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**REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE,
INNOVATION AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
TECHNOLOGIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

San José, 12-13 September 2016

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Place and date of the meeting

1. The second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), convened by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC pursuant to resolution 710(XXXVI), was held in San José on 12 and 13 September 2016.

Attendance¹

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following member States of ECLAC: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, the United States of America and Uruguay.

3. A representative of Curaçao, an associate member of ECLAC, also attended.

4. Representatives of the following United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies also attended: the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

5. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations participated: the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the European Commission, the EU-LAC Foundation, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

6. Representatives of cooperation agencies, programmes, non-governmental organizations and private-sector bodies, whose names appear in the list of participants, also participated as observers.

Organization of the meeting

7. At the second session of the Conference, a discussion on opportunities for cooperation on innovation and development of the digital ecosystem in Latin America and the Caribbean, and a seminar on innovation in a digital world, which consisted of an opening presentation and four panel discussions, were held.

¹ See annex 2.

Election of the Executive Committee and adoption of the agenda and organization of work
(agenda items 1 and 2)

8. The following members were elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC:

Chair: Costa Rica

Vice-Chairs: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Curaçao, Ecuador, Mexico and Nicaragua

9. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of the Executive Committee.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Seminar on the theme “Innovation in a digital world”.
4. Presentation of the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2017-2018 on science, innovation and information and communications technologies.
5. Other matters.

B. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Inaugural session

10. At the inaugural session, statements were made by Alberto Salom-Echeverría, President of the National Council of Rectors of Costa Rica (CONARE); Leon Strous, President of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP); Mario Cimoli, Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC; and Marcelo Jenkins, Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica.

11. After welcoming the participants, the President of CONARE said that information and communications technologies (ICTs) were key to ensuring better social and economic conditions in the countries of the region, and that universities had a responsibility to generate scientific knowledge that addressed sustainable development and the crises faced by humanity and the environment. While new ICTs, especially the Internet, had been used to boost consumption, they should be used for everyone’s benefit. Technology was key, but it could not produce results on its own. Lastly, he said that the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC was an opportunity to exchange experiences and promote concrete public policies.

12. The President of IFIP said that ICT-related scientific information must be shared among countries irrespective of their level of development. Developing countries faced barriers related to infrastructure, education and skills that hindered the roll-out of ICTs. To overcome those barriers, cooperation between stakeholders needed to be improved; there were several successful experiences and applications in the areas of agriculture, education and health, among others, that could be replicated in less developed countries. IFIP had brought together government, industry and ICT association representatives and academics to discuss the most recent proposals aimed at using those technologies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

13. The Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC said that the Conference had been established to promote policy dialogue on science, technology and ICTs at the highest level. He warned that the region was at a critical juncture and that social inclusion policies were not sustainable at current productivity levels. In that context, the Conference was a crucial forum for discussing the use of new technologies to drive the modernization and automation of production processes. Those new trends presented an opportunity that should be seized by the region in the coming years. In order to carry out the necessary industrial changes, policymakers would have to show leadership and cooperation, as would the private sector, including telecommunications and Internet companies, because those technological changes presented a number of labour-related challenges. He added that the region should not waste any more time and should participate actively in new production cycles.

14. The Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica said that academics must be actively involved in public policy deliberations, and that the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC should be organized in conjunction with the World Information Technology Forum (WITFOR). The Forum was an excellent space for promoting academic exchange among countries. Moreover, noting that the fourth technological revolution was gaining momentum and would not stop, he said that policies should focus on promoting public and private investment in new technologies. The spread of technologies such as the Internet, a tool that was used daily by 65% of the population of Costa Rica, should be embraced.

Opening session

15. Welcoming remarks were made by Mario Cimoli, Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC; Christian Nicolai, Executive Director of the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research of Chile (CONICYT); and Marcelo Jenkins, Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica.

16. The Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC said that trade flows in Latin America and the Caribbean were precarious, with science, technology and innovation central to boosting economic growth, which would improve social conditions in the medium term. The next technological and economic cycle would be different and would include global platforms, network economies, robotization and advanced manufacturing. A leap would have to be made and new technologies would have to be used more proactively in production, rather than just on the demand side. Lastly science, technology and innovation issues should be addressed as a matter of urgency, as greater equality would not be achieved without production diversification.

