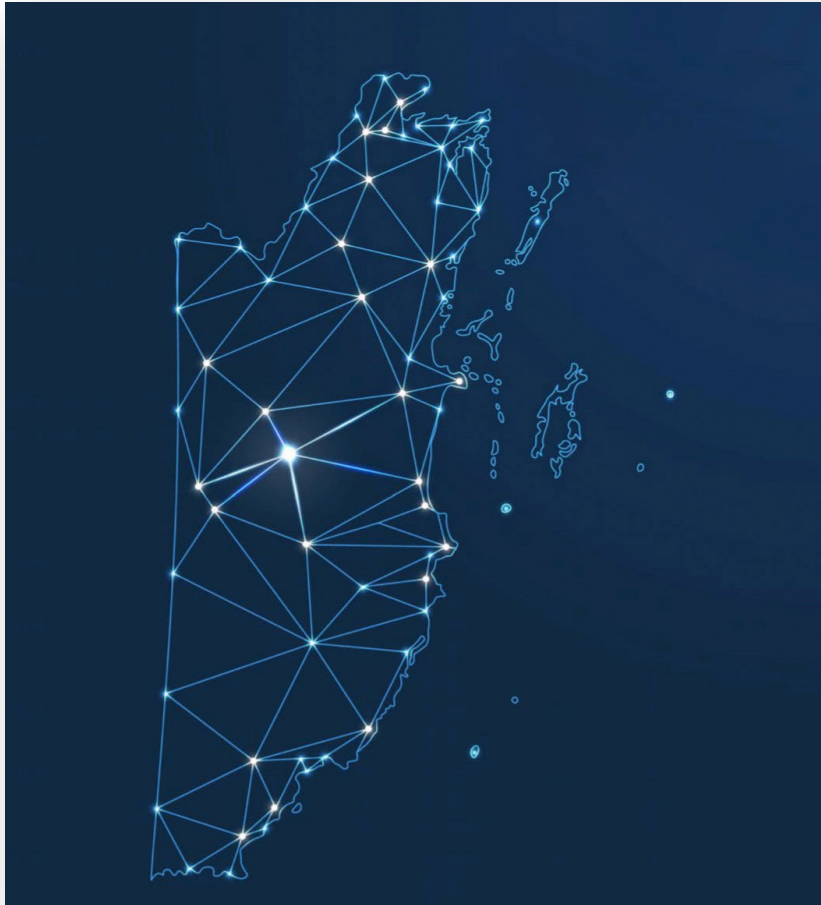


BELIZE



ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION:

Legislative Framework

Public-Private Desk in the Office of the Prime Minister

Technical Secretariat to the:



**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL**

TIMELINE

- ▶ National E-Government Policy, Strategy and Action Plan 2015
- ▶ Doing Business Report 2017
- ▶ Leveraging Digital Technology for Improving the Business Climate in Belize 2018
 - ▶ Component 1: Process Mapping and Needs Report
 - ▶ Component 2: Systems Analysis of E-Registry at the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry
 - ▶ Component 3: Digitization of 18,000+ historical records
 - ▶ Component 4: Legislative Review and Drafting
 - ▶ Component 5: Communications and Change Management
- ▶ COVID-19
- ▶ General Elections 2020: Creation of a Ministry of E-Governance
- ▶ National Digital Agenda 2022 - 2025
 - ▶ Digital Enablers
 - ▶ Digital Government
 - ▶ Digitalization for Recovery





New Administration Plans



INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND RECOMENDATIONS FOR DIGITAL AGENDAS IN THE REGION

	✓ Digital Transformation Action Plan		✓ Digital Regional Strategy (ERDI)
	✓ 12 Recommendation on Digital Government Strategies ✓ 6 Dimensions for Digital Government		✓ Roadmap for the Region (2019): key recommendations for digital transformation
	✓ eLac 2022: 39 Objectives to consider when building Digital Agendas		✓ Short-Term Digital Transformation Plan CARICOM (2021)

- ▶ Re-engineering the way government delivers key public services to satisfy the increase in demand for timely and cost-effective services:
 - ▶ This shift in service delivery from manual processing toward a contactless way of doing business has created the need to introduce new and enabling policies and laws for the facilitation of contactless (electronic) transactions.
 - ▶ The suite of e-legislations introduced offers the necessary securities and protection needed to ensure that the exchange of personal, government and business information is done safely and securely and that also promote Belize's business environment and investment climate.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- 1 • Cybercrime Act 2020
- 2 • Data Protection Act 2021
- 3 • Electronic Transactions Act 2021
- 4 • Electronic Evidence Act 2021
- 5 • Public Sector Data Sharing Act 2021
- 6 • Electronic Transfer of Funds Crime Act 2021

ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS ACT

- ▶ Aims to clearly define the rights and obligations of transacting parties, and gives legal effect to all electronic documents, records and signatures by addressing the legal aspects of electronic contracts, use of electronic signatures, time stamps and seals and issues regarding authentication and non-repudiation.
- ▶ It aims to facilitate the application of electronic technologies to, the use of Single Electronic Windows such the ASYCUDA system, online filing and payments, contactless payments and signatures and to judicial processes that support an Electronic Court System.

- ▶ Belize's new ETA is largely based on the provisions of two International Conventions
 1. UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce;
 2. UN Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts
- ▶ These two conventions deal with the basic tenets of electronic transactions of non-discrimination, technological neutrality and functional equivalence, and electronic contracting.



► The Electronic Transactions Act (ETA) creates a predictable legal environment for e-commerce and e-government with the following key features:

- Equivalency
- It define the rights and obligations of the transacting parties
- It address the legal aspects of electronic contracts
- Allows for the use of electronic signatures, time stamps, seals
- It makes the use of e-signatures ubiquitous
- It allows for the use of Cloud



**“Building Trust in
Government Services”**





Thank
You