybersecurity

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

It is with great pleasure that we announce the launch of the **fourth edition of the global Her CyberTracks programme.**

Her CyberTracks supports women in cybersecurity through specialised training and mentorship by offering four tailored CyberTracks – Policy & Diplomacy, Incident Response, Criminal Justice and Cybersecurity & Artificial Intelligence.

Her CyberTracks is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (FFO) and the European Union (EU), with contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Italy (MAECI). The initiative is co-implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), in partnership with the Global Programme on Cybercrime of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Latin America and Caribbean Cyber Competence Centre (LAC4).

Why we need Her CyberTracks

Securing human rights and protecting digital systems demands a global, open, free, stable, safe, and secure cyberspace. However, gender-specific perspectives are often overlooked. This gap emphasizes the need for equal representation in cybersecurity to foster peace, security, and human rights-based development. Women constitute only about 24 per cent of the cybersecurity workforce in 2024 and are underrepresented in international negotiations on cyber issues. Addressing this is not just a matter of equity but a necessity for shaping inclusive international norms, comprehensive strategies, fair criminal justice systems, a strong cyber workforce, and effective incident response, ensuring a safe and resilient cyberspace for all.

Her CyberTracks contributes to closing the gender gap by promoting the equal, full, and meaningful participation of women in cybersecurity. The initiative equips participants with the skills and mindset needed to thrive in the field through a one-stop curriculum based on four core pillars:



TRAIN

We provide expert training courses to equip women with the technical and soft skills needed to shape cybersecurity.



MENTOR

We provide a platform for cybersecurity experts in senior positions to mentor women at junior level and foster their professional and personal growth.



INSPIRE

We organise inspirational keynotes to shift perceptions and (rightly) position women as valuable additions to the cybersecurity workforce.



NETWORK

We support the establishment of resilient networks of cybersecurity experts within and across regions.

Mentees may choose among the following CyberTracks based on their profiles:

Policy & Diplomacy CyberTrack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts and processes, developments on national and international cybersecurity policy & diplomacy • For policymakers and technical profiles interested in policy/ diplomacy
Incident Response CyberTrack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic incident response skills, use of entry-level tools and techniques • For technical profiles, e.g. working in IT/systems administration wishing to enter cybersecurity, or entry level CERT/SOC roles
Criminal Justice CyberTrack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frameworks and tools to understand and contribute to cybercrime investigations and prosecutions • For prosecutors, law enforcement and lawyers involved in or aiming to enter cybersecurity and countering cybercrime fields
Cyber & AI CyberTrack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersection of Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence with a focus on policy and governance • For women with a comprehensive understanding of cybersecurity policy as well as technical profiles interested in focusing on the intersection of cyber & AI policy

Her CyberTracks addresses women working in or for the public sector or critical infrastructure providers in **African countries** (AU Member States), the Western Balkans, selected countries in the Eastern Partnership region, selected countries in the **Latin America and the Caribbean** region and, for the first time this year, selected countries in the **Indo-Pacific** region (please find a list of eligible countries per Cyber Track below).

The programme will be delivered **between May and October 2026**.

Want to become a mentee:

Mentees will be expected to commit to the full programme duration, attend online sessions and mentorship meetings, and successfully complete both online and onsite trainings to receive a certificate (ca. 15 hours per month).

Next to the online curriculum, the programme features a regional four-day training on-site with soft skills masterclasses, hands-on trainings and simulation

exercises, study visits to cybersecurity organizations, and engaging networking events. Limited fellowships are available for travel and accommodation.

Want to become a mentor:

Mentors are essential for guiding mentees through the programme. As senior cyber professionals, they share expertise and help their mentee(s) navigate their career(s), committing to a four-hour per month to (online) mentoring. Online live sessions are offered to mentors. Selected mentors may be able to attend the regional four-day on-site training. We welcome mentors of all genders, who can devote time, share knowledge, and support mentees professionally.

You can find all the details, including eligibility criteria, on Her CyberTracks [here](#).

Apply now!

For interested participants (mentees) – please note that you first need to create an account on ITU Academy [here](#):

- Policy & Diplomacy CyberTrack: [apply here](#)
- Incident Response CyberTrack: [apply here](#)
- Criminal Justice CyberTrack: [apply here](#)
- Cyber & AI CyberTrack: [apply here](#)

For **mentors**, both women and men senior cyber professionals from all countries are invited to apply via the following [link](#).

For any questions regarding the programme please write to hercybertracks@giz.de and regarding technical questions on the application platform to ituacademy@itu.int.

We look forward to your application!

The Her CyberTracks team

LIST OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

African Region

(Policy & Diplomacy Track, Incident Response Track, Criminal Justice Track, Cyber and AI Track)

- All Member States of the African Union

Eastern Partnership & Western Balkan

(Policy & Diplomacy Track, Incident Response Track)

- Albania
- Armenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Republic of North Macedonia
- Serbia
- Ukraine

Indo-Pacific

(Policy & Diplomacy Track, Incident Response Track)

- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Cambodia
- Fiji
- Indonesia
- Kiribati
- Laos
- Maldives
- Marshall Islands
- Micronesia
- Nepal
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Solomon Islands
- Samoa
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu
- Viet Nam

Latin America and the Caribbean

(Incident Response Track)

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- The Bahamas
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uruguay



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CALL FOR MENTORS

Her CyberTracks 2026 Cohort

About Her CyberTracks

Her CyberTracks (HCT) is a training and mentoring programme designed to boost the representation of women in cybersecurity. The initiative is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (FFO) and the European Union (EU), with contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Italy (MAECI). Her CyberTracks is co-implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the International Telecommunication Union Development Bureau (ITU-D), in partnership with the Global Programme on Cybercrime of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Latin America and Caribbean Cyber Competence Centre (LAC4). The programme consists of a five-month curriculum to train, mentor, and inspire women across four specialized tracks: Policy & Diplomacy, Incident Response, Criminal Justice and Cyber & AI. The target regions for this year are the African Union member states, the Western Balkans, selected countries of the Eastern Partnership (Eastern Europe) as well as selected countries of the Latin America and Caribbean and the Indo-Pacific regions. Learn more here.

The Role of Mentors

As a mentor, you will play a pivotal role in guiding your assigned mentee(s) through the programme from May to October 2026. For this, you should be able to dedicate at least two hours per month to mentoring. We welcome mentors of all genders who can commit time, share expertise, and support mentees professionally.

As a mentor you will:

- Conduct regular one-on-one (online) mentorship sessions (ideally once a month).
- Share your experiences and your expertise in cybersecurity
- Provide guidance in career development based on your own experiences

- Assist mentees in identifying career development goals and in developing an associated action plan
- Connect mentees with professional networks and career opportunities.

