Programme of the International Day for Universal Access to Information 2022
Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 28-29 September 2022

Theme: "Artificial Intelligence, e-Governance and Access to Information"

International Hotel Tashkent

DAY 1 – 28 September 2022

9:00-9:30 - Welcome coffee and registration

9:30 – 10:00 - Amir Timur Hall
Opening session of the IDUAI 2022

Recognizing the significance of access to information, the 74th UN General Assembly proclaimed 28 September as the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI). The IDUAI is celebrated each year, around the world, and the global conference opening ceremony will launch the 2022 edition of the Day.

- Video presenting the International Day of Universal Access to Information (9 minutes)

Welcoming remarks:

- Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Chairman of the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO;
- Ms. Saida Mirziyoyeva, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mass Media Foundation of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Mr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, Communication and Information Sector, (UNESCO);
- Video message from Mr. Sanjay Pradhan, Chief Executive Officer, Open Government Partnership;

10:00 – 11:30 - Amir Timur Hall

High level roundtable: Harnessing opportunities of digital governance and artificial intelligence for informed and empowered citizens

The high-level roundtable will highlight the opportunities of digital governance and Artificial Intelligence in favour of developing resilient societies and enabling environment for access to information. It will look at means to leverage partnerships and international cooperation to facilitate knowledge-sharing under the common goal of edging closer to the achievement of Agenda 2030 goals.

Moderator: Ms. Roli Asthana, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan, (United Nations).

Speakers:
- Mr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, Communication and Information Sector;
- Ms. Blanca Lilia Ibarra Cadena, President Commissioner, National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection (Mexico);
- Hon. Kabbyanga B.K. Godfrey, the Minister of State for ICT and National Guidance (Uganda);
- Mr. Oleg Pekos, First Deputy Minister of Development, Information Technology and Communication of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Mr. Kristian R. Ablan, Undersecretary, Department of Education of the Philippines Government, (Philippines);
- Mr. Ivar Tallo, Director of e-Governance Academy, former Member of Parliament of Estonia and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, (Estonia);

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:30 - Amir Timur Hall

Panel 1: The role of e-Governance and artificial intelligence in promoting inclusive approaches for access to information
In cooperation with ICIC

If the digital divide is fuelled by social and economic inequalities, it can also widen the gap by creating further barriers to good public governance implementation, such as the right to access to information. However, the digital divide can also be narrowed by implementing e-Governance initiatives that incorporate the development of applications and online content to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation, and collaboration. Following the 13th edition of the

International Conference of Information Commissioners on access to information, participation, and inclusion in the digital age, this panel will define the role of e-Governance and artificial intelligence, while exploring how to turn them into an ally for promoting inclusive approaches for access to information.

Points to ponder:

- What is the role of e-Governance and Artificial Intelligence in ensuring the right to information on an equal basis?
- What legal provisions are to be made to assure that women can fully take advantage of e-Governance services when accessing public information?
- How can Artificial Intelligence be used as an empowering tool for persons with disability to access public information?
- How can citizen's rights be guaranteed when e-Governance services are outsourced?

Moderator: Mr. David Banisar, ATI legal expert (UK).

Speakers:

- Ms. Allison Cohen, Applied AI lead, Mila – Quebec Institute of Artificial Intelligence, (Canada);
- Ms. Elizabeth Tydd, Information Commissioner, New South Wales, (Australia);
- Mr. Zahid Abdullah, Federal Information Commissioner of Pakistan, (Pakistan);
- Ms. Laura Neuman, Director of the Rule of Law Program, Carter Centre, (video), (USA);
- Ms. Nozima Davletova, Director, Public Foundation for the Support and Development of National Mass Media, (Uzbekistan);
- Mr. Martuza Ahmed, Chief Information Commissioner, (Bangladesh);
- Mr. Bobur Rakhimov, Advisor to the Minister of Innovative Development, Chair of the Council of Artificial Intelligence, (Uzbekistan).

Rapporteur: Mr. Marius Lukosiunas, Advisor, UNESCO.

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 - 16:30 - **Amir Timur Hall**

Panel 2: Transparency by Design: How to ensure participation and accountability in the digital era

In cooperation with Open Government Partnership & Access Info Europe

As public bodies make increasing use of digital solutions, with Artificial Intelligence being used to support e-governance systems and to aid decision making, it is essential that these processes are subject to the same transparency and accountability as traditional administrative processes. The digitalisation of government services is also still partial, with a paucity of data in some sectors of government and too few decisions are benefiting from data-driven evidence. Drawing on the conclusions of the 2021 Open Government Partnership Global Summit, which underlined the importance of civic space and public participation and promoting inclusive digital innovation, this panel aims to get a clearer picture of the current state of digitally driven governance and will identify specific challenges and recommendations for action by UN bodies, governments, and civil society.

