



# CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

4 Mary Street, St. Clair, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868) 628-0281, 628-6359, 622-5871 Fax: (868) 622-6523 E-Mail: [info@ctu.int](mailto:info@ctu.int) URL: [www.ctu.int](http://www.ctu.int)  
6<sup>th</sup> August 2020



Dear Internet Governance Stakeholder,



On behalf of the Internet stakeholders of the region, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) in association with the Caribbean Internet Development Foundation (CIDF) cordially invites you to the 16<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF), which will take place **online** from the **26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020** via Zoom videoconferencing, with the theme: ***Accelerating Digital Transformation: Internet Governance Matters!***

The CIGF is the first regional Internet Governance Forum in the world to be established as a result of the work of the World Summit on the Information Society. Since its establishment in 2005, the forum has met annually, growing and evolving while consistently delivering significant and pioneering benefits to the region.

Following the 2017 CIGF, the Caribbean Internet Development Foundation (CIDF) was established to foster innovation, educate and implement activities for facilitating Caribbean digital transformation and development. Given the important role of the Internet in the digital transformation process, the CIDF will be working with the CTU to convene the 16<sup>th</sup> CIGF.

The CIGF is designed to be informal, inclusive and non-hierarchical, bringing together an eclectic group of theorists, practitioners and interested parties from the public and private sectors, civil society and academia. This year, the CIGF evolves yet again, this time in response to the public health and social distancing imperatives of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has required greater adoption of remote working methods universally. This 16<sup>th</sup> edition therefore will be convened fully via online videoconferencing. The role of information and communication technology (ICT) has therefore never been more important, and the need for effective, locally relevant Internet governance never more urgent.

The theme and agenda for this year's forum reflect this new reality. Sessions will address various work streams of Internet governance necessary to seize this opportunity for accelerated digital adoption and position the Caribbean for sustainable, ICT-driven post-COVID recovery. The overview and outline agenda for the 16<sup>th</sup> CIGF are attached and registration may be done via <http://ctu.int/16thCIGF>. Progressive updates of the detailed provisional agenda will be posted on this CTU web page in the lead-up to the event. Should you require additional information, kindly contact Ms. Brenda Julien at (+1 868) 628 0281 ext 221 or at [Brenda.Julien@ctu.int](mailto:Brenda.Julien@ctu.int).

We look forward to welcoming you or a representative to this important forum.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Lewis  
**SECRETARY GENERAL**

**Theme: Accelerating Digital Transformation: Internet Governance Matters!**

**26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020 • VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING**

**CONTEXT**

The Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) is a regional, multi-stakeholder forum initiated by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in 2005 to coordinate a regional approach to Internet governance (IG).

The Forum which has since met annually, initially focused on the proceedings of the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). As the longest running Internet Governance Forum in the world, the CIGF has since grown and evolved, consistently delivering significant and pioneering benefits to the region, including formulation of a Caribbean Internet Governance Policy Framework; the proliferation of local Internet exchange points (IXPs); capacity building in IG Principles and best practices; the creation of national IGFs, and the growth in Caribbean influence at international IG fora.

This year, the CIGF evolves yet again, this time in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **The 16<sup>th</sup> CIGF will be convened via online videoconferencing, under the theme: Accelerating Digital Transformation – Internet Governance Matters!** Countries, organizations and end-users have all had to rely more heavily on digital services as COVID-19 related public health and social distancing requirements catalysed adoption of remote working methods. No sector has escaped impact. The role of ICTs has therefore never been more important, and the need for effective, locally relevant Internet governance never more urgent.

The agenda for this year's Forum will reflect this new reality. Sessions will address various work streams of Internet governance necessary to seize this opportunity for accelerated digital adoption and position the Caribbean for sustainable, ICT-driven post-COVID recovery.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Consider Internet governance policies and initiatives for priority attention to facilitate regional COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives.
- Review vision, priorities and approaches for sustainably building and/or strengthening consensus and action on IG issues in the Caribbean.
- Strengthen national capacity in IG to enable, support, strengthen and sustain effective Caribbean participation at regional and global Internet Governance fora.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

- Civil society and Internet users
- Academia
- Government policy makers and regulators
- Telecommunications and Internet service providers, IT managers and network operators

- Internet technical organisations
- International organisations and development agencies
- Operations/Managers of Internet Exchange Points

### PROGRAMME OUTLINE AT A GLANCE

TIME	26 <sup>th</sup> AUG	27 <sup>th</sup> AUG	28 <sup>th</sup> AUG
	Welcome & Introduction to IG <b>DAY 1 - ASSESS</b>	Welcome & Day 1 Recap <b>DAY 2 - ACCELERATE</b>	Welcome & Day 2 Recap <b>DAY 3 - EVOLVE</b>
AM	<b>CIGF 16 - Internet Governance in the New Normal</b>  <b>Panel:</b>  The Impact of COVID-19 on Regional and Global Internet Governance	<b>CIGF 16 – Applying Internet Governance in the New Normal</b>  <b>Panel:</b> Accelerating e-Government – <b>Rapidly Transitioning Government Services Online – Trials, Successes and Lessons</b>	<b>CIGF 16 – Adapting Internet Governance in the New Normal</b>  <b>Panel:</b>  Clouds in the Caribbean Sky – <b>Data Sovereignty, Security and Privacy for Local Online Services</b>
	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
AM	<b>Deep Dive</b>  Update from National IGFs, LACIGF and UNIGF	<b>Panel:</b>  Accelerating Electronic Commerce – <b>e-Payments, e-Money and online transactions</b>	<b>Panel:</b>  Sun, Sea and Masks – <b>IG &amp; Caribbean Tourism in the New Normal</b>
	<b>Lunch</b>		
PM	<b>Caribbean Internet Governance Roundtable:</b>  Policy Priorities for Current Attention  Implications for the Caribbean IG Policy Framework	<b>Panel:</b>  Accelerating Caribbean Internet Infrastructure – <b>IXPs, ASN and Network Security and Resilience</b>	<b>Panel:</b>  Education, Entertainment and Innovation – <b>IG &amp; Local Digital Content and Internet Entrepreneurism</b>
PM	<b>Interactive Session:</b>  <b>Connecting the Dots:</b> Implications for the Caribbean IG Policy Framework	<b>Interactive Session:</b>  <b>Connecting the Dots :</b> Implications for the Caribbean IG Policy Framework	<b>Interactive Session:</b>  <b>Connecting the Dots:</b> Implications for the Caribbean IG Policy Framework
	<b>Homework/Networking</b>	<b>Networking</b>	



Stream: [WWW.CTU.INT/16CIGF](http://WWW.CTU.INT/16CIGF)

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