As a mentor you should bring:

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to inspire and motivate.
- Fluency in English (additional languages, especially Spanish and French, relevant to target regions are considered a plus)
- Proven expertise in the field and ideally hold senior or managerial positions across the public, private, justice, academic, or civil society sectors.
- Previous experience in mentoring or coaching, preferably gender-sensitive or in cybersecurity (considered a plus).
- Knowledge of the cybersecurity landscape in target regions.

By joining the Her CyberTracks mentorship programme, mentors contribute directly to strengthening the next generation of women leaders in cybersecurity. At the same time, mentors gain the opportunity to join a community of cybersecurity professionals and exchange insights with different regions, sectors, and areas of expertise. Mentorship within Her CyberTracks is not only an opportunity to share knowledge, but also to become part of a growing international network dedicated to advancing inclusive and resilient cybersecurity governance.

How to Apply

Please fill out the [Her CyberTracks 2026 Mentors Application Form](#).

The CyberTracks team will be in touch with you a few weeks after the deadline to confirm your status and, if selected as a mentor, to inform you of your matching with mentees. We are looking forward to

Any Questions? Contact us at hercybertracks@giz.de or womenincyber@itu.int

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05

LIBERTY NETWORKS

THE DIGITAL PULSE OF THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA

From subsea cables to edge infrastructure, Liberty Networks connects the people, businesses, and nations shaping the digital future of the Americas



Connectivity is more than cables beneath the sea or towers across the land — it is the lifeline of progress. It is the technology enabling a student to learn, a doctor to connect with a specialist, a business to trade beyond borders, and a government to serve its citizens.

At [Liberty Networks](#), we build and operate the digital backbone that powers the future of the Caribbean and Latin America. Spanning more than 30 countries with nearly 50,000 kilometers of submarine fibre and 17,000 kilometres of terrestrial routes, our network connects the region from ocean depths to the digital edge. Liberty Networks provides the invisible foundation that keeps the region moving by supporting carriers, ISPs, and hyper-scalers in delivering the AI and digital experiences that transform lives and businesses. Learn more by watching this [video](#).

Technology Leadership

Liberty Networks has consistently invested and innovated to ensure the region has access to world-class connectivity across the Caribbean and Latin America. From ARCOS-1 and PCCS to CFX, ECFS, and MAYA, our subsea and terrestrial networks form the backbone of critical infrastructure for more than 30 countries, supporting carriers, enterprises, and governments and the communities they serve. These systems continue to evolve as we modernise, upgrade, and expand capacity to meet the region's rapidly-growing digital needs.

Our [US\\$250 million multi-year investment plan](#) continues this evolution, expanding subsea routes, reinforcing terrestrial footprints, and deploying next-generation Points-of-Presence (PoPs) that bring digital infrastructure closer to every community we serve. Backed by more than 1,100 dedicated professionals operating our network around-the-clock, we ensure world-class reliability 24/7/365.

We are building the future of connectivity with projects that redefine what is possible.

- [MANTA, our newest subsea system developed with Sparkle and Gold Data and designed by SubCom](#), will create a new high-capacity route linking the U.S., Mexico, Panama, and Colombia. It will enable seamless connectivity between key digital hubs and support the growing demands of AI, distributed cloud, and high-volume content. As a new digital superhighway, MANTA also interconnects with our existing systems, creating a mesh effect across our entire network.
- [MAYA-1.2](#): Through advanced upgrades, enhanced electronics, and optimised routing, the system now doubles the current capacity and cuts latency. This upgrade and re-configuration demonstrates the ability of our networks to leverage the latest technologies and deliver high-performance connectivity well beyond 2035.
- Across our subsea portfolio in the Caribbean and Latin America, only 20–25 per cent of available capacity is currently in use, underscoring the significant headroom designed into these systems. This ample capacity ensures our networks can continue to support the region's needs, reliably and securely, enabling new technologies, growing data demand, and ongoing digital development.

We will continue to scale and enhance this infrastructure, increasing capacity across our existing platforms by leveraging the latest technologies. Most of our subsea systems across the Caribbean and Latin America are un-repeated cables, allowing them to benefit from continuous technological advancements and operate with no defined end-of-life.

Investing in Regional Strength

Every new PoP and system upgrade brings us closer to our customers and to our purpose. [Recent activations in Campeche and Chetumal \(Mexico\) and the expansion of our Lima \(Peru\) site](#) are driving improved latency, availability, and network intelligence across the region.

With 96 PoPs in operation, providing direct access to our major systems, we continue to strengthen the foundation for a smarter, stronger, more inclusive digital ecosystem, offering multiple pathways for customers to connect to our platforms and networks.

For Liberty Networks, infrastructure is human. Behind every kilometer of fiber lies a commitment to education, healthcare, commerce, and opportunity. Our teams of engineers, operators, and customer service professionals keep the region connected every hour of every day, ensuring that no nation is left behind in digital transformation.

From the seabed to the edge of the city, we turn fiber and silicon into growth, resilience, and we deliver world-class global connectivity to support the digital future and progress of the Caribbean and Latin America.

ABOUT LIBERTY NETWORKS

Liberty Networks, part of [Liberty Latin America](#), is a leading infrastructure and enterprise connectivity provider in Latin America and the Caribbean that connects over 30 countries with nearly 50,000 kilometers of submarine fiber optic cable and 17,000 kilometers of terrestrial networks. The company operates several of the region's most important subsea systems, including **ARCOS-1**, **CFX**, **ECFS**, **PCCS**, and **MAYA-1.2**, alongside major initiatives such as MANTA, a new high-capacity pan-regional subsea system for the Caribbean and Latin America.

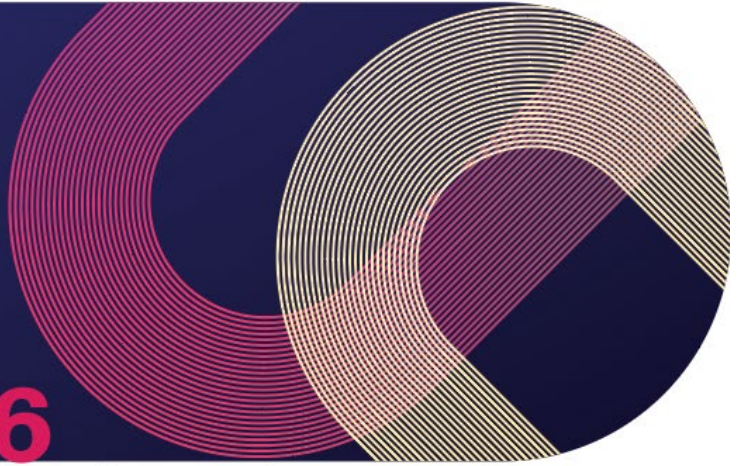
At Liberty Networks, we partner with enterprises, carriers, and business communities, leveraging our expansive network infrastructure, next-generation solutions portfolio, and data centre network to provide a solid foundation that enables business success across the region.

