<p style="text-align:center">**Outcome Document**</p>

The Mauritius Call for Universal Access to Information to Overcome Divides and Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Adopted by the participants in the International Conference for the Universal Access to Information Day in Balaclava, Mauritius, 28 September 2017

1. **Recalling** that the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed 28 September as the "International Day for the Universal Access to Information" and invited all Member States, United Nations system organizations, and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to commemorate the International Day in a manner which each considers most appropriate;

2. **Mindful** of the 2003 UNESCO Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage;

3. **Recalling** the 2006 Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the 2003 UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace;

4. **Considering** the revised 2011 Draft strategy on UNESCO's contribution to the promotion of open access to scientific information and research;

5. **Considering** the 2015 UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Preservation of, and Access to, Documentary Heritage Including in Digital Form;

6. **Considering** Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and people's rights which states "Every individual shall have the right to receive information, and that "every individual shall have the right to express and disseminate his opinions within the law";

7. **Recalling** the relevant resolutions related to national and international cooperation on universal access to information, such as:
   - the African Charter on Broadcasting 2001,
   - the Declarations of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa 2002,
   - the Declaration of Table Mountain 2007,
   - the Declaration of the African Platform on Access to Information 2011;

8. **Recalling** the commitments of UNESCO's Global Priority Africa for an enhanced cooperation to support member countries, Civil Society Organizations and citizens to build African Knowledge Societies including Small Island Developing States; and to support the African Union Agenda 2063: "The Africa We Want" and its Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2013-2023)[1];

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[1] UNESCO Draft 39 C/5, page 192

9. **Recalling** UNESCO's Global Priority Gender Equality focus on gender mainstreaming within knowledge societies, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5;

10. **Reaffirms** that universal access to Information and knowledge is fundamental to the development of inclusive Knowledge Societies;

11. **Appreciates** the Ministerial Statement and Ljubljana OER Action Plan 2017 adopted at the 2nd World Open Educational Resources (OER) Congress held in September 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, which recognizes OER as a strategic opportunity to increase knowledge sharing and universal access to quality learning and teaching resources;

12. **Reiterates** the understanding of Dakar Declaration on Open Access for Africa and the Global south, and states the necessity for establishing polycentric governance mechanisms for Open Access research and recommend that institutions and governments urgently develop OA policies and enabling mechanisms to promote African scholarship;

13. **Calls** upon UNESCO to continue to support relevant initiatives, with a particular attention to Small Island Developing States, and play its advocacy role in promoting access to information and knowledge, including through the principles of Free and Open Source Software, freedom of expression, privacy and ethical norms and behavior online as keystones to the development of inclusive knowledge societies;

14. **Calls** upon Member States to
    - adopt policies, standards and legislations to enable access to and preservation of information (including software heritage) held by public bodies as necessary mechanisms for public engagement across the sustainable development goals;
    - to develop suitable targets and indicators for the measurement of the impact of access to information and data;

15. **Calls** upon Governments and all relevant educational stakeholders, including civil society to implement the Ljubljana OER Action Plan 2017 to mainstream Open Educational Resources in support of achieving the Education 2030 Agenda to "ensure inclusive and equitable/quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".