Points to ponder:

- Which mechanisms should be put in place to ensure transparency and accountability of the use of Artificial Intelligence in e-governance and decision making?
- How can the public participate in the construction of digitalised decision-making processes that make use of Artificial Intelligence and algorithms to ensure equality and inclusivity in these new systems?
- How can privacy and persona data be protected in the age of digital government and transparent, open data?
- How can digitalisation of governance be advanced in a way that increases the effectiveness of decision making in the public interest while still delivering transparency and accountability?
- What standards and accessibility requirements should be designed in to ensure the right of access to digital records?

Moderator: Ms. Helen Darbishire, Executive Director, Access Info Europe, (Spain).
Speakers:
- Ms. Blanca Lilia Ibarra Cadena, President Commissioner, National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection (Mexico);
- Mr. Nicolas Grossman, lead researcher, Global Data Barometer, (Argentina);
- Mr. Gilbert Sendugwa, Executive Director of Africa Freedom of Information Centre (Uganda);
- Mr. Rami Amin, Project Lead, Digital Development, (virtually) (World Bank);
- Ms. Nozima Muratova, Vice-rector of scientific work and innovation, University of Journalism and Mass Communication of Uzbekistan;
Rapporteur: Mr. Bhanu Neupane, Advisor, UNESCO.

16 :30 – 17:00 Coffee break

17:00 - 18:00 - Amir Timur Hall
Panel 3: Adoption of the Declaration
In cooperation with FOIAnet, and civil society stakeholders

Conference participants will adopt the Tashkent Declaration that will reaffirm the commitment by Member States to recognising and respecting the fundamental right of access to information. It will cover the principles of good governance and issues raised by Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies with regard to access to information. It will also address recent developments, such as the increase in access to information national legislation, its implementation modalities, the impact of digitalisation, the importance of access to information legal guarantees to be inclusive, especially for persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

Moderator: Mr. Marius Lukosiunas, Advisor for CI, UNESCO.
- Presenter: Mr. Andrey Richter, Professor of Comenius University in Bratislava (Austria);
- Resource person: Ms. Helen Darbishire, Executive Director, Access Info Europe;
- Resource person: Mr. Toby Mendel, Chair, FOIAnet.

DAY 2 – 29 September 2022

9:00 - 9:30 - Welcome coffee

9:30 - 11:00 - Samarkand Hall	9:30 - 11:00 - Khiva Hall
Panel 4: Measuring Progress on Access to Information Laws and Implementation (UNESCO SDG 16.10.2 Report – 2022)	**Panel 5: Presentation of the updated Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information;**

9:30 - 11:00 - Samarkand Hall

Panel 4: Measuring Progress on Access to Information Laws and Implementation (UNESCO SDG 16.10.2 Report – 2022)

In Cooperation with IPDC

UNESCO, via its International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), has been mandated by its Member States to monitor and report progress on SDG Indicator 16.10.2 on Access to Information. Every year UNESCO conducts a Survey on Public Access to Information to track progress on the adoption and implementation of "constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information". The 2022 survey gathered responses from 123 countries and this panel will explore trends gathered from the 2022 survey and explore synergies with other initiatives to gather data related to SDG 16.

Points to ponder:
- What are the main conclusions of the report enabling governments to strengthen communities and public institutions with access to information?
- What lessons can be drawn from the trends on Access to Information implementation around the world?
- Does the survey adequately reflect which mechanisms are effective to safeguard the right to access to information for marginalized groups?

Moderator: Mr. Andrey Richter, Professor, Comenius University in Bratislava (Austria);

Video message from Ms. Anna Brandt, Chairperson of the IPDC Bureau, (Sweden);

Speakers:
- Mr. Jaco Du Toit, Chief of Section, UNESCO;
- Ms. Sziklay Julia, Head of Department, Freedom of Information, (Hungary);

9:30 - 11:00 - Khiva Hall

Panel 5: Presentation of the updated Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information;

In cooperation with IFAP

The updated version of UNESCO's 'Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Governmental Public Domain Information' will be presented for endorsement. The purpose of the Policy Guidelines is to build impetus in the development, promotion, production, dissemination, preservation, and use of public information, with particular attention to information in digital form. It recommends that information produced by public entities in all branches and at all levels should be publicly accessible, unless clearly defined as an exemption. The speakers will review the guidelines during the session, and the audience will be invited to provide its remarks.

Points to ponder:
- What enabling environment is necessary for Access to Information in digital format to flourish?
- What are the necessary steps to develop and promote public access to information?
- How can one balance the Right to Access to Information and other rights in the digital age?
- How can the Guidelines be implemented?

Presenter: Mr. Bouchaïb Bounabat, Professor, UM5 Rabat University, (Morocco);

Speakers:
- Ms. Dorothy Gordon, Chair, Information for All Program, (Ghana), (virtually);

• Mr. Adnene Lassoued, Information Commission of Tunisia, (Tunisia); • Ms. Hyun Jung Park, Coordinator, Centre of Excellence for Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, (United Nations); • Ms. Lamiya Zeynalova, Head of the division on protection of the RTI, Azerbaijan, (Azerbaijan); Rapporteur : Mr. Marius Lukosiunas, Advisor, UNESCO.	• Mr. Toby Mendel, Chair of FOIAnet (Canada); • Ms. Anjali Bhardwaj, Co-convener, National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information, (India); • Mr. Luis Barbosa, Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance, United Nations University, (United Nations); Rapporteur : Mr. Bhanu Nepane, Advisor, UNESCO.