Caribbean digital sovereignty in the age of AI: strengthening digital public infrastructure, the Internet ecosystem, and meaningful connectivity

School of Digital Transformation and Innovation in the Caribbean

2026

June 29/July 3 • Kingston, Jamaica



Halley Movement

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

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06

EMPOWERING CARIBBEAN GIRLS TO SHAPE THE DIGITAL FUTURE:

Bridging the Digital Gap

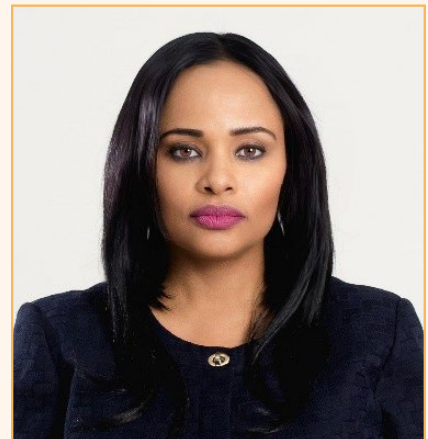
On a warm Caribbean morning, a group of girls gathered at the CTU Secretariat with a quiet mix of curiosity and anticipation. Some arrived with notebooks in hand, others with questions they had not yet found the courage to ask. They had heard of *Girls in ICT Day*, but for many, this was their first encounter with a space where technology was not distant or abstract, but something they could explore, question, and ultimately shape.

Girls in ICT Day is part of a global movement initiated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Celebrated annually since 2011 on the fourth Thursday of April, the initiative was established to empower and encourage girls and young women to pursue studies and careers in information and communication technologies (ICT). At its core, it seeks to bridge the gender digital divide and foster female leadership in the technology sector, ensuring that women are not only participants in the digital economy, but key drivers of its evolution.

For the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), moments like these are not incidental, they are intentional. Each year, the CTU's commemoration of Girls in ICT Day becomes more than a date on the calendar. It is a story unfolding across the region, one that began in 2018 and has grown from an awareness activity into a vibrant, immersive space, one that nurtures confidence, sparks curiosity, and opens pathways into the digital world. The goal shifted from simply informing girls about technology to helping them see themselves within it: not just as users, but as creators, innovators and leaders.

Alongside it stands a companion idea - *Boys Who Support Them*, a quiet but powerful reminder that building an inclusive digital future is a shared responsibility.

The CTU's Girls in ICT activities are supported through an ongoing partnership with Restore a Sense of I Can (RSC), a Caribbean-based non-profit organisation focused on empowering women, youth, and communities through technology education and digital literacy. Through the RSC platform, the annual programme is broadcast to thousands of students across CTU Member States, creating a unified Caribbean experience.



Michelle Garcia – Marketing and Communications Specialist, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)

The theme for this year, “AI for Development: Girls Shaping the Digital Future,” reflects a world in rapid transformation. Across the Caribbean, artificial intelligence is no longer a distant concept. It is present in hospitals improving diagnostics; in classrooms enhancing learning; in agriculture supporting smarter farming; and in disaster preparedness systems helping communities respond more effectively to climate risks. AI is shaping how societies function and, increasingly, how they grow.

Yet, as powerful as AI may be, that comes with an important question: *Who is building it?*

The answer, for now, reveals a gap. According to the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report of 2023, women make up only 30 per cent of persons currently working in AI. Women remain underrepresented in many of the fields that drive AI—computer science, data science and engineering. And when voices are missing, so too are important perspectives. Technologies risk becoming incomplete, or worse, unintentionally biased. The need, therefore, is not only to include girls in these spaces, but to actively encourage and prepare them to lead within them.

This is where the CTU’s approach becomes distinct.

Rather than relying solely on presentations, the CTU Girls in ICT events come to life. Students have been invited to view exhibits where technology is no longer theoretical. They participated in demonstrations facilitated by partners such as the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST), where innovation comes to life in tangible ways - a robotic arm moved with precision; a sensor detected changes in its environment; a simple line of code transformed into something visible, something real.

At another edition of the CTU Girls in ICT event, interactive conversations unfolded. Technology professionals, including a remarkable woman with a disability – some of whom once sat in the girls’ seats as students, shared their journeys. They spoke of challenges, but also of opportunity. Careers in software development, telecommunications, robotics and data analytics were no longer abstract pathways; they became human, relatable stories. The girls listened, asked questions and gradually began to imagine themselves in those roles.

For many, the turning point came during one of the hands-on sessions. A small device - Raspberry Pi kits sat

on the tables. These kits are unassuming, almost simple in appearance. But as the session began, they became a gateway. Guided step by step, the students learned how to configure these tiny computers to collect data, connect to networks, and respond to its environment. They saw how the Internet of Things (IoT) works, not as a concept, but as a solution they can build. In that moment, technology shifted from something complex and intimidating to something accessible and within reach.

What they learned was not only technical skill, but confidence.

On 23rd April, this year’s Girls in ICT Day, the CTU will host a live, interactive online quiz competition as the featured activity for this year’s observance, with exciting prizes to be won. Students will participate in a collaborative learning experience centred on artificial intelligence and its role in development. Through real-time engagement, they will explore key concepts in a manner that is both educational and stimulating. While simple in format, the activity will capture an essential principle: learning can be interactive, inclusive and enjoyable.

For some participants, the day will end as a memorable experience. For others, it will mark the beginning of a journey that could perhaps spark a new interest in coding or a decision to pursue science or engineering. It could also be the catalyst for a moment of clarity about their place in the digital world.

For the CTU, these individual moments contribute to a broader vision—one aligned with the Caribbean’s ongoing digital transformation. As the region advances initiatives in digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence governance, and digital skills development, ensuring that women and girls are fully represented is not optional - it is essential.

And so, the story continues:

In classrooms where curiosity is sparked.

In communities where opportunities are expanded.

In the ambitions of girls who begin to see themselves not just as participants, but as leaders.

Ultimately, Girls in ICT Day 2026 carries a simple but powerful message:

The girls gathered are not waiting for the future - they are already shaping it.

They are the innovators who will design solutions; the leaders who will guide transformation; and the voices that will ensure technology reflects the needs of all.

And as the Caribbean moves forward on its digital journey, it is their ideas, creativity and determination that will help build a future that is innovative and truly inclusive.



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THREE KEY STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES TO ACHIEVE

ICT infrastructure resilience in the Caribbean – Michele Marius

Cognisant of the importance of maintaining well-functioning telecommunications and ICT infrastructure, Caribbean countries must continue to strengthen the resiliency of their networks against the broad range of threats to which they are vulnerable. However, doing so requires a multi-pronged approach that strengthens local and regional critical internet infrastructure, emphasises link and route diversification and redundancy, and leverages regional and international collaboration and strategic partnerships. It is almost inevitable that Caribbean countries will experience a major disaster or emergency that compromises their ICT infrastructure—it is a matter of when, not if. Improving their network resiliency will be crucial to provide critical services in the aftermath and recovery phases when they are needed most.

