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Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information
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DIGITAL AGENDA FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (eLAC2020)



A. BACKGROUND

1. In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.¹ The Agenda notes that we are facing a time of immense opportunity and that the spread of information and communications technology (ICTs) and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies. It also recognizes the importance of reinvigorating partnerships between governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors in mobilizing the resources available for the implementation of the new Agenda and its Goals.

2. In December 2015, in the framework of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly 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 Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action and its action lines, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and recognized 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 2015.² The international community also invited the regional commissions to continue their work in the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines and their contribution to the reviews thereof, including through regional reviews.

3. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered 15 years ago at the Regional Preparatory Ministerial Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Summit on the Information Society, held at Bávaro (Dominican Republic) in 2003, with the collaboration of ECLAC, launched a process of political dialogue that led to the adoption of the Plan of Action on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2007) in 2005 in Rio de Janeiro; the Plan of Action eLAC 2010, in 2008 in San Salvador; the Plan of Action eLAC2015, in 2010 in Lima; the Plan of work 2013-2015 for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the information and knowledge society in Latin America, adopted in Montevideo in 2013, and the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2018) adopted in Mexico City in 2015.

4. In the Mexico City Declaration, adopted at the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, the countries approved the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018) and agreed to hold the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in Colombia in 2018, in order to give continuity to this forum for cooperation, renew their commitment to a vision beyond 2018 and incorporate the emerging challenges of the digital revolution and its impact on public policy and sustainable development into the debate.

5. During the Preparatory meeting for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago from 7 to 9 August 2017, the participating countries agreed on a preliminary version of the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020).

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015.

² General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015.

6. The Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) is intended to be a tool for catalysing the regional cooperation efforts on digital matters. The following is the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020), which includes 7 areas of action and 30 goals.

B. AREAS OF ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

1. Digital infrastructure

- Goal 1:** Foster the development and implementation of broadband plans with concrete and measurable targets for the deployment of high-capacity networks, the efficient management of the spectrum for achieving mass access to communications services for the benefit of citizens, and promotion of the investment needed to provide these services under affordable and good-quality conditions, with particular emphasis on remote, rural and semi-urban areas, as well as other underserved areas.
- Goal 2:** Promote policies and incentives for the deployment and operation of infrastructure and technologies needed for the development of the Internet, especially Internet exchange points (IXPs) and IPv6 protocols.
- Goal 3:** Promote the use of protocols and digital technologies and the deployment of resilient infrastructure that support impact prevention, mitigation and rapid recovery in the case of disasters and in relation to the effects of climate change.

2. Digital transformation and the digital economy

- Goal 4:** Encourage the use of digital technologies in businesses, with a special focus on MSMEs and promote digital transformation in different aspects of the economy.
- Goal 5:** Promote regional entrepreneurship ecosystems and public and private action aimed at promoting data-based innovation and accelerating technology-based enterprises.
- Goal 6:** Promote the development of venture capital funds at the regional level, with the support of traditional and non-traditional financial institutions, in order to offer resources to technology-based enterprises.
- Goal 7:** Promote telework in the countries of the region through the sharing of good practices, the development and/or strengthening of regulatory frameworks, the development of digital skills and their monitoring and evaluation.

3. Regional digital market

- Goal 8:** Promote a regional digital market strategy to increase trade, expand the digital economy and strengthen the competitiveness of Latin America and the Caribbean, through incentives, regulatory coherence, integration of digital infrastructure, the development of digital platforms of goods, services and content, and cross-border data flows.
- Goal 9:** Foster measures for regional trade facilitation through the use of digital technologies, institutional coordination and interoperability among different national foreign trade systems.

