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Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information  
Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), 18-20 April 2018

### **CARTAGENA DE INDIAS DECLARATION**

*We, the representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean countries meeting at the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), from 18 to 20 April 2018,*

*Recalling* resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by virtue of which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

*Reiterating* the principles and objectives agreed upon at the World Summit on the Information Society, with a view to building an inclusive information society and promoting the potential of knowledge and information and communication technologies in the service of sustainable development,

*Considering* that, by virtue of General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, the international community further reaffirmed its commitment to the outcomes of the Summit and the need for governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to continue to work together to implement the World Summit on the Information Society vision beyond 2015,

*Taking into account* the provisions of paragraph 68 of General Assembly resolution 70/125, in which the regional commissions of the United Nations are invited to continue their work in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines and to contribute to reviews thereof,

*Recalling* the Bávaro Declaration, adopted in the Dominican Republic in January 2003; the Rio de Janeiro Commitment and Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2007), adopted in Brazil in June 2005; the San Salvador Commitment and Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2010), adopted in San Salvador in February 2008; the Lima Declaration and the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), adopted in Peru in November 2010; the Montevideo Declaration and the Plan of Work 2013-2015 for the implementation of eLAC2015, adopted in Uruguay in April 2013; and the Mexico City Declaration and the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018), adopted in Mexico in August 2015,

*Recalling also* resolution 708(XXXVI) adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City in June 2016, which called upon all member States of the Commission to participate in the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Recalling further* that the development of a regional digital market could generate opportunities for innovation, jobs and growth, while stimulating investment, productivity and competitiveness,

*Aware* of the important role the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean has played in promoting regional cooperation and integration in digital matters, while facilitating dialogue, experience-sharing, research, capacity-building and measurement,

*Recognizing* that the democratization of access to digital technologies is instrumental to the realization of the universal right to information and knowledge,

*Recognizing also* the work and commitment of the follow-up mechanism for the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean which, since its formal establishment in 2008, has made significant contributions to the process, bringing to bear the vision of civil society, the private sector, the technical community and international agencies, making it necessary to continue the process of including multi-stakeholders and ensure their participation both in the Presiding Officers and the working groups and in the processes of the ministerial conferences,

*Recognizing further* that resilient infrastructure, particularly the deployment of broadband and the technologies necessary for Internet development, still forms the basis for digitization and innovation,

*Recognizing also* that firms' adoption of digital technologies and the promotion of entrepreneurship ecosystems enable the development of new processes, products and business models, with positive impacts in terms of promoting structural and technological change,

*Recognizing further* that digital technologies help to provide transparency by facilitating access to public information, combating corruption, and supporting citizen surveillance and accountability,

*Observing* that expectations and social demands require more transparent, accessible and innovative policies on digital government that promote value creation for citizens and businesses,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen policies on culture, inclusion, development and the measurement of digital skills in order to ensure that the opportunities presented by digital technologies may be enjoyed by society as a whole,

*Recognizing also* the need to promote digital policies that leverage emerging technologies and the technological revolution under way to enhance the impact of these policies on the economy and well-being,

*Recognizing further* the importance of promoting a regional digital market strategy to benefit Latin American and Caribbean digital integration and expand the digital economy, drawing on the cultural and linguistic similarities in the region,

*Reaffirming* the importance of promoting governance of the information society to strengthen a global culture of trust in the Internet by fostering cybersecurity, harmonization and regulatory and institutional coherence, and a comprehensive gender perspective in digital policies,

*Repudiating* the unauthorized collection and improper and/or unauthorized use of persona data by any public or private entity, and fostering suitable mechanisms for ensuring the transparent treatment of personal data,

*Agreeing to strengthen* mechanisms of regional cooperation to provide the highest standards of information security and personal data protection where those data are managed by third parties, and recognizing the importance of mechanisms to strengthen access to public information and efforts to combat corruption,

*We resolve to*

1. *Adopt* the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020);
2. *Endorse* the composition of the Presiding Officers as follows: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay;
3. *Foster* the digital ecosystem and the potential of the Internet to promote the sustainable development of the region by driving the digital economy, pursuing stakeholder engagement in an Internet governance that protects privacy, promoting access to public information, fostering information security, promoting a culture of trust in the use of digital media, and actively combating cybercrime, among other activities, and promoting the legal certainty that private sector users and governments require;
4. *Reiterate* the rejection expressed by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Montevideo Declaration of 2013, of any attempt to appropriate, without the consent of the respective countries of the region, geographical denominations in any language, generic top-level domain (gTLD) names referring to geographical areas, country names or historical, cultural or natural features, two- or three-letter country codes, or denominations of origin, which should be preserved as part of the heritage and cultural identity of the countries of the region, and urge the governments of the region to participate actively in multisectoral forums established for these purposes;
5. *Recognize* the work of other regional and international bodies and agencies in the area of policies on digital technologies and invite them to play an active part in the implementation of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020), fostering coordination of efforts;
6. *Commend* Mexico on the leadership shown during its term as Chair of the follow-up mechanism for the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean and on its role in the analysis of the advisability and feasibility of moving towards a regional digital market, in follow-up to the agreements contained in the Mexico City Declaration;
7. *Acknowledge* the work carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its role as technical secretariat of Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean and the vital importance of those efforts for the continuity of the process;
8. *Thank* the people and the Government of Colombia for the outstanding organization of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean;
9. *Also thank* the Government of Ecuador for its kind offer to host the Preparatory Meeting for the Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2019;
10. *Further thank* the Government of Brazil for its kind offer to provide continuity to the process of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean by hosting the Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020.