The Caribbean stands at a critical juncture. Although the region's development has accelerated thanks to its ability to leverage telecommunications and ICT, which has become a crucial economic and social driver, countries' digital infrastructure still faces a trifecta of threats: the relentless force of adverse weather and other natural disasters, the insidious creep of cyberattacks, and accidental or intentional infrastructure damage. These vulnerabilities, often intertwined, demand a proactive, innovative, and deeply-collaborative approach to make networks more resilient.



Michele Marius – ICT Policy Specialist

The power of Mother Nature

The North Atlantic Hurricane Season, officially from the 1st June to the 30th November, is a period of heightened anxiety across the region. Recent storms, such as Hurricane Melissa (2025), Hurricane Beryl (2024), Hurricane Dorian (2019), Hurricanes Irma and Maria (2017), and Hurricane Matthew (2016), left many countries in ruins and severely damaged much core infrastructure, including telecommunications and ICT networks. In some instances, full network restoration has taken years to complete, though every year, the threat of devastation looms.

We also ought to acknowledge that the region, especially the Eastern Caribbean, experiences volcanic activity on a near-daily basis. According to [The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre](#), approximately 1200 earthquakes are recorded in the Eastern Caribbean annually. Further, with 21 live volcanoes, including La Soufrière in Saint Vincent, which erupted in 2020 and 2021, and the submarine volcano, Kick 'Em Jenny, located off the coast of Grenada, which last erupted in 2017, both our terrestrial and submarine infrastructure are at risk. For example, the October 2023 earthquake in Jamaica damaged two subsea fibre-optic cables, which were repaired with limited connectivity disruptions.

Further, a 2015 Kick ‘Em Jenny eruption led to damage of two subsea cables, caused by a landslide and debris flow that originated from a collapse of the crater rim and flank.

Additionally, due to the heightened seismic activity in the region, we cannot overlook the potential and consequently devastating impact of tsunamis. Though not a common occurrence, with only ten confirmed earthquake-generated tsunamis in the Caribbean Basin in the past 500 years, they still ought to be taken into account when considering the resiliency of the region’s telecommunications and ICT infrastructure.

The Silent Infiltrator: Cyber threats on the rise

Less visible but equally menacing is the escalating threat of cyberattacks. As Caribbean countries embrace digitalisation, their critical infrastructure, financial systems, and their citizens’ personal data have become increasingly attractive targets for malicious actors. The threat becomes even more worrisome when the efforts to deepen regional integration, such as the CARICOM Single ICT Space and, more recently, the complete freedom of movement of nationals between countries, are considered. Recent incidents, such as the [ransomware attack](#) experienced by the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago in 2023 that resulted in the theft of personal data of over one million customers, or the [cyberattack](#) experienced by the BVI Electricity Corporation in 2024 that affected both their internal and external operations, underscore this growing peril.

Though much of our collective focus tends to be on ransomware attacks, we ought to also keep in mind that malware, denial-of-service (DoS/DDoS) attacks, phishing, and insider threats can all be disruptive to organisations and their continued operation, by taking systems offline, encrypting data or flooding networks with traffic. These attacks can render critical systems or data inaccessible, which, if they involve our telecommunications or ICT infrastructure, means that no area or segment of our societies will be spared.

Accidental or Intentional Infrastructure Damage

Unlike the previous threats that might appear existential in nature, from a far more powerful or remote source, all too often across the region, telecommunications and internet infrastructure are being compromised by actors much closer to home. Cable and equipment theft

or damage are a frequent occurrence across the region, where many of the local telecommunications firms have reported disruptions in service due to vandalism. In Jamaica, for example, in 2022, Flow reportedly lost over US\$10 million in revenue [due to vandalism](#) and spent over US\$2 million to restore the affected facilities.

In a different vein, we must also highlight the submarine cable damage, in particular, that has occurred across the region, which has disrupted telecommunications and internet service delivery in-country. For example, a yacht trying to anchor damaged the Bahamas Domestic Submarine Network cable in The Bahamas in 2024, whilst in 2023, an anchor from a mega-yacht damaged the Eastern Caribbean Fibre System cable running to Anguilla, causing significant disruptions to internet connectivity. Further, depending on how submarine cables are laid, damage in one spot could still adversely affect multiple countries, which occurred in 2020 when a submarine cable between Antigua and Guadeloupe was damaged, but service in Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana was affected.

A three-pronged approach to improved infrastructure resilience

Addressing the above challenges to realise more resilient telecommunications and ICT infrastructure requires a strategic and integrated framework built on preparedness, innovation, and collaboration. The recommended approach consists of three strategic imperatives as outlined below.

Strengthen Local and Regional Critical Internet Infrastructure

As currently configured, most of the region’s internet traffic leaves the region to be routed through nodes located in North America—even if the traffic is destined for the same country from which it was transmitted. Such an approach leaves countries especially vulnerable should submarine cables be damaged due to a storm or other source.

There has thus been a growing call for Caribbean countries to invest in and maintain their own critical internet infrastructure, which would include data centres, Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and Domain Name System (DNS) servers. These resources, when domiciled locally, properly configured and used, would allow individual countries and even the region (if so arranged) to access internet platforms and services

resident or cached in-country, even if international connectivity is not available.

However, it must be emphasised that the procured critical internet resources must be properly configured and used in-country. For example, although 15 of the 20 CARICOM countries have an IXP, and most of them were installed over a decade ago, they still are not operating optimally. In some instances, although the local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have connected to the requisite servers, little or no traffic is being routed through the exchange point; instead, it is still transmitted to nodes in Florida. On the other hand, the countries that have well-functioning IXPs, which include Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Curaçao, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname, have been experiencing continual growth in the traffic being routed through their IXPs, and consequently, lower latency and higher bandwidth capacity, and enhanced redundancy among the benefits being enjoyed.

Emphasise Link and Route Diversification and Redundancy

Second, a key vulnerability for Caribbean countries is international connectivity, which is primarily via fibre-optic submarine cables. However, as currently deployed, submarine cable systems in the region are generally configured in a daisy-chain manner. This structure, although economical, also means that should a break occur along the chain, the nodes (or countries) connected after the break may experience a disruption in their connectivity—unless backup or alternative routes have been established.

Further, and again focusing on the region's submarine cable systems, even when the cables have different owners, they tend to follow similar routes, and the landing stations also tend to be in the same vicinity. Hence, the cables are likely to be exposed to the same threat and have the same vulnerability, thus limiting the redundancy they can deliver.

