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1. AIIC + CTU AI Task Force: a twin engine for regional AI governance and R&D

The CTU Caribbean AI Task Force has issued an interim report outlining five action areas for a harmonised, human-centric regional AI framework, just as UWI St Augustine's Artificial Intelligence Innovation Centre (AIIC) launches as a large, multi-partner AI hub with an inaugural conference, hackathon and MoU-signing segment.

CTU Caribbean AI Task Force Issues Interim Report Calling for...

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago — 13 th December 2025 : The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), through its CT...

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The Task Force locates AI governance in a regional "public interest" frame (policy, data governance, infrastructure, skills and multi-stakeholder engagement), while the AIIC positions itself as "the Caribbean's first and largest centre" for AI research, capacity building, commercialisation and governance, partnering with 20+ institutions and hosting dozens of projects across sectors from energy and climate to digital humanities.

The AIIC launch agenda explicitly includes MoU signings with governments, firms and development partners, and is chaired by the same executive who heads the CTU AI Task Force, so Q1 2026 is

shaping up as a period where ministries, regulators and companies can formalise collaborations with a governance narrative already framed at regional level.

Impact rating: High – this is effectively a two-track model: CTU articulates common AI rules-of-the-road while AIIC offers a concrete place to host pilots, research and training aligned with that direction.

- **Pilot Watch: Yes** – AIIC's project portfolio already spans robotics, cybersecurity, energy, agriculture and climate resilience, and its launch conference and hackathon are explicitly framed as multi-country, multi-partner experiments in "AI for All".

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Key references:

- **Time-sensitive: Q1–Q2 2026** – AI Task Force consultations on the interim report and AIIC's early MoUs and sponsored projects are likely to be negotiated in this window.

2. Aruba's cyber resilience model: national security framing meets CCSCAP 2025 and CSIRT practice

A detailed Dutch Digital Government interview with Aruba's intelligence chief frames cyber resilience explicitly as a national security issue, backed by a TNO-developed cyber resilience roadmap, letters of intent with "vital" organisations and work on a governance structure that assigns crisis roles by sector.

Cyberweerbaarheid: onderdeel van Aruba's nationale veiligheid -...

Voor Juri Nicolaas, Directeur Veiligheidsdienst Aruba, is cyberweerbaarheid onderdeel van de nationale veiligheid van Aruba.

Digital Government

The piece emphasises that small-island scale makes Aruba at once agile and vulnerable, and argues for connecting to regional structures, rather than each island building a standalone 24/7 CERT.

In parallel, CARICOM and IMPACS have launched the updated CARICOM Cyber Security and Cybercrime Action Plan (CCSCAP) 2025 in Port of Spain, described as a "critical strategic blueprint" for the region's accelerating digital transformation, while UNODC and CTU are running ransomware and incident-response trainings that assume each state has, or is building, a CSIRT plus cybercrime investigation capacity.

The Netherlands' National Cyber Security Centre has also published a Cyber Resilience Network construction plan for the Caribbean part of the Kingdom, laying out four phases (exploration, connection, comparison, cooperation) and explicitly positioning a public-private cyber resilience network as an overlay across existing initiatives.

Taken together, Aruba's model sits at the point where national security, vital-infrastructure governance, CCSCAP's regional standards and various CSIRT/first-responder programmes are starting to intersect, with the Caribbean Cyber Resilience Programme's webinars and crisis exercises providing a practical testing ground for how those layers interact in real incidents.

- **Impact rating: High** – this is one of the clearest examples in the region of cyber moving from an IT function to a structured national-security and governance question, explicitly linked to regional frameworks.
- **Pilot Watch: Yes** – Aruba's roadmap, cyber crisis exercises and letters of intent with "vital" organisations, combined with CCSCAP implementation and CSIRT-based trainings, effectively operate as pilots in multi-layered cyber governance for small-island states.

Key references:

- **Time-sensitive: 2025–2027** – CCSCAP 2025 is newly launched; the Cyber Resilience Network and Caribbean Cyber Resilience Programme are in their early build-out phase.

3. St Kitts & Nevis runs first Caribbean pilot of Commonwealth Model Law on Digital Trade

On 24 November 2025, St Kitts & Nevis opened a National Stakeholder Consultation on its E-Commerce Legislative Gap Assessment, described by the CTU and the Commonwealth Secretariat as a "major milestone" and the first Caribbean pilot of the Commonwealth Model Law on Digital Trade.

The consultation brings together public and private stakeholders, civil society, legal experts and regional agencies to align domestic law with a new generation of digital trade standards, structured around seven focus areas: legal recognition of e-transactions and e-signatures, consumer protection, data protection and privacy, cybersecurity and cybercrime, electronic payments and fintech, IP in the digital environment and cross-border digital trade.

St. Kitts and Nevis Opens National Stakeholder Consultation on E-...

Monday, November 24, 2025 — Basseterre, St. Kitts – The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis today officially opened the National Stakeholder...

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This work sits directly on top of the Commonwealth's new Model Law on Digital Trade (2025) and its Guide to Enactment, which update earlier electronic-transactions models and explicitly align with UNCITRAL's Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR) and other e-commerce instruments.

The Commonwealth literature suggests that broad adoption of this model could unlock significant efficiency and growth gains across its 56 member states, but at the Caribbean level the St Kitts process offers something more concrete: a glimpse of how a small state translates model-law text into a national legislative roadmap, with trade competitiveness, MSMEs and youth entrepreneurs explicitly named in the framing.