4. Digital government

- Goal 10:** Establish and promote digital services standards that facilitate and expedite government services and support multiaccess channels, favouring interoperability for digital services in the region, through the development of infrastructure, platforms, architectures, standards and integrated systems.
- Goal 11:** Promote the use of reusable components and open solutions in digital government for the design of public services.
- Goal 12:** Foster the adoption of a regional strategy of standards for digital identity management and interoperability, advanced electronic signature, e-apostille and electronic medical records that support innovations in the public and private sectors, preserving information privacy and strengthening security and trust in online transactions.
- Goal 13:** Promote open government initiatives through the use of digital platforms to facilitate data openness and reuse, collaboration, citizen participation, social innovation, public transparency and accountability.
- Goal 14:** Promote the use of digital systems for government procurement, contracting for services and public works to ensure transparency, citizen surveillance and effective accountability.

5. Culture, inclusion and digital skills

- Goal 15:** Promote the development and incorporation of digital skills and computational thinking in teaching and learning by updating curricular content in line with the capacities that will be demanded by the activities of the future.
- Goal 16:** Strengthen advanced digital, technical and professional skills, in addition to providing incentives for companies and governments to train workers continuously and improve productivity and efficiency.
- Goal 17:** Promote the production, supply and use of digital contents, goods and services as a necessary condition for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons in the information society, especially for the purposes of work, education, access to justice and public services, and smart cities.

Goal 18: Massively expand access to digital services and content production and supply with a view to achieving universal access, ensuring the inclusion of the entire population and stimulating content production, supply and use in indigenous and native languages.

Goal 19: Promote a digital culture that gives citizens incentives to build up digital skills and competencies to make innovative, safe and responsible use of ICTs, with a view to a peaceful online coexistence.

6. Emerging technologies for sustainable development

Goal 20: Promote the design of public policies supported by evidence-based innovation and aligned with national and regional priorities.

Goal 21: Promote the convergent use of different types of emerging technologies in the formulation and implementation of public policies and the design of digital services.

Goal 22: Promote digital financial services as a priority for developing inclusive financial systems, through innovation, an enabling regulatory framework, the strengthening of digital skills, responsible financial management, security and the strengthening of identification systems.

7. Governance for the information society

Goal 23: Promote an integrated gender equality perspective in public policies on digital development, ensuring full ICT access and use for women and girls, and advancing their participation and leadership in public and private decision-making spaces.

Goal 24: Prevent and combat cybercrime through digital security strategies and public policies, the establishment and/or development of legislation and regulatory frameworks, capacity-building, and local, regional and international coordination between computer security incident response teams.

Goal 25: Promote the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries in Internet governance processes, strengthening regional mechanisms, strengthening capacities and fostering synergies, and encouraging the development of forums for dialogue and multi-stakeholder national mechanisms.

Goal 26: Strengthen the institutional structure of the entities responsible for designing, implementing, following up and giving continuity to public policies for digital transformation and national digital agendas, and foster the coordination and participation of different stakeholders in the development of these policies.

Goal 27: Promote normative coherence and regional coordination for policy effectiveness by adopting open standards and technological neutrality, and the participation and co-responsibility of different actors in the digital ecosystem.

- Goal 28:** Coordinate actions aimed at guaranteeing privacy and personal data protection, the protection of consumers online, access to public information and freedom of expression in the digital environment, avoiding improper and unauthorized use of data and strengthening mechanisms of collaboration between the competent authorities in the region.
- Goal 29:** Improve the measurement of digital transformation and the digital economy by strengthening data collection for official statistics, including by using advanced technologies and by strengthening and harmonizing common frameworks of indicators and monitoring them through information society observatories.
- Goal 30:** Strengthen regional cooperation as an essential mechanism for tapping the opportunities and tackling the challenges of the region with regard to the information society.

C. PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

7. The Presiding Officers will have a mandate to prepare a proposal for a programme of regional cooperation activities on the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2018-2020, with the aim of helping to achieve the goals set out in the digital agenda and developing cooperation activities. This proposal, including its detailed description, timeframes and parties responsible, will be prepared within three months of the adoption of the digital agenda.