With new submarine cable systems continually being deployed in the region and existing ones being upgraded, policymakers should require more geographically-diverse cable routes and landing stations to be established to improve infrastructure resiliency. Guidance on such matters may soon be available through the International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience, of which the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) is a member and a co-chair of one of the working groups. This [advisory body](#), which is a partnership between the

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC), seeks “...to identify, develop, and promote government and industry best practices for submarine cable resilience...”, through international multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Additionally, although the general practice across the region has been to use satellite, microwave and other wireless technologies when fibre optic cables might not be tenable, the effort ought to be made to diversify the infrastructure to include wireless technologies. For example, the low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite systems that are currently eager to expand their footprint into the region ought to be welcomed. However, it means that existing policy and regulatory frameworks, which have given limited consideration to satellite or non-wire-based technologies, urgently need to be revisited.

Bolster Regional and International Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships

Finally, the inherent interconnectedness of Caribbean nations makes regional collaboration not just beneficial but an imperative. Organisations such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) are central to this effort and should feature more prominently in both national and regional infrastructure resiliency initiatives.

[CARICOM IMPACS](#) implements the region's action agenda on crime and security and is a vital resource to combat cyberthreats and cybercrime. Its [Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre \(RIFC\)](#) collates and shares information on threat entities, insights and warnings, thus providing countries with a basis for decision and action. It also provides training and major event support, as well as facilitates regional and international liaisons among the intelligence community. However, as the region's agency for crime and security, the national counterpart that tends to engage CARICOM IMPACS is law enforcement, and not necessarily those with responsibility for telecommunications and ICT, which would more likely be the lead for network resilience. Hence, through the CARICOM machinery, the requisite links should be established for CARICOM IMPACS to work more closely with ministries for telecommunications and ICT and national Cybersecurity Response Teams (CSIRT) so that the intelligence and support it can provide are efficiently and effectively channelled to the resources on the ground that can best utilise them.

Further, in addition to better leveraging CARICOM IMPACS, Caribbean countries should capitalise on the forum established by the [Budapest Convention on Cybercrime](#) to “share experience and create relationships that facilitate cooperation”. At the time of writing, only Grenada and the Dominican Republic are parties to the Convention, whilst Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago are signatories and have been invited to accede to the Convention. As a region with relatively limited resources, and cognisant of the global threat from cybercrime plus the sophistication of the threat actors, our countries could benefit considerably from adopting a more proactive posture and harnessing the resources and expertise available through the Convention.

On the other hand, [CDEMA](#)’s focus is on disaster and emergency management, and more specifically, the coordination of emergency response and relief efforts across the CARICOM region. Due to the prevalence of adverse weather conditions and other natural disasters, most Caribbean countries have well-established national emergency management offices—though they might not always be as well-resourced as expected.

Having said this, the telecommunication and ICT disaster management component would be one of many elements in a national emergency management response, and so may not receive the rigorous treatment or oversight that the dedicated emergency plan should provide. For the past several years, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), through its Caribbean Office, has been encouraging and supporting countries in the preparation of a [National Emergency Telecommunications Plan](#) that provides a more comprehensive approach by addressing key areas such as risk mitigation, disaster preparedness, response and recovery. At the time of writing, few countries had completed preparation of their NETP, with others in the process or about to embark¹.

It would be remiss not to mention the [Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations](#), which, in times of disaster, facilitates prompt international transport and use of telecommunications equipment to the affected areas by removing regulatory barriers. From a telecommunications and ICT perspective, the barriers include import restrictions, Customs clearance, and licensing and/or frequency authorisation requirements. In the Caribbean, only five

countries are signatories to the Tampere Convention: Barbados, Dominica, Haiti, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. However, the CTU has been encouraging, and in late 2025, a resolution was made by its General Conference of Ministers that countries would sign, ratify and accede to the Convention.

Nevertheless, when the speedy conveyance of telecommunication equipment to the disaster-affected countries in the region is of the essence, the undue delays to secure and process waivers in countries that have not acceded to the Tampere Convention not only put lives at risk, but could also undermine contingencies established to support countries that have experienced considerable damage to their telecommunications and ICT networks. As good neighbours, countries should ensure that they have acceded to the Convention so that when a disaster inevitably occurs, a speedy emergency response across the region can be facilitated.

In summary, the Caribbean’s journey towards a more resilient future hinges on its ability to internalise the lessons from past adversities and proactively address the evolving digital landscape, which is driving a more diversified approach, whilst also necessitating deeper harmonisation and collaboration to better manage the critical infrastructure upon which we increasingly rely. Without a doubt, one or more Caribbean countries will experience another major disaster or emergency. Though networks and equipment will be compromised, disrupting service delivery, its resilience—to still provide critical services in the aftermath and ultimately the speed of restoration—is where the true test of the resiliency of their telecommunications and internet infrastructure lies.



¹ Countries that have completed preparation of their NETP: Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Countries in the process: Haiti and Jamaica. Countries about to embark on the process, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guyana and Suriname.

08

CARIBBEAN WOMEN LEADING ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Highlighting Caribbean leadership within the ITU-D Network of Women Advisory Board

Technology now shapes nearly every part of how we live, work and connect, yet many of the decisions about connectivity, resilience, innovation and digital inclusion are increasingly being made in regional and global forums.

Women bring perspectives shaped by their roles as professionals, entrepreneurs, caregivers, community leaders and decision-makers, so their participation across the digital ecosystem, especially in leadership and decision-making roles, is essential for ensuring that digital policies are inclusive and more responsive to the realities of the communities they are meant to serve.

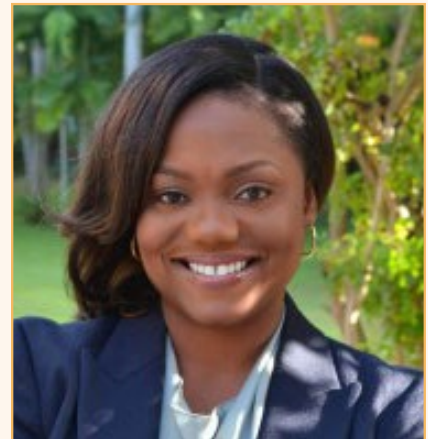
Yet a leadership gap remains.

According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Gender Dashboard, women held only about one fifth of senior ICT leadership roles globally in January 2026, while their representation among high-level delegates at ITU decision-making conferences reached only 22% at its highest point between 2018 and 2025.

This is why platforms such as the ITU Network of Women (NoW) matter. They help strengthen mentorship, peer support and pathways to leadership in global digital policy spaces. The fact that all three ITU sectors now have their own NoW communities, alongside sector-specific gender resolutions, shows that women's participation and leadership are being supported more systematically across the ITU.