17. The Executive Director of CONICYT said that, despite the diverse problems facing Latin America and the Caribbean, countries were clearly willing to collaborate and cooperate. Public policies on science, technology and innovation were needed to promote economic and productive development in the region. His country was implementing various programmes aimed at improving the application of new technologies in key sectors of the economy and industry. Lastly, he expressed gratitude for the confidence shown in the Government of Chile during its term as Chair of the Conference and reaffirmed its commitment to continue supporting dialogue in those areas.

18. The Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica said that science, technology and innovation activities and the relevant regional collaboration mechanisms must be stepped up as a matter of urgency, addressing the challenges and opportunities of the new digital revolution. In order to promote such policies, it was necessary to think globally but act locally. The main challenge was strengthening the digital ecosystem at the national level, and in that regard, Costa Rica was promoting basic, universal access to telecommunications and broadband services. While tomorrow could only be imagined, it was vital to start building it today.

19. The discussion on opportunities for cooperation on innovation and development of the digital ecosystem in Latin America and the Caribbean was then held, in which the participants were Leonel Fernández, President of the EU-LAC Foundation and former President of the Dominican Republic; Fernando Comerón, representative of ESO in Chile; Annalisa Primi, Head of the Structural Policies and Innovation Unit of the OECD Development Centre; Pilar Álvarez Laso, Director of the UNESCO Cluster Office for Central America and Mexico; Luis Cuervo, Representative for Latin America of the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) of the European Commission; and Svenja Paulino Rodríguez, Director of the Development Programme of Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

20. In his keynote speech, the President of the EU-LAC Foundation and former President of the Dominican Republic said that Latin America had experienced a golden decade, but that cycle had now ended. He outlined policies for changing production patterns that would ensure sustainable economic growth and allow economies to move towards a knowledge-based industrial model, and identified the region's shortcomings in terms of innovation, particularly investment in research and development and patent registration. He examined existing cooperation in science, technology and innovation at the regional, bilateral, multilateral and Ibero-American levels. Lastly, he said that the future of innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean was to be found in sectors such as the automotive industry, biotechnology, the Internet of Things, robotics and renewable energies, among others.

21. During the discussion, the importance of fostering cooperation in digital innovation was examined. Such cooperation should consider the changing global context and new trends that feature the Internet of Things, big data, automation, robotization and digital platforms. Moreover, industrial modernization processes were being concentrated in certain sectors and countries, and challenges were linked to a reconfiguration of the labour market and a possible concentration of income. In that context, the participants said that information technology infrastructure, skills and human resources should be improved, investment in research and development promoted, and partnerships created within the region and with other regions.

Seminar on the theme “Innovation in a digital world” (agenda item 3)

22. The opening presentation and round table on the digital revolution, innovation and the global context were led by Robert Atkinson, President of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF).

23. The President of ITIF began his presentation by stating that the main challenge facing Latin America and the Caribbean was boosting productivity, which was essential to increasing salaries and the employment rate and closely related to the use of technologies, especially ICTs. More than 90% of the benefits of those technologies were related to their use by companies and organizations, but one of their biggest advantages was that they empowered citizens. The region must design its own digital development model, in addition to fostering a more integrated market that would allow companies to generate economies of scale. As for the role of government, he said that it should become a force for digital innovation and that all government departments should have a digital innovation plan.

24. Panel 1, on “The disruption of the industrial Internet: challenges for science and innovation”, was moderated by Mario Castillo, Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC. After a presentation by Steffen Wischmann, a consultant in the Innovation and Society Department of the German firm, VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik, the following panellists took the floor: Benedicto Fonseca Filho, Ambassador and Director of the Department of Scientific and Technological Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil; José Antonio Lazcano, Deputy Director of Technology Development of the National Council for Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT); Miguel Ángel Blesa, Secretary for Planning and Policies of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation of Argentina; Christian Nicolai, Executive Director of CONICYT; Andrés Maz, Executive Director of Advanced Technology Policy of CISCO; and Sebastián Nader, Manager for the Creative Economy of the Secretariat of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Ecuador.

25. In his presentation, the consultant from the German firm VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik described elements of Germany’s Industry 4.0 strategy. He began by outlining the phases of the industrial revolution since the 1800s to the present day, and described the context of the strategy, the main objective of which was to strengthen the ability of German companies to develop innovative solutions. He then identified characteristics of the German industrial sector and its importance for the economy, noting that the possible economic effects of the Industry 4.0 trends could reach 153 billion euros by 2020. The strategy, which was launched in Germany in 2006 and updated every four years, included the following policy measures: establish networks; build research and development investment portfolios; nurture entrepreneurship; strengthen education and training; and foster international cooperation.

