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BCJ Urges Governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to Prioritise Digital Literacy, Especially Amongst Youth

Executive Director of the Broadcasting Commission, Cordel Green, is urging governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to give digital literacy urgent attention. This he said is necessary, as only digitally-literate citizens will be able to use the empowering and liberating potential of technological innovation to create and share information for knowledge building, learning and personal development, rather than banal and excessively wasteful use.

Mr. Green made the appeal while addressing the “Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Latin America and the Caribbean” in Sao Paulo, Brazil yesterday (December 13).

Noting that the convergence of communication platforms has resulted in an exponential increase in the volume and variety of content available to consumers, Green said that those who do not have the benefit of digital literacy are at great risk both in terms of the effects of harmful content and losing out on the opportunities which abound in the digital ecosystem.

The Executive Director also warned against the assumption that the younger generations, the Millennials and Generation Z, are born wired for the digital age and are therefore uniquely equipped to take advantage of the benefits of the new technology.

“The Deloitte Millennial Surveys of 2018 and 2019 have produced a counter-intuitive finding, which is that they are unprepared for the fourth industrial revolution. Millennials and Generation Z say they are not confident in their skills and knowledge or optimistic about their

readiness. So, we must be careful not to mistake comfort with devices and social media engagement with digital-age capacity or confidence,” Green cautioned.

The Broadcasting Commission has recommended to the Jamaican government that it be given a specific legislative mandate for the promotion of digital literacy, as obtains with OFCOM for the UK.

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