- **Impact rating: High** – this is a rare case where a Caribbean government is visibly first in line on a major new model law, and where "digital transformation" and "trade competitiveness" are treated as one agenda rather than separate silos.
- **Pilot Watch: Yes** – St Kitts is explicitly labelled the first Caribbean pilot for the Commonwealth Model Law on Digital Trade; the week-long consultation is framed as phase one of a comprehensive process leading to draft laws, policies and capacity-building programmes.

Key references:

- **Time-sensitive: 2025–2026** – the gap assessment outcomes are intended to feed directly into drafting of new legislation and related policy reforms over the next year.

4. Crime analysts' regional network leans into AI and advanced analytics, while governance questions sit mostly in the background

In early December, over forty crime analysts and specialists from around twenty Caribbean jurisdictions met in Santo Domingo for the third Regional Network Meeting for Crime Analysts (RNA), under the theme *"Strategic Insights: Criminal Networks, Financial Crime, Drug Flows and the Role of AI."* Reporting highlights a dense three-day programme covering firearms incidents, homicide trends, drug flows, youth violence, cyber-enabled crime and the use of financial crime scripting, with contributions from the Board of Chiefs of Police of the Dutch Caribbean, GI-TOC experts, CARICOM IMPACS analysts and Jamaica Constabulary Force's Technology Branch on its development of AI in policing.

The public coverage of this RNA round is heavily operational: the emphasis is on cross-border intelligence, analytic techniques, unusual transaction reports and regional threat pictures; there is little explicit detail about the legal basis for AI deployments, the quality and provenance of the datasets used, or how bias and rights impacts are being mitigated. This sits in interesting contrast with CCSCAP 2025's focus on legal frameworks and with the CTU AI Task Force's stated aim of embedding human-centric and rights-respecting AI across the region, suggesting that in 2025 the policing conversation is still largely framed around "AI as operational tool", with governance, oversight and safeguards being handled in parallel processes rather than as part of the same public narrative.

CARICOM IMPACS - Updated CARICOM Cyber Security and...

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- **Impact rating: Medium–High** – while the RNA is not a law-making body, it is becoming a de facto regional lab for how analytics (including AI) are actually used in criminal intelligence, and it involves many of the same actors who will shape future practice and demand new tools.
- **Pilot Watch: Yes (soft)** – the meeting highlights AI-driven analysis in the Jamaica Constabulary Force and in CARICOM IMPACS units as live examples that other services are observing closely; the

network also appears to function as an informal proving ground for new analytic methods that may later be normalised.

Key references:

- **Time-sensitive: 2025–2026** – the RNA's December meeting lands just as CCSCAP 2025 and the AI Task Force interim report are being rolled out; how these frameworks influence the next RNA cycle will be worth watching.

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5. Connected Caribbean Summit 2025: multi-forum architecture for "working" regional deals

From 1–5 December 2025, Grenada hosted the Connected Caribbean Summit 2025 (CCS 2025), bringing more than 200 leaders together under the theme *"Catalysing Caribbean Transformation"* for what organisers describe as a "working summit, not a talk shop."

Public programmes and partner announcements point to a specific architecture: a CCS Leadership Alliance for closed-door and plenary sessions among governments and regional institutions; Justice and Governance Forums co-hosted with the Caribbean Agency for Justice Solutions and ARIN; a Public Policy Forum with CTU; AI, cybersecurity and digital-transformation masterclasses; a NextGen youth forum; and an innovation showcase featuring regional solution providers.

Connected Caribbean Summit 2025

Catalyzing Caribbean Transformation

Connected Caribbean Summit 2025

- **Impact rating: Medium–High** – the summit's value lies less in communiqués and more in its role as a convening mechanism: it gathers decision-makers and implementers across digital, justice and economic portfolios in one place, with an explicit mandate to leave with actionable programmes.
- **Pilot Watch: Yes** – CCS has quickly become a platform where initiatives such as justice-sector digitalisation, connectivity governance, and cyber resilience are presented and stress-tested across multiple countries and institutions; the 2025 edition adds an explicit layer of AI and cybersecurity masterclasses to that ecosystem.

Key references:

- **Time-sensitive: Q1–Q3 2026** – any cross-country agreements, projects or reforms that were shaped at CCS 2025 are likely to surface in this period.

Verified Future – Trust infrastructure in an "assess-while-innovating" era

Viewed together, these developments point toward a **layered, multi-track approach to digital trust** that does not wait for every law and policy to be finished before experimentation begins:

- **Assessment tracks** are visible in St Kitts & Nevis' gap assessment against the Commonwealth Model Law on Digital Trade, in CTU's AI Task Force interim recommendations for regional AI assessments

and governance structures, and in CCSCAP 2025's role as an updated regional cyber baseline.

- **Innovation-in-public tracks** are visible in AIIC's launch (with its hackathon and applied projects), Aruba's practical focus on cyber crisis management and vital-sector agreements, the Caribbean Cyber Resilience Programme's exercises, and CCS 2025's masterclasses and innovation showcase.

Instead of a single "first law, then platforms" sequence, the region appears to be moving toward **iterative trust-building**, where:

- Regional and model laws provide reference frames;
- National actors run structured assessments against those frames; and
- Real-world pilots in AI, cyber and digital trade feed practical lessons back into both national laws and regional guidance.

The unresolved tension – visible in how AI features in policing and in summit rhetoric versus legal detail – is over **who defines the guardrails fastest**: public-interest regional bodies (CTU, CARICOM, Commonwealth), national regulators and security agencies, or vendors and platforms stepping into governance vacuums with turnkey solutions. The signals from 2025 suggest that 2026–2028 will be the period when those roles become much clearer, and when the region's trust infrastructure solidifies into a recognisable, if still evolving, architecture.

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