NoW in ITU-D: Advancing Women's Leadership in Digital Development

Since taking up the role of International Relations Advisor at the Utilities Regulation and Competition



A perspective by Michelle Grell-Bereaux

Authority (URCA) of The Bahamas in 2024, much of my work has focused on supporting The Bahamas' and the Caribbean's engagement in ITU-D, where digital development issues such as connectivity, inclusion, resilience and capacity-building are actively shaped.

As a new ITU delegate helping to coordinate URCA's contribution to relevant regional and international processes, I was introduced to mentorship opportunities through the Network of Women in ITU-D. Established in 2021, the Network creates a supportive space where women delegates can connect, share experiences, encourage one another and grow into greater leadership in ITU-D's work.

I am proud to represent the Caribbean on this platform, and I see this appointment as more than a personal milestone. The NoW in ITU-D Advisory Board helps guide the continued development of the Network by advising the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) on its governance, priorities and growth, providing overall guidance on NoW in ITU-D activities, promoting synergies among the six regional chapters and their stakeholders, and offering guidance on matters raised by the chapters or by BDT. This gives me an important opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction of the Network while helping to bring Caribbean perspectives more deliberately into wider regional and global discussions on women's leadership in digital development.

My nomination through the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), alongside the Caribbean-region-focused work of the CTU, also reflects a shared recognition that women's participation, leadership and mentoring are essential to stronger and more inclusive digital policymaking

From Mentorship to Negotiation Impact

My own experiences have shown me the practical value of this support ecosystem. Through the ITU-D Empowering Women Leaders Mentorship Programme and the CITEL "Road to WTDC-25" mentorship programme, I was paired with two experienced women delegates, Dr. Emma Ann Otieno of Kenya and Vanessa Copetti of Brazil, in preparation for the 2025 World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC-25). Those opportunities strengthened my confidence and gave me a clearer sense of how regional and international negotiations work in practice: how positions are built, how discussions evolve, and how preparation must be balanced with flexibility.

That preparation proved invaluable at WTDC-25, where I had the privilege of serving as CITEL spokesperson for an Inter-American Proposal led by The Bahamas and informed by the ITU/CTU/TATT Smart Seas initiative. The proposal sought recognition for connectivity within territorial waters and vulnerable coastal and island communities in a WTDC resolution on telecommunications/ ICTs in underserved areas. Some delegates initially questioned the need for this, believing that this proposal was better suited within maritime fora, but, sharing Smart Seas findings, reinforced by real-life stories from Caribbean communities, helped to raise awareness that limited connectivity can threaten both lives and livelihoods, and that reliable communications

at sea require multi-stakeholder, cross-sector collaboration and the appropriate regulatory measures. For small-scale fishers, coastal communities and other mariners, this is essential for safety, peace of mind and economic resilience. In the end, the proposal was substantially adopted.

For me, this was a clear example of why Caribbean and SIDS representation matters. It helps bring overlooked realities into global decision-making and ensures ensure that policy remains grounded in the realities of affected communities.

The confidence built through mentorship and exposure also led me to accept a leadership role at WTDC-25, chairing an ad hoc working group on the Resolution addressing the role of telecommunications/ICTs in disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response. The skills I've acquired and the professional relationships I've built have also been valuable in my work at the ITU Council and its Council Working Groups, where I support The Bahamas' Ambassador to the ITU in representing the interests of The Bahamas and the wider Caribbean.

I see my role on the Advisory Board as a bridge between Caribbean priorities and the wider NoW agenda in the Americas. The renewed vision of CTU-NoW, with its focus on policy engagement, representation and capacity-building, aligns with priorities already being advanced through CITEL and NoW in ITU-D. This bridge must work in both directions: bringing Caribbean experience into wider hemispheric and global discussions, while also ensuring that the mentorship, insights and relationships developed regionally and internationally help strengthen policymaking, collaboration and leadership pathways at home.

A Caribbean legacy to build on

My appointment also builds on a powerful legacy of Caribbean leadership within the NoW community. I particularly wish to recognize Dr. Kim Mallalieu, former Americas representative on the NoW in ITU-D Advisory Board, whose work has helped open important pathways for women's participation in regional and international ICT policy processes. Through her leadership and mentoring, she has shown that stronger representation is built not only through opportunity, but also through preparation, encouragement and a willingness to bring others along.

Opportunities for Caribbean women through ITU-NoW

NoW in ITU-D and CTU-NoW create value by connecting women not only to one another, but also to mentors, information and opportunities. In doing so, they help turn participation into confidence, confidence into influence, and influence into leadership, particularly for Caribbean women seeking stronger pathways into regional and global digital policy spaces.

That opportunity is not only personal; it is regional. The Caribbean needs more women and more young professionals engaged not only in technology itself, but also in the policy and governance processes that shape digital transformation. International forums should not feel distant or inaccessible. They should be seen as spaces where Caribbean women and youth can contribute, lead and help shape outcomes.

In this regard, I am especially grateful for the intentional leadership shown by URCA in fostering the development of women and young professionals within the organisation. By creating opportunities for

participation, learning and exposure to regional and international policy processes, URCA, with the support of The Government of The Bahamas, has shown that stronger representation must be actively nurtured.

More broadly, regional institutions, governments, regulators, universities and private-sector partners all have a role to play. They can support participation in delegations, invest in mentorship and skills development, identify emerging women leaders, and create opportunities for intergenerational exchange. They can also help strengthen gender perspectives in national digital and resilience policies, so that women's experiences are better reflected in the strategies shaping digital transformation at home.

The Caribbean has no shortage of talent. What is needed is continued intentionality: creating pathways, widening access, and ensuring that women and young professionals across the region are equipped and encouraged to participate confidently in digital governance at every level. This is how the region's voice becomes stronger and more influential in shaping the global digital agenda.







CTU ICT Week 2026 – French Guiana

Date: 21st – 24th September 2026

Venue: French Guiana

TRAVEL INFORMATION NOTE FOR DELEGATES

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) is pleased to provide the following travel information to assist delegates in planning their participation in **CTU ICT Week 2026**, scheduled to take place in **Cayenne, French Guiana**, from **Monday 21st September** to **Thursday 24th September 2026**.

IMPORTANT TRAVEL PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

French Guiana has **limited international air connectivity**, and delegates are advised to make travel arrangements early.

There are **no direct flights from most Caribbean, Latin American and U.S countries to Cayenne (CAY)**. All delegates should expect to travel via **one or more connecting hubs**.

Primary Air Access Routes to Cayenne

- Fort-de-France, Martinique (Caribbean hub)
- Paris, France (primary international gateway)
- Belém or Fortaleza, Brazil (limited regional access)

RECOMMENDED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES

ARRIVAL

Delegates are strongly advised to arrive no later than **Saturday 19th September 2026**.

