

## **Video Transcript for Hon. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda**

0:02

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, digitalization, which is the use of digital technologies to change business models and to provide new revenue and value producing opportunities, is at the heart of development.

0:17

The digital economy presents many opportunities for Antigua and Barbuda, promoting digital transformation in agriculture, cultural and creative industries, disaster risk and resilience, education, financial services, health, tourism and government in their delivery of public services.

0:37

Digitalization is a crucial tool to introduce new opportunities within trade, international cooperation and job creation and is directly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, the SDGS.

0:50

The COVID pandemic has accelerated the shift towards globalization.

0:54

Our administration has prioritized digital transformation by contracting to lay our own undersea fiber optic cable at a cost of more than \$50 million.

1:06

The objective is to lower the cost of broadband services, which we consider a public good, and to make them more accessible and affordable to all.

1:16

My government has spent upwards of \$45 million to ensure that fiber optic cable reaches every home in Antigua, providing full accessibility to every citizen and resident.

1:29

Our digital transformation vision is to transform the digital landscape of Antigua and Barbuda, thereby placing digital technology as a centerpiece of operational efficiency and innovation in every sector.



1:42

Barbuda is strategically positioned to become a smart city.

1:46

The only smart city in the Caribbean. A similar undersea fiber optic cable is to be laid between Antigua and its sister Isle Barbuda, in order to ensure that the transformation taking place in Barbuda is reflected in the ability of everyone there to reach the World Wide Web at the same speed as citizens in developed countries.

2:09

All of Barbuda is to be powered by green energy, making it the first island community in our Caribbean to reach this very high standard.

2:18

We will ensure a reliable digital system that connects businesses to a robust e-commerce system to support many industries across our twin island state to include exploitation of ICT based services.

2:32

The digital revolution or industrialization 5.0 involving the use of artificial intelligence AI will be even more impactful.

2:41

Therefore, we must, as citizens, businesses and government, ready ourselves to exploit the possibilities and opportunities that this digital revolution will bring.

2:53

I hereby invite every Antiguan and Barbudan citizen and resident to join this transformation journey with me.

3:01

Thank you.