26. In the presentations that followed, the panellists highlighted the importance of science, technology and innovation for the development of the countries of the region. They agreed that regional and international cooperation was needed to promote the new technological paradigm, by fostering scientific exchange with more developed countries. In addition, a culture of innovation, which covered the use of ICTs in the production sector, must be created within the region and the gender equality gap closed. The panellists also described strategies that were being implemented in that regard in their respective countries, agreeing on the importance of advancing human capital development, public-private cooperation, infrastructure development and sustainable science, technology and innovation plans in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

27. Panel 2, on “The on-demand economy: digital innovation and SMEs”, was moderated by Luis Cuervo, Representative for Latin America of the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission. Mario Cimoli, Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC gave a presentation, followed by a debate in which the participants were: Claudio Maggi, Competitive Development Manager of the Chilean Economic Development Agency (CORFO); Ricardo Pompa, Advisors Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy of Mexico; Carlos Pallotti, Undersecretary for Technology and Production Services of the Ministry of Production of Argentina; Gonzalo Navarro, Executive Director of the Latin American Internet Association (ALAI); and Tomás O’Farrell, founding partner of Workana.

28. In his presentation, the Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC explained that the impact of digitalization was achieved by creating digital goods and services, and value was added by digitizing non-digital goods and services and by developing production, exchange and consumption platforms. The value of digital platforms in the world was concentrated in the United States and Asia, while Latin America and the Caribbean consumed significantly, but produced little in the digital economy. To hasten the digitization of the economy, connectivity and infrastructure in the region must be improved, ITCs must be integrated into the production of digital and non-digital goods and services, innovative new business models must be created and capacity-building must be promoted.

29. The panellists said that the on-demand economy was taking the region by surprise and that policy responses had been erratic, largely determined by cyclical pressures. The digitalization of SMEs was an excellent opportunity, but it would depend on the extent to which those enterprises participated actively in the creation and management of digital applications. The panellists also discussed the need to leverage new technologies in order to tackle stagnating productivity in the region. Furthermore, the change in the consumption model must be examined in order to make adjustments to and standardize consumer protection and safety regulations and oversight. The new challenges of the on-demand economy required close collaboration between the competent authorities and the private sector. Lastly, it was noted that at the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in August 2015, 19 countries had adopted the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018), one of the pillars of which was the development of the digital economy.

30. Panel 3, on infrastructure for hyperconnectivity, was moderated by Catalina Achermann, ICT specialist of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC. After a presentation by Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the following participants took the floor: Edwin Estrada Hernández, Vice-Minister for Telecommunications of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica; Anthoni Camilo Torres, Vice-Minister for the Development of Technologies of the Ministry of the People’s Power for Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Blanca Coto, Superintendent-General of Electricity and Telecommunications of El Salvador; José Juan Haro, Director for Public Policy and Wholesale Business for Latin America of Telefónica; Ezequiel Domínguez, Head of Europe and Americas at Cullen International; and José Luis Ayala, Head of Government and Industry Relations for Latin America at Ericsson.

31. In his presentation, the Deputy Secretary-General of ITU described some of the activities that ITU was carrying out to promote national broadband plans. He said that those plans were high-level statements of policy that represented a strategy, often coordinated with industry, on different stakeholders’ roles in and responsibilities for facilitating the roll-out of these technologies. A recent ITU report found that the adoption of such plans was associated with higher fixed (2.5%) and mobile (7.4%) broadband penetration. Those strategies were increasingly common in countries and covered different

areas, which, in addition to infrastructure, included education, citizen participation, employment and health. He highlighted five policy measures that would make a difference in that regard: public investment in the Internet backbone; investment in access networks; the regulatory framework for infrastructure sharing; subsidies offered for demand; and the regulatory framework facilitating the switch to fibre-optic cables.

32. The panellists said that it was important to create the necessary conditions for promoting investment in the region for the roll-out of 3G and 4G mobile telephony. In that connection, models that promoted investment in public-private partnership should be identified. They also said that national broadband plans helped to increase connectivity in the region and noted the progress that had been made in bridging the digital divide. They drew attention to the efforts made at the regional level to promote the creation of a regional digital market, based on the European Commission's strategy for a digital single market. Reducing barriers and harmonizing regulation criteria, spectrum allocation and data roaming were some of the other issues raised. Lastly, they called on governments to encourage the roll-out of 5G technology, which would allow more devices to be connected and access to services and applications to be expanded.

