

DC-SIDS ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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BACKGROUND

Although the ISOC Chapters of the Pacific and the Caribbean had been participating in the Global IGF since 2012 in Azerbaijan with organized participation via approved workshops comprising Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Roundtables, the DC-SIDS was formally established in 2018. DC-SIDS is important because it is comprised of more than 50 small island developing states and was established to create new networks and contacts for its small island developing states members where they are able to share experiences, interests, and concerns about internet development within their nations and regions. Remote participation at IGF meetings caused by the pandemic has encouraged more participation and engagement from SIDS than earlier face-to-face meetings. These meetings have provided member organisations with an opportunity to report to the DC about their regional activities. More joint activities are being proposed following the 2021 IGF meeting.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING 2021

- **ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE IGF** (eg participation in the Annual IGF meeting, relations with other IGF workstreams)
 - DC-SIDS participated in the IGF 2021. The theme of this year's programme was "The Pandemic Internet: Ensuring SIDS do not get left behind"
 - Discussion focused on the reports which were presented by the following speakers:
 - **Cherie Lagakali (Fiji)** - Chair of PICISOC on its annual activities including Women in ICT, online discussion forums (Talanoa), coordinating and supporting the Pacific IGF with nine virtual hubs, proposals for 2022 include a regional hackathon, setting up a cybersecurity hub, and supporting PNG's development of the Digital Transformation Bill
 - **Andrea Giacomelli (Geneva)**– Trade Policy Advisor for the Pacific Islands Forum, (Pacific Government Leaders) who gave an update on the progress of the PIF's eCommerce Initiative
 - **Dalsie Baniala (Vanuatu)** former MAG member gave an update on MAG issues
 - **Alisi Tuqa (PIFS, Fiji)** explained some of the key ICT developments being decided on the government leaders based on the Forum's 2050 Strategic Plan for the Blue Pacific Continent.
 - **Rodney Taylor, Secretary General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)** praised the DC-SIDS approach and platform and pointed to the CTU's efforts in working with ICANN to institutionalize a SIDS-based approach in multistakeholder Internet Governance policymaking.
 - Following an introduction from Rodney Taylor, **Nigel Cassimire, Convenor of the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF)** provided a summary of the 2021 CIGF's proceedings and highlighted several of the issues discussed (see later in this report for more details). B.
- **ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE GLOBAL IGF** (eg events attended/organized, input submitted into various processes, cooperation with various entities/groups/processes)
 - The major event that was held in the Pacific was the **Pacific IGF** which was coordinated by PICISOC in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific (USP), APTLD and

InternetNZ. There were 124 speakers), 637 registrants from 36 different countries, and 9 in-country hubs (7 of which had up to 1000 participants linked to their hub over the 4-day event. (8-11 September 2021)

- Members of PICISOC also participated in the Asia Pacific IGF (APRIGF) which was a hybrid event with some participants meeting face to face in Kathmandu, Nepal while the rest of the participants connected remotely. The theme was “Towards an inclusive, sustainable and trusted internet”. (27-30 September 2021)
- While the pandemic continued to delay/disrupt many IG activities in the Caribbean, 2021 still saw events such as the [Trinidad and Tobago IGE](#), the [Caribbean IGF](#) and the [Haiti IGF](#) being held virtually at which several members of the DC-SIDS participated.
- The 2021 Caribbean IGF was focused on the following key objectives:
 - Consider Internet governance policies and initiatives for priority attention to facilitate COVID-19 response and recovery
 - Review regional vision, priorities, and approaches for sustainably building and/or strengthening consensus and action on IG issues in the Caribbean
 - Build national capacity and systems in IG to enable, support, strengthen and sustain effective Caribbean participation and representation at regional and global Internet Governance fora

PRIORITIES/OBJECTIVES FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR

1. Organise an intersessional meeting during 2022 with the Pacific, Caribbean (and hopefully the African/Indian/Mediterranean) Island communities, for members to discuss the potential for a Joint Pacific/Caribbean/AIMS DC-SIDS IGF.
2. In the interim, coordinate a joint session for a collaborative session at the next Caribbean IGF (2022) and the Pacific IGF (2023) to discuss a topic of common interest
3. Continue to include our SIDS MAG members into our DC-SIDS IGF programme for updates
4. To work towards a coordinated capacity building programme for DC-SIDS end-users