



**CARICOM DIGITAL SKILLS
TASKFORCE:**

**CONSULTATIONS ON
DIGITAL SKILLS**

**7 July – 30 August
2022**

2 pm – 4 pm (EST)

Via ZOOM

BACKGROUND

Digital skills are defined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as *a range of abilities to use digital devices, communication applications and networks, to access and manage information*. To date, most countries of the world have adopted this definition in their policy planning.

Digital skills are associated with a range of benefits, both for individuals and the wider economy. These include improved employment prospects, financial capability, access to support services, enhanced health and well-being, and the ability to engage socially and within the community. (UK Parliament Post, 31 Jan 2022). These skills sit alongside literacy, numeracy, and health and wellbeing, as the essential platforms for lifelong learning. They are required to study almost every subject at school, in further and higher education and training, in a growing number of roles in the workplace, and for living and thriving in the digital world.

The COVID-19 pandemic forged a ‘*call to action*’ for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (and other developing countries) in many respects – not least of all being digital transformation. The world is being transformed by a series of profound technological changes dominated by the digital age. Digital technology is pervasive across all aspects of life, so much so that the ‘*digital economy*’ is becoming synonymous with the national economy. The development of digital skills is a key pillar of digital transformation.

The CARICOM Digital Skills Task Force was launched and began its work in September 2021, in response to a mandate from the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD), in November 2020. More information can be sourced at: <https://caricom.org/digital-skills-taskforce/>. The Work Plan for the Digital Skills Task Force was approved by the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) – Information and Communications Technology (ICT), in February 2022.

A key component of the said Work Plan is a series of Regional Consultations, to garner perspectives, views, and suggestions about developing a robust digital skills programme for all CARICOM citizens. Accordingly, the CARICOM Secretariat and the CARICOM Digital Skills Task Force will embark on Consultations (online) during the period **7 July to 30 August 2022**.

CONSULTATIONS

The CARICOM Secretariat and the CARICOM Digital Skills Task Force are organising a series of sectoral Consultations across the Region, which will be convened between **7 July and 30 August 2022**.

The Consultations will comprise the following:

- (i) **Learning Component:** presentation by international or regional specialists/experts (**0-15 minutes**);
- (ii) **Sharing Component:** sharing by participants of the Consultation, on existing and proposed initiatives, and enablers and challenges in digital skills (**1 hour**); and
- (iii) **Doing Component:** determination of main inputs to be reflected in the Digital Skills Report and recommendations for inputs in the digital skills strategy (**30-45 minutes**).

Each Session will be chaired and/or moderated by a Task Force member and will be conducted between July and mid-August. They will be held for the following groups, with representation from each Member State, Associate Members, and related Ministries and Agencies.

Areas of Interest / Focus Groups / Sectors

The fifteen (15) **Areas of Interest/Focus Groups/Sectors** are highlighted **below**:



Duration

It is anticipated that the duration of each Consultation will be two (2) hours, at the various times set out below:

Belize:	12 noon – 2:00 p.m.
Jamaica:	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Guyana & Eastern Caribbean:	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Suriname:	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Access Details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81419315180?pwd=bW00bHlkQWdhbDQ3T0h4V0dxVkQ4UT09>

Meeting ID: 814 1931 5180

Passcode: 480188

Schedule

PROPOSED DATES	SECTORS / GROUPS
JULY	
Thursday, 7 th	Private Sector
Tuesday, 12 th	Artists / Artisans / Entertainers
Thursday, 14 th	Security Sector
Tuesday, 19 th	Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), Civil Society Organisations (CSO), Cooperatives
Thursday, 21 st	Persons with Disabilities
Tuesday, 26 th	Justice Sector
Thursday, 28 th	Educators / Education / Human Resource Development
AUGUST	
Thursday, 4 th	Elderly Persons
Tuesday, 9 th	ICT Agencies
Thursday, 11 th	Youth
Tuesday, 16 th	Emergency Agencies
Thursday, 18 th	Religious Organisations
Tuesday, 23 rd	Sports & Wellness
Thursday, 25 th	Mayors & Local Government Agencies (LGA)
Tuesday, 30 th	Regional Organisations

Actions Required by Member States

Specific Line Ministries (ICT, Digital Transformation, Youth, Education, Gender) and Member States' Digital Skills Taskforce focal points and members (***Annexed below***) are asked to support the coordination and organisation of the Consultations, to ensure timely completion, by –

- (i) identifying national agencies and other constituents (private sector, non-governmental organisations and civil society) related to the various sectoral Consultations;
- (ii) sharing the link and related information with the constituent groups;
- (iii) sharing , as much as possible, the contact information of key agencies and persons identified for the Consultation with the CARICOM Secretariat;
- (iv) identifying key government personnel to participate in the Consultations; and
- (v) participating in all the Consultations.

LIST OF FOCAL POINTS IN MEMBER STATES AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

MEMBER STATES	FOCAL POINTS
The Bahamas	Ms. Lynn Williams Department of Transformation and Digitization Ministry of Economic Affairs
Grenada	Ms. Daisy Hazzard Corporate Communications Officer Ministry of ICT
Jamaica	Mr. Gary Campbell Director, Technology Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology
MEMBER STATES / ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (Nominees / Focal Points)	
Guyana	Mr. Yoganand Indarsingh Chief IT Officer Ministry of Education
Haiti	Mr. Huguens Previlon Unité de Promotion et de Développement des Applications des TIC
Suriname	Ms. Lucrethia Pinas Assistant Director Communication Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism
Trinidad and Tobago	Ms. Shelley-Ann Clarke Hinds Senior Executive Manager External Relations Unit Ministry of Digital Transformation
	Ms. Caron David Associate Professional External Relations Unit Ministry of Digital Transformation
	Mr. Steffon Lewis Associate Professional External Relations Unit Ministry of Digital Transformation
Anguilla	Ms. Wenonah Lawrence Curriculum Officer, ICT Department of Education
British Virgin Islands	Ms. Lauren Welch Coordinator, ICT Unit Ministry of Education