33. Panel 4, on competition and collaboration for leading digital transformation and innovation, was moderated by Paulina Abramovich, Editorial Chief of the Santiago Office of Agence France-Presse, and the panellists were Natalia Piergentili, Undersecretary of Economy and Small Enterprise of Chile; Natalia Iregui, Vice-President for Legal Affairs and Institutional Relations of DIRECTV Colombia; Pablo Bello, Executive Director of the Inter-American Association of Telecommunication Enterprises (ASIET); Pedro Less, Director of Public Policies and Government Affairs for Latin America at Google; Víctor Manuel García, Head of the Regulation and Wholesale Business Office of Claro in Costa Rica; and Luis Fernando Velázquez, Regional Information Manager at Huawei.

34. The panellists agreed that digital technologies were transforming the world on the basis of disruptive innovations that affected the entire economy and production activities, reconfiguring value chains and business models in sectors such as manufacturing, transport, health, entertainment, finance and the public sector. Those innovations, driven by growing demand for products and services interconnected through the Internet, required improvements in connectivity and infrastructure, and the definition of standards and protocols. Similarly, human capital and an appropriate regulatory environment were essential to promoting investment and entrepreneurship in new technologies. Other key elements that underpinned the digital economy were public-private cooperation and industrial policy.

35. Moreover, the panellists said that to promote digitalization, the main barriers to its expansion in the region must be identified. To that end, the feasibility of establishing an integrated digital market in Latin America and maximizing the region's competitive advantages, such as its common language, should be examined. Likewise, consideration should be given to the remaining digital divide, as only one out of two persons in the region was an Internet user. In order to catch up with developed countries in terms of connectivity, investment in telecommunications services should be increased considerably. Overall, States should facilitate access to services, protect consumers and introduce harmonized and compatible regulations throughout the region.

36. Lastly, a round table was held on innovation in a digital world, in which Marcelo Jenkins, Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, and Mario Cimoli, Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of the ECLAC, participated.

37. The Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of the ECLAC said that, given the recessionary bias faced by the region, it was uncertain whether the gains made with regard to poverty and equality could be maintained. In that context, he said that it would be a mistake to wait for the prices of raw materials in the region to increase and that new digital technologies should be applied to production processes. New business models, with no defined boundaries or sectors, should be considered, which would have implications for employment, the division of labour, taxation and regulatory models. Moreover, public policies in the countries of the region were seeking to improve productivity in a sustainable manner and the value of public-private partnerships as a matter of priority. Lastly, he said that the Conference, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of ECLAC, would submit its results through its Chair (Costa Rica) to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, a regional mechanism for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the first meeting of which would take place in Mexico City in April 2017.

38. Concluding, the Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica said that all companies and industries must adopt ITCs to increase productivity, by encouraging innovation and technological disruption. One of the greatest challenges of science and technology was to provide specific solutions to the problems of society. There was a wealth of human talent for innovation in Latin America and it should be used. Lastly, he thanked all those present for their participation in the second session of the Conference and said that over the coming years work would be undertaken on a set of initiatives to promote cooperation on that matter in the region, for which he also requested the collaboration of ECLAC, in its capacity as technical secretariat.

Presentation of the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2017-2018 on science, innovation and information and communications technologies (agenda item 4)

39. The participants at the second session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies examined and approved the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2017-2018 on science, innovation and information and communications technologies.²

² LC/L.4221(CCITIC.2/4).

Annex 1

**BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ACTIVITIES FOR 2017-2018 ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES**

BACKGROUND

1. By virtue of resolution 672(XXXIV), adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at its the thirty-fourth session, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies was established as a subsidiary body of the Commission.
2. In accordance with resolution 672(XXXIV), the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies shall elect an Executive Committee composed of a Chair and six members. As part of its functions, the Executive Committee shall prepare a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities in the field of science, innovation and information and communications technologies.
3. At the first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago on 9 and 10 June 2014, the proposed lines of action for establishing a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2015-2016 in the field of science, innovation and information and communications technologies were adopted.
4. ECLAC serves as the secretariat for the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies. The secretariat shall make available to the Conference such documents and facilities as have been approved by the Commission.

