

**Ministry of Education  
St.Kitts Nevis National Commission for UNESCO**

**St.Kitts Nevis Declaration**

**The Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society and  
Internet Privacy**

First UNESCO/OECS Conference exploring the current information ethics challenges and opportunities facing society in a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) context

**Basseterre, St. Kitts Nevis (West Indies)  
23 – 24 September, 2015**

**ST. KITTS NEVIS DECLARATION**

We, the representatives of the participating countries of the Eastern Caribbean States meeting in Basseterre, St. Kitts & Nevis from 23 to 24 September, 2015 at the First UNESCO/OECS Conference exploring the current information ethics challenges and opportunities facing society in a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) context,

Recognizing that Information and Communication and Technologies (ICT) offer compelling potential for contributing to policies towards building knowledge societies and community connectivity, strengthened education and training opportunities, especially amongst the youth, enhanced effectiveness of democracy and democratic institutions, and facilitate the reduction of the digital divide,

Recognizing, in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the contribution of an information society based on ethical values and principles, for setting and realizing the post 2015 global development goals of social and economic inclusion, peace and security and environmental sustainability.

Acknowledging that rapid advances in technology development and devices such as smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc, equally creates not only opportunities for inclusion and empowerment but also risks for the vulnerable groups in further entrenching and exasperating existing inequalities and the digital divide, inequitable access, safety concerns, i.e. cyber bullying, privacy violations and unwanted solicitation, and privacy, lack of skills and digital literacy, and that new forms and modes of interactions and social transformations proliferated by ICT have behavioral and inter-generational impacts and consequences on society, that are not as yet fully measured.

Restating the will to build an inclusive, and development-oriented Knowledge Societies where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life,

Conscious of the need to continue to develop Information Society and Internet Privacy in the OECS sub-region, and the wider Caribbean region,

Agree upon the following guidelines to uphold the ethical dimensions of the Information society and Internet Privacy:

Encourage Caribbean regional, OECS sub-regional and national reflection and debate on the ethical challenges of the Information society and Internet privacy arising from the rapid evolution of ICT and new hardware and software, increasingly accessible to citizens in SIDS.

Endorse and encourage the use of Internet and other ICTs as a means for enhancing education, research and training especially among young people, along with life-long learning education initiatives to ensure that, as citizens, they can equip themselves to be more assertive with the skills and competencies to meaningfully and responsibly participate in the wider society on islands.

Urge that all relevant stakeholders, embracing governments, education institutions, parents, religious leaders and youth mentors, and others, ensure the enactment and implementation of more effective national information society policies in support of inclusive social developments, whilst at the same time, address the challenges inherent in the increasingly digital environment.

Sensitize policy-makers and opinion-formers (academia, media, religious leaders, politicians, the legal profession, civil society and the private sector etc) to give consideration to the ethical principles that bear on the access and use of the Internet and ICT devices, based on consensus-driven approach to regulatory frameworks, and existing normative instruments or codes of ethical conduct.

Encourage decision-makers to extend the availability of information in the public domain, recognize and enact the right to universal access to public and government-held records, including information relevant to citizens, whilst respecting the statutory limits for public disclosure of archival documents held by the government.

We, the participants, express our sincere gratitude to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis and to UNESCO for hosting this meeting and invite UNESCO to continue to support regional and sub-regional cooperation and development, in the context of its inter-governmental Information for All Programme (IFAP).