Second session
of the Conference
on Science, Innovation
and ICTs of ECLAC

Distr.
LIMITED

LC/L.4221(CCITIC.2/4)
8 September 2016

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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

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

2016-00935

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 Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 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.	– 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.	– 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.	– 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). – 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