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00 - Samarkand Hall	11:30 - 13:00 - Khiva Hall
Panel 6: Implementation of the UNESCO Open Data guidelines in support of transparency, innovation, and e-Governance	**Panel 7: Presentation of the online training toll on access to information**
UNESCO in collaboration with IFAP, IRCAI and UNESCO Chairs on AI and Data Sciences developed Open Data Guideline to apprise governments of the value of openness of data for Artificial Inteligence for tracking and achieving the SDGs and empowering them through a set of steps to act. It outlines concrete steps in the preparation, opening and follow-up for reuse of data. The speakers will review the guidelines during the session, and the audience will be invited to provide its remarks. *Points to ponder:* • What are the stumbling blocks that governments encounter in opening data for the public good? • How can governments do to open data for reuse and sustainability of e-governance services? • What monitoring mechanisms should be put in place to assure the openness of data? • How can the Guidelines be implemented?	Implementing laws giving individuals a right to access information held by public authorities, or right to information laws, is complex whether viewed from the perspective of those supplying information – i.e. public officials – or those demanding it – i.e. civil society, journalists, academics and ordinary citizens. To help both officials and requesters better understand how to implement right to information laws, UNESCO and the Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD) have developed a self-paced online course, titled *Access to Information Laws and Policies and their Implementation*. This session will introduce the course, outline the benefits of taking it and give a taste of what is included in it. **Points to Ponder:**

Moderator: Ms. Maria Fasli, UNESCO Chair in Analytics and Data Science, Faculty of Science and Health at University of Essex, (United Kingdom). Speakers: • Mr. Lampros Stergioulas, UNESCO Chair in AI & Data Science for Society (Netherlands); • Mr. Zhou Chenghu, Professor, Institute of Geographic Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, (virtually) (China); • Mr. Ernesto Damiani, Director, Khalifa University Centre for Cyber Physical Systems in the United Arab Emirates), (Italy); • Ms. Miriam Stankovich; Senior Digital Policy Specialist, Centre for Digital Acceleration, (United States of America); • Mr. Ravi Gupta, CEO, Tambourine Innovation Ventures, (virtually), (India); Rapporteur : Mr. Bhanu Neupane, Advisor, UNESCO.	• How can this training be rolled out in your region; • Whom should the course target in your country; • How can the training course be integrated into already existing training initiatives; • What are best ways to localize the course. Presenter: Mr. Toby Mendel, Executive Director, Centre for Law and Democracy, (Canada).

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00- 15:30 - Samarkand Hall

Panel 8: The future of access to information: Ensuring complementarity between the right to information and personal data protection
(Panel is transmitted by video link from OECD Paris HQ, available by video in Samarkand Hall)

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has played a significant role in promoting the importance of transparency – and access to information in particular – alongside the benefits of open government more broadly. At the same time, personal data protection and privacy are fundamental values which must continue to be protected by governments as they embrace the digital transformation and collect and store ever-vaster amounts of data. In this regard, emerging challenges for public administrations in taking a balanced approach to access to information and personal data protection have become evident in recent years and ensuring that neither are unduly restricted.

It is within this context that, increasingly, the institutional oversight bodies responsible for these policy areas are identifying synergies in safeguarding both interconnected rights. Although both are treated as separate legal frameworks in most countries and require different technical capacities and training, recognised complementarities are pushing governments to consider centralising these areas through a single institution. While not necessary, this dual responsibility can allow institutions to recognise and exploit connections between both policy areas and ensure that personal data and privacy are defended while still enabling full access to

public information. This panel will focus on the linkages and tensions between access to information and personal data protection and discuss how public bodies can better understand them and find ways to enhance – rather than limit – both rights.

<u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Carlos Santiso, Head of Division, Open and Innovative Government Division, (OECD).

- Ms. Blanca Lilia Ibarra Cadena, President Commissioner, National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection (Mexico);
- Mr. Stephen Almond, Director of Technology and Innovation, Information Commissioner's Office, (United Kingdom);
- Ms. Linh Tong Khanh, Institute for Policy Studies and Media Development, (Vietnam);
- Ms. Lucía Velasco, Director, Spanish National Observatory for Tech and Society, (Spain).

18:00 – Closing remarks and certificate ceremony

- Mr. Asadjon Khojaev, Director, Agency for Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Mr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, Communication and Information Sector, (UNESCO);
- Ms. Sara Noshadi, UNESCO Tashkent Office Director and UNESCO Representative in Uzbekistan, (UNESCO).

Partners of the IDUAI 2022