

9 June 2021

To: All Media

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information Commissioner Gutierrez Elected to the First ICIC Executive Committee



Hamilton, Bermuda. Information Commissioner Gitanjali Gutierrez has been elected to the first Executive Committee for the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) after certification of the vote on 10 May 2021. Information Commissioner Gutierrez previously joined her colleagues to adopt the ICIC Charter in March 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Since that time, Commissioner Gutierrez has served on the ICIC's Governance Working Group to establish the working framework of the ICIC. The May 2021 elections resulted in the first elected Executive Committee for the ICIC. Her 3-year term will commence at the close of the ICIC's 2021 Annual Conference, which will be held 23-24 June, when the Executive Committee assumes responsibilities from the Governance Working Group.

The ICIC is the only permanent international network that connects member Information Commissioners to collectively protect and promote access to public information as a fundamental pillar to social, economic and democratic governance globally. The ICIC's Mission is to 'share knowledge and best practices, to build capacity, to help identify what is needed for global progress and to act as a collective voice in international for a with a view towards improving people's right to public information and their ability to hold to account bodies that provide public functions'.

The members of the newly-elected Executive Committee are:

- Mexico, Chair - National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection of Mexico
- Albania – Information and Data Protection Commissioner
- Bermuda – Office of the Information Commissioner
- Brazil – Office of the Comptroller General (ICIC Annual Conference Host 2021)
- Chile – Chilean Transparency Council

- Kenya – Commission on Administrative Justice, Office of the Ombudsman
- South Africa – Information Regulator (South Africa)
- United States – The Office of Government Information Services

The responsibilities of the newly formed ICIC Executive Committee include:

- Lead on the implementation of the strategic priorities, of the Conference resolutions and any other matters decided upon by members at the annual meeting,
- Support the host in developing the agenda of the annual meeting,
- Encourage members to promote and participate in relevant international events and initiatives,
- Oversee the review of applications for membership and to host the annual meeting,
- Manage the review of amendments to the ICIC Charter and the ICIC processes, and
- Assist the Chair in mediating any dispute brought forward by members.

“As an Executive Committee Member, the Bermuda ICO and our officers will continue to benefit from valuable international relationships for sharing information, building capacity and deepening knowledge. In turn, these interactions enable the Bermuda ICO to continually strengthen our oversight and promotion of PATI rights for Bermudians and residents,” stated Information Commissioner Gutierrez. “Membership on this committee ensures that Bermuda’s ICO is at the international decision-making table with our colleagues. We have an opportunity to contribute our insights as a small, nimble oversight body in a smaller jurisdiction, ensuring that the ICIC’s work benefits Information Commissioners from a diversity of jurisdictions”.

###

Editor’s Notes:

The ICO is an independent public office responsible for promoting the use of and overseeing compliance with the Public Access to Information (PATI) Act 2010. The PATI Act gives the public a right to access records held by public authorities, subject to listed exemptions and administrative grounds for denial of access. Individuals who are dissatisfied with the response of a public authority may seek a review by the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner shall investigate and the decisions by the Information Commissioner are legally binding. The ICO can be reached by visiting our offices at Maxwell Roberts Building, 4th Floor, One Church Street, Hamilton, or by calling 543-3700 or emailing info@ico.bm.

Further information about the ICO is available at www.ico.bm.

The International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) is a permanent network established in March 2019, which connects member Information Commissioners to foster the protection and the promotion of access to public information as a fundamental pillar to social, economic and democratic governance.

Further information about the ICIC is available at www.informationcommissioners.org.