

Submission to the Development of the Global Digital Compact from Stakeholders of the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum

The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) Secretariat reached out to stakeholders of the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) and the Small Island Developing States Internet

process so this document represents a collective Caribbean input. While Caribbean nations do provide a SIDS perspective, this submission is not however representative of the views of SIDS from other world regions.

Stakeholders were asked to comment on the thematic areas provided by the UN and to add others they deemed pertinent to the Caribbean. As requested by the UN, these thematic areas were then assessed based on the existing work completed or in progress and finally the needs to be addressed.

In considering this, stakeholders were asked to reference the

Research.

Whereas eLAC 2024 identified 4 main pillars as follows:

Infrastructure, connectivity and the development of skills and competencies

Digital economy, entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainability

Inclusion and the digital transformation of the State

Forging new partnerships re trade integration, the regional digital market and cooperation.

eLAC 2024 also includes 10 specific targets for broadband penetration, service accessibility, digital skills and planning.

Finally, other references relevant to SIDS were also noted as worthy of consideration in formulating our inputs to the GDC viz. the Pacific Regional e-Commerce Strategy and Roadmap (<https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Regional-Ecommerce-Strategy-Roadmap.pdf>) and the ongoing Enhancement of Governance and Enabling Environment in the ICT sector (EGEE-ICT) in the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, and the Indian Ocean region (<https://www.comesa.int/egee-ict-programme/>).

Feedback provided by stakeholders is not necessarily so exactly classified. It is important to note however, that these thematic areas are not mutually exclusive and overlap will occur. Following are the thematic areas ultimately proposed and commented upon by Caribbean stakeholders:

1. Connect all people to the internet, including all schools
2. Avoid internet fragmentation
3. Protect data
4. Apply human rights online
5. Introduce accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content
6. Promote regulation of artificial intelligence (ethical behavior of solutions?)
7. Digital commons as a global public good
8. Sustainable internet consumption/production
9. Collaboration and Multistakeholder Participation
10. Openness and Interoperability
11. Develop a Culture of Cybersecurity
12. Embrace Universal Acceptance

The following table summarises and collates the feedback provided by Caribbean stakeholders from the Government, private sector, academia and civil society stakeholder groups for input to the GDC development process.

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		<p>The creation and popularity of</p> <p>creation of false images under the guise of being jokes that contain false information believed by many to be true. To mitigate this, all satire content should be clearly labelled as such in all media formats.</p>
		<p>This will require regional cooperation due to the cross-border nature of the Internet by both public and private sectors in the content they produce for mass consumption.</p>
		<p>Promote understanding of how this regulation will impact having a free and open Internet given concerns these two needs are in opposition.</p> <p>Protection of data generated and collected by artificial intelligence.</p>
	<p>The Digital Library of the Caribbean is a collection of resources on or about the Caribbean. Partners include regional and international libraries as well as private collectors.</p>	<p>Raise awareness of what digital commons are and are not, along with the value in shared knowledge.</p> <p>To benefit from them they need to be accessible, without breaching data protection laws.</p>
		<p>Free access and sustainable resource management will be integral in maintaining these digital commons.</p>

		<p>The grouping of the Caribbean as Latin America and the Caribbean needs to be revised when there are as many as two Caribbean nations included in the dataset. The assumption of findings in these situations is often inaccurate for the Caribbean.</p> <p>Support needs to be given to the Caribbean nations to gather and update datasets to provide its own regional statistics that will have merit when placed with that of Latin America.</p>

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E-commerce platforms are available to multiple islands to allow commerce between islands.

Digital technologies are impacting all economic activities, transforming processes, business models, products and value chains. To maximize the impact of these technologies on the economy, it is necessary to boost their adoption in the productive fabric, boost

	<p>E-governments are becoming more sustainable with government services being entirely or partially online.</p>	<p>Fostering a regional digital market strategy, which reduces barriers to digital trade, must be part of the strategies of subregional integration mechanisms, through a greater integration of digital infrastructure, normative harmonization, free flow of data, and facilitation of commerce and best logistics services, among others.</p> <p>Ensure that e-government services are accessible to all</p>

Caribbean

		<p>collaboration and multistakeholder participation. Involving relevant stakeholders in policy discussions, consultations, and decision-making processes can help ensure that policies and regulations are inclusive, transparent, and aligned with the needs of different sectors and communities.</p>

		<p>Due to the large amount of energy the Internet increasingly consumes in data centres, cloud deployments etc., consideration needs to be given to the environmental impact. Key areas of consideration are the conservation of natural resources, reduction in toxic materials and the emission of waste and pollutants and other environmental protection areas.</p> <p>There is need for public awareness of the potential environmental risks posed by current, emerging and future technology - especially for SIDS. This includes the issue of Radio Frequency (RF) radiation exposure standards and limits Safety/Awareness/ Publications/Regulations.</p>

Collated by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) Secretariat.



28th April 2023.

<https://input.un.org/EFM/se/3995D1A472EC463708DB480DD61A87357E>