



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Government Partners with UNDP and UNESCO to Launch National Digital Initiatives, Including AI Assessments**

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, through the Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence (MPAAI), has officially launched a suite of national initiatives aimed at modernising public services, enhancing digital capacity and promoting the responsible adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) across the country.

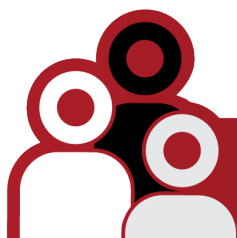
The three initiatives include:

1. The Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
2. The AI Landscape Assessment (AILA) developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and supported by the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) and the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce
3. The creation of the country's first Open-Source Programme Office (OSPO) in collaboration with the UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Senator the Honourable Dominic Smith, Minister of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence, highlighted that these initiatives demonstrate the Government's commitment to sustainable development, digital equity and innovation. He described them as vital steps towards building a modern, inclusive and future-ready digital economy, alongside a transformed Public Service.

Mr Ugo Blanco, UNDP Resident Representative, echoed this sentiment, reaffirming his organisation's support for Trinidad and Tobago. He further elaborated by emphasising the importance of building a resilient digital ecosystem that empowers individuals, strengthens institutions and leaves no one behind.

The UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) forms part of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, adopted by UNESCO Member States in 2021 which includes Caribbean countries such as Guyana, Saint Lucia and Suriname. RAM is the first international AI ethics framework of its kind,



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assessing national AI ecosystems through both qualitative and quantitative data. It reviews policies, governance structures and stakeholder engagement to guide the development of AI strategies rooted in ethics, human rights and transparency.

To date, the RAM has been completed in 19 countries, including Brazil, Kenya and the Netherlands; is underway in 31 others such as Ghana, India and Jamaica; and is being launched in 17 more, among which are Panama, Quebec (Canada) and Suriname.

The UNDP AI Landscape Assessment (AILA) is a diagnostic tool that evaluates Trinidad and Tobago's strategic and technical readiness to adopt AI. The assessment will culminate in a national report featuring actionable recommendations, data visualisations and a roadmap to support AI integration across key sectors such as health, education and the Public Service. An AI Landscape Survey will shortly be distributed to policymakers, AI experts, academics and private sector stakeholders to inform the findings.

Together, RAM and AILA will provide Trinidad and Tobago with a comprehensive understanding of AI readiness, combining technical and ethical perspectives to enable the safe, inclusive and impactful adoption of AI technologies. They will also position the country to contribute to and benefit from regional and international cooperation and knowledge sharing.

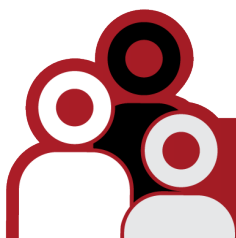
In addition to these AI-focused efforts, the Ministry has launched the country's first Open-Source Programme Office (OSPO), developed in collaboration with UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The OSPO will drive the development, adoption and governance of open-source software and tools across the Public Sector and support the growth of the local software development community and digital economy. Specialised training programmes will be developed for Public Officers along with projects in health, education and social services; innovation challenges; and the publication of research and case studies.

These three initiatives will support the development of essential pillars for a more connected, ethical and responsive digital Government that places people, trust and innovation at its core.

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