



High Level Conference: SIDS 2.0: Defining the pathway for Small Islands DIGITAL States in the Caribbean

29th April to 1st May 2024 – Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Agenda

29 April 2024	
19:00 – 21:00	Reception hosted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago at Hyatt Hotel.
30 April 2024	
08:30 – 08:45	Arrival and registration of participants
08:45 – 09:00	Group photo with Country Heads of Delegations and Senior Officials
09:00 – 09:30	Opening address by Senator the Hon. Hassel Bacchus , Minister of Digital Transformation, Trinidad and Tobago
09:30 – 10:00	Address on SIDS 2.0. Framing the Opportunity for Small Islands DIGITAL States by Ms. Michelle Muschett , UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
10:00 – 10:30	Keynote by H.E. Mr. Yoshiaki Takeuchi , Vice-Minister in the Ministry of Interior and Communications, Japan
10:30 – 11:00	Press Conference & Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:45	Digital Pathway #1: Digital Infrastructure. What are essential dimensions for an Inclusive Digital Infrastructure in the Caribbean? Infrastructure in the digital transformation context refers to the foundational physical and digital facilities and systems serving a country or region. For SIDS in the Caribbean, this includes physical components like fibre-optic



	<p>cables, data centres, and cellular towers as well as broader access enablers such as electricity, internet connectivity, and digital devices.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Antonio Silveira, Private Sector Vice President (Acting) and Digital Transformation Manager, CAF - Mr. Devindra Ramnarine, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Trinidad & Tobago - Minister from SIDS country 		
11:45 – 12:30	Facilitated Group Discussion, with key outcomes for Infrastructure by 2030		
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break		
13:30 – 14:15	<p>Digital Pathway #2: Government.</p> <p>What is the space and the role of Government as enablers of digital transformation and as users of digital technology in service delivery? During this session, presenters will discuss dimensions of the role of Governments in governance and rule-setting, and digitization of public services and public sector capacities to improve efficiency, transparency, and citizen participation in the democratic process.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Rodney Taylor, Secretary General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) - Mr. Carlos Vargas, EU-LAC Digital Agenda lead expert, Estonian Government Academy, European Union - Ms. Joanna Kazana, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Trinidad and Tobago - Minister from SIDS country 		
14:15 – 15:00	Facilitated Group Discussion, with key outcomes for Government by 2030, facilitated by ITU.		
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Closing of Day 1 by</p> <p>Ms. Stacy Richards Kennedy, Regional Manager for the Caribbean, CAF</p>		
15:30 – 16:00	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Digital Market</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Official visit to the Digital exhibition (Hyatt hotel)</td> </tr> </table>	Digital Market	Official visit to the Digital exhibition (Hyatt hotel)
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Side event with Co-Develop on priority investments			
17:00 – 18:30	Co-Develop Fund session with representatives from SIDS (by invitation only)		
18:30 – 20:00	Dinner (by invitation only)		



1 May 2024	
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day 1
09:15 – 10:00	<p>Digital Pathway #3: Digital regulatory frameworks and cybersecurity.</p> <p>Regulation involves creating a supportive legal and policy framework that promotes digital innovation while protecting citizens and businesses. The Caribbean SIDS context includes data protection and privacy laws, cybersecurity regulations, and frameworks for emerging technologies like blockchain and AI. Regulation also encompasses policies that encourage fair competition in the digital marketplace, protect consumer rights in the digital age, and ensure that digital transformation efforts are inclusive and equitable.</p> <p><i>Presentation: The Foundations of a Just Digital Caribbean</i> Presenters/ Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Ruha Benjamin, Associate Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University - Ms. Ruqayyah Scott, Public Management Consultant, IDB <p><i>Panel: Data Protection and Privacy</i> Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vaneesha Acharju, Policy Fellow, e-Government Suriname - Mr. Masayuki Furukawa, Director of the Office for Science Technology and Innovation and Digital transformation in the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
10:00 – 10:45	<p><i>Panel: Cybersecurity</i> Moderator/ Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Leon Wessels, Deputy Chief National Digital Officer, MDT - Mr. Allan Cabanlong, Regional Director for Southeast Asia, Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) - Dr. Ronald Walcott, Managing Director at Precision Cybertechnologies - Mr. Dale Joseph, Chief Analyst Cyber, CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:45	<p>Digital Pathway #4: Economy and business.</p> <p>This Digital Pathway focuses on developing a digital economy that supports innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable economic growth. For</p>



	<p>Caribbean SIDS, this includes initiatives to support digital entrepreneurship, the creation of digital jobs, and the promotion of e-commerce and digital trade. It also covers integrating digital technologies in traditional sectors such as tourism and agriculture, enhancing their competitiveness and resilience.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Rodolfo Sabonge, Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) - Ms. Helen Gradstein, Regional Digital Finance Specialist, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) - Mr. Navin Dookeran, Chief Executive Officer, Export-Import Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd (Eximbank)
11:45 – 12:30	Facilitated Group Discussion, with key outcomes for Economy and Businesses by 2030
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:15	<p>Digital Pathway #5: People.</p> <p>How will digital transformation provides opportunities but also challenges for citizens living in the Caribbean?</p> <p>The People dimension focuses on empowering the population with the skills and tools needed to thrive in a digital world. This involves widespread digital literacy and skills development programs to ensure that all segments of society can benefit from digital opportunities. For the Caribbean, key priorities are addressing the digital divide, promoting inclusive access to digital technologies, and ensuring that digital transformation efforts are people centred. This pillar emphasizes the importance of preparing the workforce for the digital economy, encouraging citizen engagement in digital life, and using digital tools to preserve and promote cultural heritage.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special Guest - Ms. Keyzom Ngodup, Chief Digital Office, UNDP - Mr. Armstrong Alexis, Deputy Secretary General, CARICOM - Mr. Matthew McNaughton, Director, Inclusion, Safety & Civil Society Engagement, Co-Develop Fund
14:15 – 15:00	Facilitated Group Discussion, with key outcomes for People by 2030



15:00 – 15:30	Closing of Day 2 by Mr. Anton Edmunds, Country Department Caribbean Group and Country Representative in Jamaica, IDB
15:30 – 16:00	Wrap up and Joint Outcome Summary Statement by Mr Ugo Blanco, Resident Representative, UNDP Multi-Country Office, Trinidad & Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten
16:00	Closing Remarks by Ministry of Digital Transformation, Trinidad & Tobago