Due to limited flight schedules into Cayenne:

- **Sunday 20 September arrivals are not reliably available via Caribbean routes**
- Sunday 20th arrivals are **only consistently possible via for Europe countries via Paris**

DEPARTURE

Delegates are advised to schedule departure on **Friday 25 September 2026**, which aligns with available outbound flights.

Region	Best Route	Stops	Arrival Feasibility
Eastern Caribbean	Martinique	1	Saturday only
Guyana/Suriname	Martinique/Brazil	1-2	Saturday only
Jamaica/Belize	Panama and Martinique	2-3	Saturday only
USA/Canada	Miami/NY – Martinique or Miami - Panama - Martinique	1-2	Saturday only
Latin America	Brazil direct	0-1	Limited
Europe	Paris direct	1	Saturday & Sunday

RECOMMENDED ROUTING OPTIONS

Option 1 – Caribbean Route (Preferred for Regional Delegates)

Country of origin → **Fort-de-France (Martinique)** → Cayenne

- Most efficient option for Caribbean participants
- Typically requires **1-2 connections**
- Delegates using this route should plan to **arrive on Saturday 19th September**

Option 2 – Europe Route (Preferred for Europe, UK, Netherland, German Delegates)

Country of origin → **Paris (France)** → Cayenne

- Direct long-haul flights from Paris to Cayenne
- Suitable for delegates requiring **Sunday arrival**
- Recommended for participants travelling from North America or Europe

Option 3 – South America Route

Country of origin → **Belém or Fortaleza (Brazil)** → Cayenne

- Limited direct services
- May require overnight transit
- Suitable primarily for South American participants

There are **VERY FEW** direct international routes into **Cayenne**.

Only direct (non-stop) routes into Cayenne (CAY):

- **Paris (France)** – Air France / Air Caraïbes
- **Fort-de-France (Martinique)** – Air France
- **Belém (Brazil)** – Air France
- **Fortaleza (Brazil)** – Air France

This means: **ALL CTU delegates will require at least 1 stop (often 2 stops)**

There are 3 main gateway hubs to reach Cayenne:

1. Caribbean Hub (Most Practical for CTU)

- **Fort-de-France (Martinique)** → Direct to Cayenne
- Operated by Air France / Air Caraïbes

2. Europe Hub (Most Reliable but longer)

- **Paris (CDG / Orly)** → Direct to Cayenne

~9-hour direct flight ([Air Caraïbes](#))

3. Brazil Hub (Useful for South America)

- **Belém / Fortaleza** → Direct to Cayenne

CARIBBEAN ROUTES (CTU MEMBER STATES)

Trinidad & Tobago

Option 1 – 1 Stop (BEST ROUTE)

- Port of Spain → **Fort-de-France, Martinique** → Cayenne
- Airlines: Caribbean Airlines and Air France

Option 2 with 2 Stops (via Caribbean islands)

- Port of Spain → Barbados or St Lucia → Martinique → Cayenne

From other CTU Member States of Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica → **Fort-de-France (Martinique)** → Cayenne

- Airlines: Caribbean Airlines and Air Caraïbes

JAMAICA AND BELIZE (Northern Caribbean)

- Kingston → **Panama City** → **Fort-de-France (Martinique)** → Cayenne
- Airlines: Copa Airlines and Air France

GUYANA AND SURINAME (Closest countries geographically)

- Georgetown / Paramaribo → **Fort-de-France (Martinique)** → Cayenne; OR
- Georgetown / Paramaribo → **Belém (Brazil)** → Cayenne

LATIN AMERICA : Via Panama

Country of origin → Panama City (PTY) → Fort-de-France (Martinique) → Cayenne

Airlines: **Copa Airlines (to Panama City) or Air France (Martinique → Cayenne)**

Brazil Direct flights available

- Belém → Cayenne and Fortaleza → Cayenne

EUROPE ROUTES - France - Direct flights:

- Paris → Cayenne
- Airlines: Air France and Air Caraïbes

LONDON, NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY Europe (1 Stop)

- From London or Amsterdam or Frankfurt → **Paris** → Cayenne

U.S.A :Option 1: Via the Caribbean (e.g Miami or NY → Fort-de-France, Martinique → Cayenne)

Route: USA → Fort-de-France (Martinique) → Cayenne

Airlines: American Airlines / JetBlue / Caribbean Airlines (to Caribbean hubs)

- Air France / Air Caraïbes (Martinique → Cayenne)

U.S.A Option 2: Via Panama + Caribbean (e.g Miami → Panama → Martinique → Cayenne)

Route: USA → **Panama City** → **Fort-de-France, Martinique** → Cayenne

Airlines: Copa Airlines and Air France

VISA AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

French Guiana is an **overseas department of France**, and entry requirements follow **French regulations**. Nationals from the following **generally require a visa** (short-stay visa for French overseas territories):

CARICOM & Caribbean (relevant to CTU delegates)

- Jamaica
- Guyana
- Suriname
- Belize
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Grenada
- Dominica
- Antigua and Barbuda

Latin America (selected)

- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Bolivia
- Ecuador

Africa, Asia: Most countries in Africa and Asia

Countries that DO NOT require a visa

- All EU Member States
- Schengen countries (e.g. Germany, France, Spain, Netherlands)

Visa-exempt countries (generally)

- United States
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Brazil

YELLOW FEVER REQUIREMENT

All travellers to French Guiana are required to present **proof of Yellow Fever vaccination** upon entry.

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Cayenne – Félix Eboué International Airport (CAY)

Located in Matoury, approximately 15–20 minutes from Cayenne city centre.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Airport transfers will be arranged for delegates upon submission of travel itineraries. Further details will be communicated by the Secretariat.

GENERAL TRAVEL ADVICE

Delegates are encouraged to:

- Book flights early due to limited flights availability
- Allow sufficient connection time between flights
- Verify transit visa requirements for connecting countries
- Obtain travel and health insurance
- Carry all required documentation, including vaccination certificates

CONTACT FOR CTU ICT WEEK FRENCH GUIANA LOGISTICS SUPPORT

For further assistance, please contact:

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The CTU Secretariat will not be responsible for any travel disruptions, missed connections or expenses incurred due to improper travel arrangements or non-compliance with entry requirements. Delegates are therefore urged to carefully follow this advisory when planning their travel.

The CTU Secretariat looks forward to welcoming you to **French Guiana for CTU ICT Week 2026**.

HIGHLIGHTS



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rolczUW5bnU>

GUIDING THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT: HIGHLIGHTS FROM TDAG-26

Introduction

At a time when digital technologies are evolving at an unprecedented pace, the need for responsive, inclusive and forward-looking policy guidance has become increasingly critical. The 33rd meeting of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG-26), convened in Geneva, Switzerland from 7 to 10 April 2026, provided a timely platform to shape the future direction of global digital development.

