

ASSOCIATION FOR
DEMOCRACY
IN THE MALDIVES



Joint Press Release

28 September 2023

Celebrating the International Day for Universal Access to Information: The importance of the online space for access to information.

On this International Day for Universal Access to Information, we, as members of civil society, come together to underscore the pivotal role of the online realm in fostering universal access to information. As the world becomes increasingly digital, it's imperative that the online information spaces are protected, nurtured, and enhanced to ensure that it serves the interests of every global citizen.

The internet, with its vast expanse of knowledge and connectivity, has revolutionized how we access, disseminate, and share information. It has broken barriers and democratized knowledge, enabling everyone, regardless of their location or background, to tap into a reservoir of human understanding. As such, safeguarding the integrity, security, and openness of this digital space becomes crucial not just for the present but for the future generations.

We emphasize the need for increased awareness and mechanisms to protect our information spaces from the abuse of new technologies such as Generative Artificial Intelligence, which is being manipulated around the world for the spread of disinformation. Maldivian authorities must step up to ensure that authentic and true information is available to all and in line with the principles of open governance. We also urge all Maldivian media stakeholders to observe media ethics and to use this valuable technological resource responsibly to increase information accuracy and build public trust in online spaces and content.

As we mark this significant day, we emphasize that access to information is not just a right; it is a cornerstone of a healthy, democratic society. Let us all commit to ensuring that this access remains unhindered, especially in the digital world where it is most sought after. It is time to move from words to action.

Let's shape a future that is transparent, inclusive, and truly open for all.

END.

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