



Agenda and Concept Note: Policy Dialogue on Connectivity and Inclusion

1. Context

The launch of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance presents significant opportunities to strengthen cooperation between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, and to share the commitment to a human-centric vision of the digital economy and society.

During the EU-LAC Digital Alliance conference held in Cartagena de Indias from November 27 to 29, 2023, emerging opportunities for EU-LAC cooperation in the digital field were identified. Agreements were made to continue the discussion at high and technical level under the framework of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance.

The bi-regional high level policy dialogue provides a platform for governments to learn from the valuable experience and good practices in both regions. The alignment of shared values between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean can facilitate convergence to effectively address these common challenges.

2. Objectives of the policy dialogue

The proposed main objective of the high-level policy dialogue is to build on the LAC and EU collaboration experience and promote and discuss bi-regional activities on secure and meaningful connectivity.

The dialogue will allow to:

- Exchange experiences, highlight LAC and EU good practices and promote convergence on the focus areas identified in Cartagena (i.e. on Secure Connectivity, Infrastructure Investment, Last-mile cross-border Connectivity and Meaningful Connectivity).
- Work towards a common understanding of joint priorities and a roadmap for future actions within the framework of the Digital Alliance and the EU-CELAC Summit.
- Agree on concrete activities and deliverables towards the EU-CELAC Summit, i. e. development of joint definitions and frameworks in the context of secure and resilient connectivity models, secure 5G, last-mile connectivity and digital infrastructure investment.

The discussions will help to co-develop a concrete agenda and roadmap for bi-regional cooperation between the EU and LAC as well as positioning first joint activities and technical results in the policy and collaboration areas outlined above.

High-Level Outcomes:

- Launch of the EU-LAC Community of Practice (CoP) to develop a LAC Connectivity Toolbox (inspired by EU Good Practices, the Connectivity and 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox)
- Launch of EU-LAC female digital policy-practitioners network (EU & co-leads to propose draft action plan for network & countries to express interest)

3. Format

The draft agenda for the EU-CELAC Digital Alliance policy dialogue on “Connectivity and Inclusion” proposes a structured approach centred on four thematic sessions:

- Cross-border connectivity
- Secure and Resilient Connectivity
- Connectivity Infrastructure Investment
- Meaningful Connectivity and Inclusion

The dialogue will host a combination of panels, roundtables, and expert policy briefs. Panels will provide a platform for diverse perspectives on critical issues, fostering dynamic exchanges among experts and stakeholders. Roundtables will facilitate in-depth discussions, allowing participants to collaboratively explore specific challenges and opportunities in a more intimate setting. Expert policy briefs will offer detailed insights and analyses on key topics, guiding the discussions toward actionable outcomes.

Participants from both regions, including EU Member States, LAC Member States (EU-LAC Digital Alliance MS), CEPAL, and other key stakeholders, will be actively engaged in the design and implementation of the sessions (*indicative high-level leads and key stakeholders below*). Jointly with the participants, they will present and explore key bi-regional collaboration opportunities, share national and regional experiences, and engage in discussions aimed at agreeing on concrete deliverables and working modalities in preparation for the 2025 EU-CELAC Summit.

The dialogue will take place over one and a half days (5th to 6th November).

4. Agenda

EU-LAC Digital Alliance High-level Policy Dialogue on Connectivity CEPAL headquarters (Raúl Prebisch Room)		
5 th of November 2024	Time	Session
Day 1: High-level Policy Dialogue on Connectivity	08:15-09:00	Arrival of participants and badge collection
	09:00-09:30	Inauguration of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance Dialogues <i>Inauguration remarks:</i> Aisén Etcheverry Escudero , Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation, Chile. Juan Carlos Muñoz Abogabir , Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, Chile. Javier Medina Vásquez , Deputy Executive Secretary, ECLAC. Félix Fernández-Shaw , Director for Latin America, the Caribbean and relations with all Overseas Countries and Territories, DG INTPA, European Commission. Claudia Gintersdorfer , EU Ambassador to Chile.
	09:30-09:45	Group photo
	09:45-10:00	Welcome <i>Opening remarks:</i> Ulises Canchola Gutiérrez , Special Envoy for Emerging Technologies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, México.



		Sebastián Rovira , Head of Digital Technologies and Innovation Unit, ECLAC.
	10:00-11:00	Cross-Border Connectivity <i>Chairs:</i> Juliano Stanzani , Director of Telecommunications Sector Policy, Ministry of Communications, Brazil. Gabriele Bertolli , Deputy Head of Unit for Policy Outreach and International Affairs, DG CNECT, European Commission.
	<i>11:00-11:30</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
	11:30-13:30	Secure and Resilient Connectivity <i>Chairs:</i> Gabriele Bertolli , Deputy Head of Unit for Policy Outreach and International Affairs, DG CNECT, European Commission. Roy Eriksson , Ambassador for Global Gateway, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland. Susana Cruz Soriano , Director Secretary of Infrastructure, Communications and Transport, Mexico. Claudio Araya San Martín , Subsecretary of Telecommunications, Chile.
	<i>13:30-14:30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
	14:30-16:30	Connectivity Infrastructure Investment <i>Chairs:</i> Gabriele Bertolli , Deputy Head of Unit for Policy Outreach and International Affairs, DG CNECT, European Commission. Roy Eriksson , Ambassador for Global Gateway, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland. Eng. Doris Jaime , Director, Innovation Secretariat, El Salvador.
	<i>16:30-17:00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
	17:00-17:30	Wrap-up session: summary of the discussions, overview of next steps <i>Chairs:</i> Ulises Canchola Gutiérrez , Special Envoy for Emerging Technologies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico. Gabriele Bertolli , Deputy Head of Unit for Policy Outreach and International Affairs, DG CNECT, European Commission. Sebastián Rovira , Head of Innovation and New Technologies Unit, ECLAC.
6th of November 2024	Time	Session
Day 2: High-level Policy Dialogue on Connectivity	09:00-09:15	Welcome
	09:15-11:00	Meaningful Connectivity for Economic Inclusion



		<p><i>Chairs:</i></p> <p>Vicenta Macías, Vice Minister of Telecommunications and the Information Society, Ecuador. Susanne Fries-Gaier, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Chile. Claudio Araya San Martín, Subsecretary of Telecommunications, Chile. Fernando Rojas, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovation and New Technologies Unit, ECLAC. Gracia Golob, Programme Manager EU-LAC Digital Alliance, DG INTPA, European Commission.</p>
	11:00-11:30	Coffee break
	11:30-13:00	<p>Closing session of the dialogue</p> <p><i>Closing remarks:</i></p> <p>Vicenta Macías, Vice Minister of Telecommunications and the Information Society, Ecuador. Sebastián Rovira, Head of Digital Technologies and Innovation Unit, ECLAC. Claudio Araya San Martín, Subsecretary of Telecommunications, Chile. Gracia Golob, Programme Manager EU-LAC Digital Alliance, DG INTPA, European Commission.</p>
	13:00-14:00	Lunch
Day 2: Stocktaking Session EU- LAC Digital Alliance	14:00-15:30	Taking stock of one year of cooperation of the Digital Alliance between Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe following the Cartagena Conclusions
	15:30-16:00	Coffee break
	16:00-17:00	Panel “Transparency and accountability frameworks for online platforms to address societal risks online, including risks for minors and electoral integrity”
	17:00-18:00	Closing session: Political perspectives for the next CELAC-EU Summit
19:00-21:00: Cocktail for all dialogue participants hosted by the Embassy of Germany to Chile		