INTRODUCTION

5. The development of science, technology and innovation is essential for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, particularly through access to knowledge, the promotion of health, food security, the use of renewable energies, the mitigation of climate change and the generation of high-quality employment capable of ensuring real gains in workers' incomes.
6. This Conference responds to the need for a permanent forum for policy dialogue and technical discussions at the highest level on science, innovation and information and communications technologies (ICTs) to coordinate actions and share knowledge to boost the quality and the effectiveness of these policies, and to strengthen the role of science and technology as crucial instruments of structural reform, production diversification and modernization and competitiveness of the economies of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

7. At the first session of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, ECLAC adopted the lines of action proposed for the biennial programme of regional and international activities in the field of science, innovation and information and communications technologies, which cover four areas:

- Line of action 1: Regional cooperation on human resources training.
- Line of action 2: Forums for collaboration on technological innovation.
- Line of action 3: ICTs for science, research and innovation.
- Line of action 4: Institutional framework for regional cooperation.

8. The first line of action, regional cooperation on human resources training, aims to build capacity in science and technology and to encourage close coordination between the institutions responsible for science, technology and innovation policies and those responsible for the education system. It highlights the importance of building an education system that strengthens people's capacities, abilities and skills in technology and innovation. It also emphasizes the value of closing the gap between the needs of the production sector and the educational supply in science and technology. Lastly, it proposes the creation of regional and international cooperation programmes in tertiary education.

9. The second line of action regarding forums for collaboration on technological innovation highlights the importance of strengthening investment in science, technology and research and development (R&D) through public policies and greater private sector engagement. It underlines the need for institutions that facilitate coordination between public and private stakeholders, and emphasizes the crucial role of national innovation systems and their part in building a comprehensive vision of scientific and technological development and innovation in each country, uniting all stakeholders who, individually or collectively, can help overcome the asymmetries between the region and the advanced economies.

10. The third line of action targeting ICTs for science, research and innovation focuses on renewing ICT strategies with a multisectoral approach and seeks complementarities with the production system. It underlines the importance of supporting the roll-out of broadband and advanced networks for education and research. It promotes the development of policies to provide financial assistance for advanced networks and to guarantee their sustainability over time, and also encourages integration of research communities at the regional level and their participation in research around the world. Finally, it highlights the importance of new Internet-based technologies, particularly in new industrial cycles that make use of advanced manufacturing and big data analysis.

11. The fourth line of action, the institutional framework for regional cooperation, stresses the need to address institutional challenges in science, technology and innovation, particularly in relation to political leadership, strategic planning, governance models, R&D investment, linkages between sectors, public-private partnerships and policy monitoring and evaluation. It also aims to actively encourage coordination between the different regional cooperation forums to avoid overlap and to focus resources on common priorities. Lastly, it encourages coordinated participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries in the global discussions in this area.

12. Given the scope and complexity of the challenges outlined in the recommendations of the document on the proposed lines of action for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities in science, innovation and information and communications technologies, it was suggested that the Conference programme comprise a group of priority goals and limited activities, with a view to avoiding the dispersal of efforts and to encouraging integration with other forums and existing regional bodies.

13. The following table outlines the draft biennial programme of activities for the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, which will serve as a guide for the 2017-2018 period. The programme's three strategic goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Promote training for regional and international cooperation programmes to build capacity in science and technology.

Goal 2: Encourage experience-sharing and knowledge-building in policymaking on science, technology and innovation, including ICTs.

Goal 3: Facilitate coordination and cooperation between member States of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC.

**DRAFT BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ACTIVITIES FOR 2017-2018 ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES**

Strategic and specific programme goals	Activities proposed for 2017-2018	Executed by
Goal 1: Promote training for regional and international cooperation programmes to build capacity in science and technology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Drive the development of new policies in human resources training (at the technical and university levels) for digital innovation. – Encourage public-private partnerships to move forward in the review of academic programmes related to technology and engineering. – Facilitate regional dialogue on best practices in professional training. 	ECLAC-participating countries
Goal 2: Encourage experience-sharing and knowledge-building in policymaking on science, technology and innovation, including ICTs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review and formulate recommendations on institutional strategies to address innovation challenges in the context of the industrial Internet. – Identify best practices in innovative entrepreneurship in the digital economy (creation of venture capital funds, seed capital funds, tax incentives and entrepreneurship programmes) – Encourage public-private dialogue between the region's institutions to foster greater private sector commitment to digital innovation. 	ECLAC-participating countries
Goal 3: Facilitate coordination and cooperation between member States of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of ECLAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify regional cooperation priorities in science, innovation and information and communications technologies (ICTs) in line with the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018) and the initiative to create a regional digital market. – Promote the development of financing mechanisms for regional projects in strategic areas of science, innovation and ICTs. – Encourage stronger political and technical ties between institutions that promote policies and instruments supporting science, technology and innovation in the countries of the region, and between these countries and other countries and regions. 	ECLAC-participating countries

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
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