



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION (IDUAI) 2022



MESSAGE FROM THE MOST HON. ANDREW HOLNESS, ON, PC, MP, PRIME MINISTER

public participation in national decision-making. This is consistent with the Objects of our Access to Information Act (2002) which underpin our democratic processes.

The Government also understands that strengthening information accessibility in the age of Artificial Intelligence is crucial as it guards against disinformation which threatens democracies.

Today, the global conference on, **"Artificial Intelligence, e-Governance and Access to Information,"** and celebration will take place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with high-level discussions on Access to Information and Artificial Intelligence and its risks and benefits and the implications for good governance. Jamaica as a Small Island Developing State must be proactive in looking at digitally driven governance and addressing the specific challenges we face. We will make informed decisions taking into account recommendations for action by UN bodies, governments, civil society, the private sector and our Open Government Partnership (OGP) partners. This includes the

Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, adopted on November 2, 2021 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) by 193 Member states.

We must ensure that mechanisms are put in place to ensure transparency and accountability of the use of Artificial Intelligence in e-governance and decision-making.

We must find solutions that allow the public to participate in the construction of digitalised decision-making processes that make use of AI and algorithms to ensure equality and inclusivity in the new systems that are developed for our increasingly advancing digital world.

Our policy and legislative framework must ensure that privacy and personal data are protected in this age of digital government, transparency and open data.

The digitalisation of governance must be advanced in a way that increases the effectiveness of

decision-making in the public interest while still delivering transparency and accountability.

We will continue to build a resilient digital government that facilitates growth and development of our people and businesses. An inclusive, modern, innovative knowledge society with high levels of media and information literacy, a digitally skilled workforce, supported by high-quality, secure internet connectivity accessible to all our citizens.

We celebrate IDUAI 2022, recognising the importance of our access to information rights to promoting and protecting our fundamental freedoms and strengthening our democracy as we responsibly accelerate the digitisation and digital transformation of government. Together, we will—Reignite Access to Information for our Great Nation!

Jamaica joins the rest of the world in celebration of International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) September 28, 2022 under the theme: **"Artificial Intelligence, e-Governance and Access to Information"**.

The Office of the Prime Minister, through the Access to Information Unit in the Information Division is leading activities commemorating Right to Know Week, September 26-September 30, 2022. This is the 20th year, Right to Know Week activities are being held. The theme this year is: **"Reigniting Access to Information for a Great Nation"**.

Indeed, the Government is committed to transparency, accountability and

MESSAGE FROM The Hon. Robert Morgan, JP, MP Minister without Portfolio with Responsibility for Information

Jamaica joins with the rest of the world in celebration of International Day for Universal Access to Information Day (IDUAI) on September 28, 2022.

This year marks the third celebration of IDUAI since its new status as a UN Day was adopted by the 74th UN General Assembly in October 2019 under the theme: **"Artificial Intelligence, e-Governance and Access to Information"**.

The Office of the Prime Minister, through its Access to Information Unit in the Information Division, is leading activities commemorating Right to Know Week, September 26-September 30, 2022. Our Right to Know Week theme this year is **"Reigniting Access to Information for a Great Nation"**.

We take this opportunity to encourage every member of the public to learn about their access to information rights. It is your right to know!

Information is a public good that is essential for democracies to thrive. It is critical for citizens to have the right to access government information which allows them to make informed decisions.

In this digital age where the dangers of hate speech, disinformation and extremism can be amplified with technology, we recognise that we must ensure that we enhance access to public information which is critical to sustaining a healthy democracy.

Twenty years ago we saw the passage of the Access to Information Act, we recognised that much has changed since then and so, we are now focused on strengthening our Access to Information System. This will include strengthening our access to information legal framework and operational processes including the development of an access to information portal to improve access to information

service delivery and the upgrading of the Government's Open Data Portal as we seek to build a resilient and inclusive knowledge society.

Today, as we see the increasingly rapid deployment of artificial intelligence technologies as the global digital economy develops and the need for greater media and information literacy, we have ensured that we actively participate in global forums on information accessibility and the intersection with artificial intelligence.

On this IDUAI 2022, the Government of Jamaica commits also to continue working with our international development partners. This can be seen through the partnership with the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica (BCJ) and UNESCO's Caribbean Cluster Office on the Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Initiative. This initiative seeks to raise awareness and promote reflection on the opportunities and



challenges that Artificial Intelligence and its correlated technologies pose to Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The BCJ also continues to lead important media and information literacy initiatives.

We celebrate IDUAI 2022, recognising the importance of our access to information rights to promoting and protecting our fundamental freedoms and strengthening our democracy. Together, we will—Reignite Access to Information for our Great Nation!