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Digicel Panel Speech – Inclusive Cities

Thank you for the invitation to participate in this very important discussion today.

The British Council is the UK's international organization for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

We work with over 114 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society.

In Jamaica we have 4 main areas of work:

- Social Enterprise and Youth Engagement
- Basic Education, with a focus on educational transformation
- Arts and Creative Economy, with a focus on social transformation,
- Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) with a focus on empowering members of the vulnerable populations.



We work with local and UK partners to deliver programmes in these four areas, that are sustainable, impact-led and bring mutual benefit to the UK and Jamaica, all underpinned by Equality Diversity and Inclusion.

We are gathered here this morning to celebrate our diverse city of Kingston, to celebrate our diverse people, but also to take the time to critically review why Kingston should be a city that moves towards becoming a fully inclusive one for PWD's first and foremost, but also an inclusive city for us all.

The British Council is committed to being a part of this process, being an active stakeholder in the Disability Sector, to highlight issues which are of concern to you as well as to contribute to the dialogue towards making Kingston an Accessible City.

Our aim is to mainstream equality, diversity and inclusion. That means taking diversity into account as we develop and deliver processes and functions, considering it as part of policy decisions and building it into the planning of programmes and projects, bringing a new perspective on the economic and business case for inclusion.

Last year we implemented the Jamaica's 1st EDI Summit. This is the first part, of a 3 part intervention that will happen during this financial year, the final outcome being a roadmap to support Kingston moving towards becoming a more inclusive city. Inclusive cities are cities that create accessible and inclusive environments for PWD to thrive, not just survive.

The roadmap will be complemented by needs specific programming which we will deliver with our partners between 2018 and 2021. We are looking forward to a rich and meaningful discussion, today which we



know will yield lasting and tangible results for Kingston, as well as further collaboration between Jamaica and the UK.