



Sixth Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Report

A poster for the Sixth Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Report. The background is a photograph of a damaged telecommunications tower with debris. The text is overlaid on the image.

OCT 17
THU 9AM - 4PM

SUNSET SHORES
HOTEL

THE INTERNET SOCIETY ST. VINCENT AND
THE GRENADINES CHAPTER INVITES YOU TO
ITS 6TH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM
(IGF)

**NETWORK RESILIENCE
IN THE AFTERMATH
OF HURRICANE BERYL**

Internet Society
Saint Vincent
and the Grenadines

IGF Internet
Governance
Forum
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines

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Acknowledgement

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Internet Governance Forum team wishes to express gratitude to the following organisations and individuals that contributed to the success of our sixth IGF.

Financial Support/Sponsor

- Fortinet-Trinidad and Tobago - venue & meals
- ITFX Digital Solutions – Live Streaming

Secretariat

- ISOC SVG Chapter

Organisation Partner and Technical Support

- National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC)

Multi-stakeholder Coordinating Team

• Roxanne John, President, ISOC SVG Chapter	• Andre Browne, Vice President, ISOC SVG Chapter
• Rodley Haynes, Treasurer, ISOC SVG Chapter	• Decima Corea, Secretary, ISOC SVG Chapter
• Jonquil Cadougan, Head, Events Committee, ISOC SVG Chapter	• Charles Burke, ISOC SVG Chapter Board Member
• Mark Moses Projects Committee Member, ISOC SVG Chapter	• Ronette Lewis, ISOC SVG Chapter Board Member
• Samantha Robinson, Board Member	• Shirla L. Francis, Events Committee Member
• Simone Joseph-Ollivierre, Events Committee Member	• Marcellus Constance, Deputy SVG IGF Coordinator
• Krislin Gouldbourne-Harry – Website Management support	• Willis Williams, SVG IGF Coordinator
• Lennox Browne - Moderator	•

Introduction

The Internet Society St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chapter held its 6th annual Internet Governance Forum on October 17, 2024 under the theme, “Network Resilience in the Aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.” The purpose of the IGF is to bring together multi-stakeholder groups and individuals to discuss and share good practices on internet governance issues. The Forum also promotes a common understanding of how to maximize Internet opportunities and address different types of challenges that arise, in a bottom-up, multi-stakeholder, open, and transparent manner.

The one-day Forum was held at the Sunset shores hotel. It was done in collaboration with Fortinet from Trinidad and Tobago. The Forum brought together stakeholders to discuss strategies for building resilient communication networks in the wake of Hurricane Beryl. The forum was organized in response to the devastating impact of the hurricane, which made landfall in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on July 1, 2024, as a Category 4 system before intensifying to Category 5. The hurricane caused widespread destruction, loss of life, and severe disruption to critical utilities and communication infrastructure, underscoring the need for improved network resilience.

Agenda: see Annex 1

Key Highlights

Thirty persons (30) attended the Forum various IT departments of the private sector and the Government, representatives from the telecommunication service providers, national Emergency organization, other stakeholders and members of the Chapter of the Internet Society St.Vincent and the Grenadines Chapter. The next section provided highlights of the presentations at the Forum.

Presentations

1. **The Forum commenced with a presentation by Mr. Jerwayne Laidlow, Communications Manager at National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO).** Mr. Laidlow detailed the methods employed to communicate with key stakeholders during the disaster, despite significant challenges posed by infrastructure damage. He highlighted the difficulties experienced in maintaining effective communication channels during and after the hurricane, emphasizing the critical role of preparedness and coordination in disaster management.
2. **Mr. Anthony Balcombe, representing one of the major telecommunications service providers in the region (FLOW),** delivered a presentation on the impact of Hurricane Beryl on their critical infrastructure. He outlined the extent of the damage sustained by their systems, the challenges

faced in restoring services, and the lessons learned from the experience. Mr. Balcombe emphasized the importance of strengthening infrastructure to minimize downtime and ensure rapid recovery in future disasters.

3. **The feature presentation was delivered by Mr. Aveen Persaud, Regional Account Manager for the Southern Caribbean at Fortinet.** Mr. Persaud focused on best practices for implementing resilient networks, offering insights into Fortinet's cutting-edge network and security tools. He provided practical solutions to improve network stability and safeguard against disruptions, underscoring the significance of proactive measures in achieving network resilience.

Following the presentations, the attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and gave meaningful contributions to the topics of discussion.

Images from event: See Annex 2

Conclusion

The Internet Governance Forum highlighted the importance of collaboration between emergency management agencies, telecommunications providers, and technology experts in addressing the challenges posed by natural disasters like Hurricane Beryl. The presentations underscored the need for robust communication systems, rapid recovery strategies, and advanced network resilience tools to mitigate the impact of future disasters. The forum served as a platform for knowledge-sharing and fostering partnerships to build stronger, more resilient infrastructure for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Annex 1

St. Vincent and the Grenadines 6th Internet Governance Forum

Agenda

Theme: ***“Network Resilience in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl”***.

Venue: Sunset Shores Hotel

Date: Thursday October 17, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

TIME	SESSION	FACILITATOR
8:30 a.m.	Registration	Decima Corea ISOC SVG Member
9:00 a.m.	Opening of Forum	Moderator Lennox Browne ISOC SVG Member
9:02 a.m.	Prayer	Donnette O’Neil ISOC SVG Member
9:05 a.m.	National Anthem	Play recording
9:10	Welcome to IGF Remarks	Marcellus Constance Deputy Coordinator, Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
9:20	Remarks	Roxanne John President, ISOC SVG
9:25	Local Experience	Jerwayne Laidlow Communications Officer, National Emergency Management organization (NEMO)
10:00	Local Experience	Anthony Balcombe Field Service Operations - Mobile Manager, FLOW
10:30	Tea BREAK	
10:45	Presentation 1	Fortinet
11:30	Open Forum	Moderator Lennox Browne
12:15	LUNCH BREAK	
1:30	Presentation 2	Fortinet
2:30	Open Forum	Moderator Lennox Browne
3:00	Vote of thanks and closing	Jonquil Cadougan ISOC SVG Event Coordinator

Annex 2

Images of presenters and participants at the event.





Photo 1: Mr. Laidlow



Photo 2: Mr. Balcombe

Presenters receiving a token of appreciation



Photo 3: Mr. Persaud