



# THE DYNAMIC COALITION ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

In The Internet Economy

## 2025 DC-SIDS Annual Report

### Building Digital Governance Together

The year 2025 marked a pivotal moment for the Dynamic Coalition on Small Island Developing States (DC-SIDS), characterized by strong multistakeholder engagement at the 20th annual UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the launch of a dedicated digital hub to sustain momentum year-round.

#### 1. DC-SIDS Annual Meeting at the 2025 UN IGF

The UN IGF 2025 was hosted by the Government of Norway in Lillestrøm from June 23–27 under the overarching theme, *"Building digital governance together."* As part of the forum, the [DC-SIDS Annual Meeting](#) was held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, in a hybrid format, allowing both on-site delegates in Norway and remote stakeholders from across the globe to participate.

The session brought together a diverse group of key experts, policymakers, and regional representatives to discuss the unique digital policy challenges and opportunities facing SIDS. Prominent participants and contributors to the session included:

- **Tracy F. Hackshaw & Maureen Hilyard (DC-SIDS Co-Cordinators)**, who played a central moderating and coordinating role throughout the meeting.
- **Carol Roach**, Chair of the UN IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group
- **Albert Daniels** (representing ICANN).
- **Rodney Taylor**, Secretary General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)

- **Nigel Cassimire**, Deputy Secretary General of the CTU
- **Regional Experts & Stakeholders:** Michele Marius, Craig Nesty, Andrew Molivurae, Nia Nanan, Shanea Lewis, Tiffini Legall, Dhanaraj Thakur, Sarai Tevita, Franklin Maanster, Mahendranath Busgopaul and Kailash Busgopaul (representatives from the Halley Movement - convenors of the Mauritius IGF and the proposed Indian Ocean States IGF)

The hybrid nature of the meeting underscored the coalition's core mission: ensuring that the voices of highly vulnerable but geographically dispersed island nations are integrated into global digital governance conversations.

## Executive Summary

The 2025 DC-SIDS Annual Meeting successfully convened representatives from all major SIDS regions—the Caribbean, Pacific, and Indian Ocean—for the first time in a hybrid format in Norway. The meeting served to provide regional updates, announce major capacity-building partnerships, and launch a highly anticipated digital collaboration platform to sustain inter-regional efforts year-round.

## Regional Highlights & Updates

### Pacific Region

- **Pacific IGF (PacIGF):** The 6th PacIGF is scheduled to be hosted in Samoa with direct support from the Samoan government. The Prime Minister of Samoa confirmed her attendance to deliver the keynote address.
- **Thematic Focus:** The upcoming PacIGF will focus on digital inclusion and online safety.
- **Youth Inclusion:** The region is launching its first Pacific Youth IGF, supporting final-year university engineering and ICT students to participate.

### Indian Ocean Region

1. **Mauritius IGF:** Held its 9th annual forum in April, focusing on AI, cybersecurity, and digital trust.
2. **Internet Governance Challenges:** The region highlighted a severe internet governance issue when the Mauritius government enacted a temporary ban on social media during the November 2024 legislative elections. Civil society, including the Mauritius IGF and ISOC, successfully campaigned to have the ban lifted after 24 hours.
3. **Expansion:** Plans are underway to expand regional collaboration by hosting an Indian Ocean IGF, pulling in participation from Madagascar, Reunion, Seychelles, and Comoros.

## Caribbean Region

- **Caribbean IGF (CIGF):** The 2025 CIGF will be hosted in Cuba for the first time. The organizers are determined to proceed despite significant challenges involving US sanctions, travel blockades, and local internet connectivity issues.
- **ITU Leadership:** The Bahamas announced its candidate, Stephen Bereaux, for the Deputy Secretary General position at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), marking a significant push for SIDS representation in global digital governance. The Bahamas will also host the World Telecommunications Policy Forum in June 2026.

## Major Partnerships and Announcements

- **UNESCO Capacity Building:** IGF MAG Chair Carol Roach relayed that UNESCO is interested in expanding its work with SIDS. Specific initiatives include capacity building programs for civil servants and implementing guidelines for the governance of digital platforms.
- **ICANN Integration:** Albert Daniels reported on a dedicated "SIDS space" established at ICANN 82 in Seattle. The initiative focused on improving SIDS' internet infrastructure (e.g., DNSSEC and root servers) and fostering structured participation in ICANN's multistakeholder model. This dedicated SIDS session is expected to continue at future ICANN meetings, including ICANN 85 in Mumbai.

## Key Decisions & Action Items

**1. Launch of the DC-SIDS Collaborative Platform** The most significant outcome of the meeting was the launch of the long-requested DC-SIDS collaborative platform.

- **Development:** Built voluntarily by Michelle Marius and Janelle Lake using the Google Suite to ensure zero operating costs.
- **Features:** Hosted at [dc-sids.info](https://dc-sids.info), the site centralizes news, a discussion forum, an events calendar, and issue tracking for all SIDS regions .
- **Next Steps:** A call to action was issued for members to volunteer to maintain specific sections of the site (e.g., updating calendars or uploading reports) to keep the portal active year-round.

**2. Planning the Next SIDS IGF** The coalition agreed to target 2026 for the next SIDS IGF.

Discussions were initiated to potentially collocate this global virtual event with the upcoming Indian Ocean IGF in Mauritius to pool resources and time zones effectively.

## Conclusion

The meeting concluded as a resounding success, successfully checking off two major action items from previous years: the continuation of dedicated SIDS IGFs and the realization of an online collaborative platform. The coalition demonstrated growing maturity in coordinating policy issues across isolated geographies and integrating directly with global bodies like ICANN and UNESCO,

## 2. Launch of the DC-SIDS Collaborative Platform ([dc-sids.info](https://dc-sids.info))

A major operational milestone for 2025 was the establishment and operationalization of the **DC-SIDS Collaborative Platform** (<https://dc-sids.info>).

Rather than relying solely on annual meetups, the coalition recognized the need for an active, year-round repository of knowledge. The platform was designed to act as a centralized hub for the SIDS internet governance community. Following the platform's launch, the coalition leadership (led by Tracy Hackshaw) issued a formal "Call to Action" to all members, urging them to submit regional updates, digital policy news, and research to populate the site.

The goal of the platform is twofold:

4. **Knowledge Sharing:** To create a living archive of best practices, digital inclusion strategies, and internet economy developments specific to SIDS.
5. **Continuous Multistakeholder Alignment:** To keep civil society, governments, and technical communities (like ICANN) aligned on policy objectives ahead of global summits.

## 3. Strategic Outlook and Future Work

The work of DC-SIDS in 2025 aligns closely with the broader UN digital cooperation roadmap. As SIDS face compounded vulnerabilities—ranging from climate change to unique infrastructure and connectivity hurdles—the coalition's 2025 efforts reinforced that digital transformation is not a luxury, but a lifeline for these nations.

By establishing [dc-sids.info](https://dc-sids.info) and fostering high-level dialogue at the IGF in Norway, DC-SIDS has successfully laid the groundwork for stronger inter-island cooperation. Moving forward, the coalition is positioned to leverage this new infrastructure to better advocate for affordable financing, universal access, and digital resilience for Small Island Developing States in the global digital economy.