As the first TDAG meeting following the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25), the discussions carried particular significance, focusing on translating global commitments into practical, impactful actions for the next four-year cycle.

Female Leadership and Strategic Guidance

TDAG-26 was chaired by Regina Fleur A. Bessou, International Cooperation Director at the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency of Côte d'Ivoire (ARTCI). In her address, she highlighted the importance of the meeting in shaping the implementation phase following WTDC-25. Her leadership underscored the role of TDAG as a bridge between global policy frameworks and tangible national and regional outcomes.

Advancing Women's Participation in Digital Development

A notable feature of TDAG-26 was the engagement of the Network of Women (NoW) within ITU-D. The network hosted a dedicated networking session, providing a platform to discuss the role of women in advancing digital transformation and ensuring inclusive participation.

The discussions reinforced the importance of creating pathways for women and girls to not only participate in, but lead within,

the digital ecosystem. The NoW continues to serve as a vital mechanism for promoting gender equality and strengthening representation across all areas of ICT development.

TDAG-26 marked a pivotal moment in the global digital development agenda. As the international community moves from policy formulation to implementation, the emphasis on inclusivity, partnerships and measurable impact will be essential.

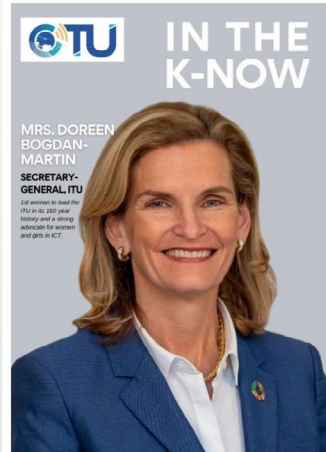
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2026 ICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL - JULY

#	EVENT	2026	Location
1	2026 Annual meeting of ITU Council	28th April - 8th May	Geneva
2	CTU Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework (CIGPF) meeting on Data Governance and Cybersecurity	5th - 6th May	Virtual
3	ITU Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-26)	12th - 15th May	Turkey
4	GSOA WEBINAR- Satellite Connectivity virtual workshop	19th May	Virtual
5	Spectrum Management Task Force Meeting	20th - 21st May	Virtual
6	LACNIC 45	25th - 28th May	Panama
7	18th South School of Internet Governance (SSIG26)	1st - 5th June	Guatemala
8	ITU 16th Regional Cyberdrill AMS from the heart of the World	1st - 5th June	Ecuador
9	ITU 7th World Telecommunication/Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum (WTPF 26)	7th - 11th June	The Bahamas
10	ICANN 86 (Public Meeting)	8th - 11th June	Seville, Spain
11	ITU Regional Development Forum (RDF) - Americas	17th - 19th June	Cartagena, Columbia
12	CTU ICT Ministerial Caucus - Q3	22nd June	Virtual
13	CTU 3rd International ICT Forecast and Preparatory Meeting	22nd June	Virtual
14	Domain Name System (DNS) Security Forum	23rd June	Bern, Switzerland
15	1st CTU Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Forum	23rd - 24th July	Trinidad and Tobago
16	ITU Americas Regional Radiocommunication Seminar (RRS-AMS)	27th - 31st July	Bolivia
17	3rd School of Digital Transformation and Innovation for the Caribbean	29th June - 3rd July	Jamaica
18	World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)	6th - 10th July	Geneva
19	ITU AI For Good Summit	7th - 10th July	Geneva
20	7th Ordinary Session of the African Telecommunications Union Conference of Plenipotentiaries (CPL-26)	23rd - 24th July	Abuja, Nigeria
21	2026 SIDS IGF	29th - 30th July	Mauritius

In the k-NoW Quarterly Magazine



Call for Articles!

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) Network of Women (CTU-NoW) invites you to contribute to our upcoming issue of In the k-NoW, the official publication celebrating the achievements, insights and leadership of women in ICT across the Caribbean and beyond.

We are seeking dynamic and inspiring articles that align with our themes of innovation, leadership, mentorship, digital transformation and gender equality in ICT. Contributions may include feature articles, opinion pieces, success stories, research insights, or reflections on key developments impacting women in the sector.

Submissions should be original, between 500 and 1000 words and written in an engaging style that resonates with a broad professional audience.

Deadline for submission: 5TH JUNE 2026
Submission email: francola.john@ctu.int

Let your voice be heard and join us in amplifying the contributions of women driving the digital future of our region.

We look forward to receiving your articles!



Don't miss an issue of this industry packed publication. Subscribe today!

Be In the k-Now [Click here to subscribe to our mailing list.](#) Follow us on social media to be in the k-NoW

VISION OF CTU NETWORK OF WOMEN

To lead the charge in creating a strong community of Caribbean Women in ICT to drive profound and impactful transformation across the region. We envision women being equally represented and actively shaping the industry's future.

MISSION OF THE CTU NETWORK OF WOMEN

Our mission is to cultivate a supportive and collaborative community that empowers and advances Caribbean Women in ICT and STEM. Through networking, mentoring and professional development opportunities, we strive to promote gender equality, equity and parity by amplifying women's voices, and driving positive change in the industry.

OBJECTIVES OF IN THE k-NoW

The Caribbean has a staggering record of influential women leaders in telecommunications, yet there is no channel for the sharing of experiences, mentoring and encouraging women across the region to take on leadership roles in the longitudinal processes associated with ITU's statutory meetings and study groups. ITU's Network of Women is available to fill this gap. At the same time, CTU In the k-NoW provides information on key supporting resources with a Caribbean focus.

Women are a key CTU Stakeholder group. We engage them through In the k-NoW to share updates, inform on activities, data, announcements and successes of Women in ICT in our Member States and the wider Caribbean Community.

CTU Focal Point for ITU's Network of Women.

Ms Francola John,
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Advertise with us!

ADVERTISE WITH US

In the k-Now Newsletter —
Amplify your brand across the Caribbean ICT Landscape!

Who we are

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) invites you to place your brand at the forefront of regional and international conversations on women in ICT Distributed across twenty (20) CTU Member States and shared with global ICT stakeholders.

Each issue reaches a high-level readership of government ministries, telecommunication regulators, private sector leaders, academic institutions and international development agencies.

The official publication of the CTU Network of Women (CTU-NOW)

Why Choose Us?

- Targeted Reach - Connect directly with ICT decision-makers, policy influencers and innovators.
- Brand Association - Align your organisation with a powerful movement promoting gender equity and digital advancement
- Quarterly Exposure - Keep your brand visible all year long across a growing audience

Advertising Options

- Full-page and half-page ads
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Let your brand be seen where it matters most. Join us advancing digital inclusion and celebrating the women driving the Caribbean's ICT future.

CONTACT

Request our Advertising Media Kit to secure your ad placement in the next issue!

Mr. Rodney Lewis, Business
Development Specialist

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