IGF Dynamic Coalitions & the Sustainable Development Goals
♦ DC on Small Island Developing States and the Internet Economy

Pacific Island Countries & Territories
The Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) participated in the Asia Pacific regional Internet Governance Forum in Vanuatu in August 2018. This was the first time the APrIGF had ventured into the Pacific region and the experience revealed some important issues for both Asian and Pacific participants.

Of greatest concern was a recognition by the youth of the Pacific when compared with those from Asia, of the wide gap of knowledge and understanding about Internet Governance (IG). What was acknowledged was the seemingly wide disparity created by the lack of access by Pacific youth in general to the Internet, mainly due to affordability issues. But, bridging the digital divide also encompasses persons with disabilities in terms of accessibility to online services and the need to ensure that digital literacy training includes persons with disabilities.

In order to deal with raising more awareness of IG, the Pacific highlighted the need for a Pacific School of Internet Governance (PacSIG) to address key issues and to establish national champions who will enhance greater understanding of IG at the community level. There is the potential for this through the Internet Society in collaboration with its Pacific Islands Chapter. The Diplo Foundation also continues to build capacity for IG through scholarships for SIDS participants to undertake Diplo courses a well as sponsoring opportunities for participants to attend Global Internet Governance events.

In order to deal with affordability issues, there is a need for leaders from key regional Internet (I*) organisations to encourage governments in the Pacific, perhaps through the Pacific Islands Forum, to focus their ICT strategies on some of the key recommendations made by the Broadband Commission in its latest review (September 2018) which includes national leadership and development of legislation relating to the effects of digitalisation; incentivising greater access for users by local telcos; and supporting increased digital skills and digital literacy among users to stimulate broadband demand.

An encouraging outcome of the APrIGF was an initiative by the Vanuatu government to hold their own National IGF in 2019. Pacific Island Countries and Territories need to work together to ensure that new ideas, perspectives and best practices have an impact on their communities. The Pacific people continue to seek support from the regional and International multi-stakeholder representatives in their respective communities to support the issues highlighted at the APRIGF and previous Pacific IGF meetings.

Caribbean
At the 14th Caribbean Internet Governance Forum, held from 21-23 May 2018 in Paramaribo, Suriname, a number of key conclusions, recommendations and action points resulted.

With respect to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), it was decided that countries and stakeholders should evaluate the implications of the GDPR on their local environment and particularly on their relations with EU persons. Before expediting data protection and privacy policies, countries should have a clear vision of their desired results and critically derived guiding principles. Policy implementation should use legislation at a strategic level and regulations at a tactical level. User education must be foundational to policy, and the CTU should play a leading role in advancing awareness and effective management of data protection   issues   regionally.

There should be more collaboration between regional IG organizations, and at a national level, governments and stakeholders should join forces and make use of available resources. A multistakeholder approach would make more use of the many collaboration possibilities regarding policy development and implementation as well as education and knowledge sharing, especially with regards to data-sharing processes and cyber-security regulations.

With regards to the vulnerabilities of SIDS and the SDGs, Hurricane Communications is an essential element of disaster response and management. The Commission on Caribbean Communications Resilience has worked hard over the last 8 months to study the nature of communications failures and to make recommendations for strengthening the policy and regulatory environment in order to improve the resilience of the regional communications capability in the event of a disaster.

Youth should be encouraged to become more involved in Internet governance matters, and special efforts should also be made to connect persons with disabilities with the benefits of the digital age. Only in this way can we break down the digital divide, where stakeholders can identify and learn from the many global good practices created by community-based networks that will help to achieve a more connected world.

Social media policies should aspire to minimize any negative impact on human behavior, encouraging awareness and education on the positive and negative aspects of the online community, while at the same time balancing freedom of expression and personal responsibility.

It was deemed appropriate in light of managing future regional Internet Development (including the CIGF) that more Caribbean countries should establish a national Internet Governance Forum, to increase the public's involvement in policy making and capacity building. Caribbean countries should also enter into more structured partnerships with the Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU), as well as with other regional and global IGFs.