

TALKING POINTS PANEL 5

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

PEOPLE

Two broad perspectives:

1. The 2030 development agenda
 - SDG pillars of sustainability
 - People,
 - Planet,
 - Prosperity,
 - Peace and
 - Partnerships
 - SDG leave no one behind
2. CARICOM prioritization and action

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE?

(not users but stewards - Prof. Ruha Benjamin)

** No one left behind**

1. who are most likely left behind?
 - young people
 - the elderly (accessing their pensions, savings etc) the Beekeeper movie
 - rural populations
 - disabled people

THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

In order for people to be at the centre of digitalization effort, we have to reach them where they are.

The flip side of leaving no one behind is inclusion and enfranchisement of all.

~ education and indiscriminate access

~ demystifying and dismantling the walls of impression that conversations around digitalization are for techies. What about my granny?

~ legislative environment (addressed in various sessions this morning)

~ constructive inclusion of all sectors and demographics.

THE SINGLE ICT SPACE

The single ICT space: "An ICT enabled borderless space that fosters economic, social and cultural integration for the betterment of Caribbean Citizens"

https://caricom.org/wp-content/uploads/vision_and_roadmap_for_a_single_ict_space_-_final_version_updated.pdf

- ~ Decided by CARICOM Heads of Government in 2014 (ten years ago)
- ~ Heads have also adopted a Single ICT Space Roadmap (2017).
- ~ The foundation is therefore already laid for effective and actionable results to be achieved.
- ~ in essence the Single ICT space is a policy platform to enable sectors and citizens to exploit all facets digitalization.
- ~ capitalising on economies of scale vs the relative small size of the SIDS of the Caribbean.
- *** Concern that telecoms operators have indicated that there is no business case for 5G the Caribbean.

- ~ need to establish effective and targeted PPPs.
- ~ service standardization. If we are to treat the Caribbean as a single ICT space, our systems should be interoperable and standard within the Community.

WHAT ARE THE AREAS THAT UNDERPIN CARICOM'S EFFORTS?

1. Opportunity to BE digital (endemic, whole -of-society use and benefit) rather than just DO digital (application to specific use cases);
2. Build a digital community culture...for workforce development... and secure benefits for all citizens - a key objective of the CARICOM Regional Digital development Strategy (RDDS)
3. Human Capital Development: Bringing technology to the people and transforming them into Digital Citizens and Digital Entrepreneurs.
4. Driving global competitiveness and human well-being
5. Active Resource mobilization

CONCLUSION

REINVENT THE WHEEL

Our Journey: 0.....10

Effort 1: 02

Effort 2: 0.....1.5

Effort 3: 0.....2.5

Effort 4: 0...1

Effort 5: 0.....2

We are not making progress

TALKING POINTS PANEL 5

BUILD ON PREVIOUS EFFORTS

Our Journey : 0.....10

Effort 1: 0.....2

Effort 2: 2.....3.5

Effort 3: 3.5.....6

Effort 4: 6.....7

Effort 5: 7.....9

See where building on previous efforts has taken us?

Last Last

Use the 2014 CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government mandate to make the Caribbean a Single ICT Space the Basis of our efforts.

Consider the Single ICT Space Roadmap approved by the Conference of Heads of Government in 2017 as part of the foundation to build on.