



# Caribbean experiences in inclusive digital transformation

**Panel: “Key approaches to safeguarding digital identity”**

ParlAmericas Digital Caucus

***Legislative Strategies to Strengthen Digital Identity Governance***

30 August 2024



# Objectives

- Provide some brief context on the Caribbean region
  - A specific focus on the English-speaking Caribbean
- Briefly highlight initiatives that are being implemented that should facilitate inclusive digital transformation

# Caribbean countries are modern, but are subject to several challenges

- Most Caribbean countries are categorised as Middle-Income and Upper-Middle Income
- Enjoy relatively high standards of living
- But they are also SIDS
  - Weather, climate and environmental vulnerabilities
  - High cost of living
  - High cost of doing business
  - Infrastructure challenges
  - Economic and financial constraints
  - Highly dependent on international trade, but vulnerable to trade barriers and logistical challenges

# Inclusive digital transformation is not just about network access

- From telecoms liberalisation, primary focus has been on increasing geographic & socio-economic access to networks and services
  - The extent of digital inclusion and the narrowing of the digital divide
- But limited evidence that the following were factored in:
  - Digital equity
  - Digital literacy and digital skills
  - The needs of PWD and other minority groups/communities
  - The content divide
  - Meaningful connectivity
  - Other usage divide factors

# **Inclusive Digital Transformation Examples in the Caribbean Region**

# Barbados: Skills Development

- All primary and secondary schools have internet connectivity
- National education policies have identified strengthening the integration of technology as an important component of its transformation agenda
- National Transformation Initiative (NTI) provides dedicated training and upskilling as required to the Barbadian labour force.
- Over 4,000 free Coursera courses and 1,000 Guided Projects via NTI
  - Numerous ICT-related and digital skills development courses offered



# OECS: Caribbean Digital Transformation Project

- 6-year, USD 94 million project
- Participating countries: Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines
- A comprehensive focus on strengthening the Digital Economy of the Eastern Caribbean by addressing key bottlenecks and improving the enabling environment
- Important activities under the project include:
  - Strengthening the Electronic Communications Legislative framework and moving it closer to implementation
  - Developing national and regional digital skills development programmes
  - Addressing network resilience and post-disaster recovery and emergency communications



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# Jamaica: NIDS

- National Identification System (NIDS)
- Providing citizens who may otherwise not have forms of ID
- Phase 1 is to be implemented in the 2024/25 fiscal year
  - Enrolment and issuance of national ID cards
- Anticipated benefits:
  - Enhanced access to services
  - Greater financial inclusion
  - Improved efficiency and transparency
  - Improved and digital government services





# Thank You!!

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