

CURAÇÃO DATA DAYS 2022 CONFERENCE

**DIGITAL STRATEGIES
FOR A SECURE DATA DRIVEN SOCIETY**

**By: Franklin Sluis, CEO
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Minister(s) and other dignitaries,

Ladies and gentleman,

A very good morning!

1. With the protocol already served, please allow me to welcome you to 'Curaçao Data Days 2022'. In this second edition of this conference, we will cover the topic: '**Digital strategies for a secure data driven society**'. It's with immense pleasure that I address a topic that is so very near to my heart. I would like to thank all our partners and sponsors of this event for making this possible.
2. Considering the developments in the implementation of digital technologies worldwide, this is a very relevant topic for the optimization of production, user experience and decision-making in the public and private sector as, over the last decade or so, digital technologies have transformed economies and societies all over the world.
3. In essence, the main question is: what is at stake here? The answer is a lot!, because the digital revolution, and its inherent societal transformation, affects all sectors of economic activity as well as the daily lives of citizens.

Consequently, economically and socially it is one of the most prominent developments in the live of human beings and organizations all over the world. That is what makes it a big deal!

4. Nowadays, data is at the centre of the societal transformation and it will continue to be the case, as data-driven innovation comes with significant benefits for our citizens in many aspects of their lives, including mobile communication, financial services, education and research, meetings and conferences, surveillance and monitoring of people, cities and neighbourhoods by law enforcement authorities, healthcare applications, and travel.
5. As a result of these and other important digital applications, a massive digital traffic exists which results in a great volume of non-personal, industrial and public data all over the world. This “big data” constitutes a source of knowledge about behaviour and demand which can be used for innovation in the production of goods and services, resulting in economic growth. This is what actually creates the incentive for digital transformation.
6. On the other hand, in a digital society where we produce ever-increasing amounts of data, the collected data must be used properly and with respect for, and the protection of, fundamental human rights and other information related rules, because citizens will trust and embrace data-driven innovations only if they are confident that their personal data is protected and remains confidential where that is necessary.
7. Given the fact that data gathering is not only “knowledge”, but also useful for economic growth, it provides citizens with better tools to make the right

decisions for their lives when they buy, sell, borrow, eat, drink or even choosing a car.

Therefore, with due consideration of the necessary protection for personal data, citizens should be empowered to make use of the insights resulting from the non-personal data. A good case in point would be a digital navigation system, where due to the use of a significant volume of non-personal information about traffic conditions by many drivers, all citizens can benefit of the precision in which a specific address can be accessed with driving directions from the navigation system. However, no specific driver is allowed to get information from the navigation system who is driving where.

8. Another relevant point to consider is that a digital society within a democracy should also guarantee a transparent, diverse and fair availability of public and non-public data at the appropriate levels. In principle all public information should be available for and accessible to all people wherever they are, but personal, confidential and otherwise classified information should only be accessible to those who have specific authorizations to access that information. This is an essential issue in the construction of a data driven society. This will contribute to the proper service being provided to the relevant user or provider of data, in such a way that innovation and competition can develop soundly to the benefit of everyone in the society.
9. Considering these and other important issues, it is a matter of utmost importance and urgency for all of us that a clear vision exists in the public as

well as the private sector as to the development of digital transformation strategies for a secure and sustainable data driven society in our country. That is why we at the Bureau have partnered with others to organize this annual conference on digital strategies for a secure data driven society in Curaçao.

10. We believe that digital transformation is here to stay, but we also believe that we must collaborate with each other to provide the best possible solutions to ensure the development of a sustainable digital transformation strategy, where all relevant views are considered to the benefit of our digital society.
11. Finally, because of our present technical infrastructure and the available capacity, we also believe that Curaçao has the potential to become a role model and leader in the Carribean region for a secure data driven society, which provides useful data to its citizens and organisations in the public and private sector to make better decisions.
12. However, if we want this position of leadership to materialize, we have to collaborate deeply and make the right investments in connectivity, the processing and storage capacity for data, computing power and cybersecurity, as well as in governance structures for the handling and use of personal and non-personal civil and business data.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish you a fruitful conference!