

# PRESS RELEASE

## AI4IA Conference Brings Global Focus to AI's Future

**Kingston, Jamaica – Wednesday, September 4, 2024:** The 5th Artificial Intelligence for Information Accessibility (AI4IA) Conference, organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Information for All Programme (IFAP) Working Group on Information Accessibility (WGIA), is set to return on 28 September for the annual celebration of International Day for Universal Access to Information. The conference aims to bring together global thought leaders, policymakers, academics, technology experts, and the general public for critical discussions on the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on humans and society.

This year, the AI4IA Conference will explore the intersection of AI, ethics, and human agency, featuring over 68 speakers from across the globe, including Jamaica, Antigua, Chile, Brazil, China, the UK, USA, Canada, Germany, India, Botswana, and Nigeria. The event will focus on how AI innovation can be developed and used beneficially, particularly for vulnerable communities in the global south and Small Island Developing States.

This fifth staging of the conference will offer an expanded programme with eight (8) satellite events in Botswana, New York, Jamaica, China, India, Colombia, Canada, and Europe, leading up to the main on-demand conference on the Gather Town platform on Saturday, September 28. Attendees can anticipate engaging discussions and valuable insights from global speakers with diverse experiences and expertise on how AI can foster a more inclusive and equitable future.

Participants will be treated to a robust programme exploring critical topics such as AI's role in enhancing access to justice and human rights, the ethical implications of AI—particularly generative AI's impact on misinformation and disinformation—AI and the future of human creativity, and its role in promoting digital inclusion and reducing information accessibility divides. These discussions aim to demystify AI, unpack its ethical considerations, and explore pathways to making AI more inclusive.

Cordel Green, Chair of the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) Working Group on Information Accessibility (WGIA), Vice-Chair of the UNESCO IFAP, Conceptualiser and Convenor of the AI4IA Conference, and Executive Director of the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, highlighted the significance of the event, noting, “The AI4IA Conference continues to expand its global reach, addressing the most pressing issues in AI today, particularly around inclusivity and ethical governance. It is a vital forum for fostering dialogue among diverse stakeholders and ensuring that AI innovation benefits everyone, not just a select few.”

In line with the conference’s focus on addressing both the opportunities and challenges posed by AI, Samridhi Arora, Advocate-on-Record (AOR) of the Supreme Court of India, Member of the UNESCO-IFAP (WGIA), Rapporteur of the UNESCO-IFAP (WGIA), Chair of the AI4IA Planning Committee, highlighted the importance of a collaborative approach. She remarked, “AI offers incredible opportunities for progress, but it also poses significant challenges that must be addressed collaboratively and inclusively. The AI4IA Conference is a unique platform where diverse stakeholders can come together to discuss, debate, and shape AI’s future in an ethical, inclusive, and beneficial manner.”

The AI4IA Conference will cater to a global audience. Attendees can look forward to hearing from a slate of high-quality experts such as Olha Herasymiuk, Head of the Ukraine National Council for TV & Radio Broadcasting; Professor Ingvild Bode, expert member of the Global Commission on Responsible AI in the Military Domain (GC REAIM), Director of the Center for War Studies at University of Southern Denmark (SDU), and Co-chair of the IEEE-SA Research Group on Issues of AI and Autonomy in Defence Systems; Dr Tetyana Oleksiyuk, Vice-President of Access Info Group under the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents; Professor Christopher Charles, University of the West Indies; Camille Stuart Gloster (Jamaican roots), former Obama White House first Deputy National Cyber Director for Technology & Ecosystem, former Global Head of Product Security Strategy at Google; and Dr. Vivek Lall, Chief Executive of General Atomics Global Corporation, principal private sector participant in thermonuclear fusion research, Distinguished Visiting Fellow Stanford University’s prestigious Hoover Institution, former President of the Mathematical Association of America, listed in Cambridge (UK) 2000 Outstanding Scientists of the Twentieth Century, and 2022 recipient of the President’s Lifetime Achievement Award conferred by the President of the United States of America.

By advancing the understanding of AI and its potential to foster inclusivity worldwide, the AI4IA Conference aims to promote UNESCO IFAP's strategic priorities of information accessibility, information literacy, information ethics, information for development, information preservation, and multilingualism in cyberspace.

The AI4IA Conference is free to attend. To register and find more information about the event, visit the official website at <https://ai4iaconference.com>.

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