

December 14, 2019

BCJ Implores Governments Across the Region to Create AI Policies that Protect Small Island Developing States

Executive Director of the Broadcasting Commission, Cordel Green, is encouraging regional governments to pay special attention to the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other developing countries, when creating policies for Artificial Intelligence (AI). He was addressing the “Regional Forum on Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean” in Sao Paulo, Brazil yesterday (December 13).

Arguing that AI is the clearest indicator that the operating system of society has changed, Green noted that every aspect of society, including media and content regulation, will be impacted by the growing acquaintance of human beings with super-intelligent machines, and the influence of AI in human affairs.

“As we seek to understand the new environment and the broad impacts of AI on society, UNESCO'S ROAM principles (Rights, Openness, Accessibility to all, Multistakeholder participation) are critical. We should resist technological determinism. AI must be designed to promote human well-being, enhance human performance and mitigate harm,” said Green, adding that “we must avoid the worst outcomes of the first industrial revolution which left millions of people behind. We can make AI the rising tide which lifts all ships.”

The Executive Director also called on stakeholders to abhor unethically designed technologies, particularly devices that are deliberately manufactured to be addictive.

News and AI

On the topic of news and AI, Green said the Broadcasting Commission had a special interest in the intersection of AI and the creation, dissemination and consumption of 'content', particularly news and political engagement, noting that the concept of truth was being undermined.

“The Internet and social media are now open to manipulation and abuse by hostile states. At the same time, authoritative news sources that have exposed these operations are attacked as ‘fake’, in a way that threatens to undermine journalistic standards and weaken the concept of truth itself,” Green explained adding that in response to this challenge, “the role of the state is to ensure the regulation, support and planning of the sector by developing policies that address the needs of all citizens and do not undermine fundamental rights.”

- END -

Contact: Don Dobson, 876-929-1998, ddobson@broadcom.org