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

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

**PROPOSED DIGITAL AGENDA FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN (eLAC2020)**

UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

ECLAC

FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT WITH EQUALITY

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 first version of the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2007) was adopted in 2005 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), in the framework of the Regional Preparatory Ministerial Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society. This plan represented a regional vision and a political commitment to reduce the digital divide and promote access to and use of ICTs as development tools. This process continued with the eLAC2010 and eLAC2015 plans, adopted at the second and Third ministerial conferences, held in San Salvador in 2008 and Lima in 2010, respectively. In 2013, the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean convened in Montevideo, where eLAC2015 was reaffirmed and a work plan was agreed upon with specific actions for 2013-2015.

4.   The Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean was held from 5 to 7 August 2015 in Mexico City, convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), by virtue of resolution 691(XXXV) and in follow-up to the Declaration of Montevideo.

5.   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.

---

[1]   General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015.
[2]   General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015.

6.   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).

7.   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 proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020), which includes 7 areas of action, 26 objectives and a programme of regional cooperation activities for the period 2018–2020.

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, in addition to promoting the efficient management of the spectrum to drive the investment needed to provide good-quality, affordable services, taking into consideration 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.

2. Transformation and the digital economy

Goal 3:   Encourage the use of digital technologies in businesses, with a special focus on MSMEs.

Goal 4:   Promote regional entrepreneurship ecosystems and public and private action aimed at promoting data-based innovation and accelerating technology-based enterprises.

Goal 5:   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 6:   Improve the measurement of the digital economy through a combination of official statistics, the use of big data analytics and the promotion of information society observatories at the regional level.

Goal 7:   Promote telework in the countries of the region through the sharing of good practices, the strengthening of regulatory frameworks, the development of digital skills and their monitoring and evaluation.

3. Digital government

Goal 8: Establish and promote digital services standards that facilitate and expedite government services and support multiaccess channels, favouring interoperablility for public and private digital services in the region, through the development of infrastructure, platforms, architectures, standards and integrated systems.

Goal 9: Promote the use of reusable components and open solutions in digital government for the design of public services.

Goal 10: Foster the adoption of a regional strategy of standards for digital identity management and advanced electronic signature that support innovations in the public and private sectors and strengthen security and trust online.

Goal 11: Promote open government initiatives, through the use of digital platforms to facilitate data openness, collaboration, citizen participation, social innovation, public transparency and accountability.

4. Culture, inclusion and digital skills

Goal 12: Support the implementation of public policies aimed at the development of digital skills and computational thinking in teaching and learning in primary and secondary education, through the use and development of digital educational resources, while strengthening spatial and mathematical skills in primary education, with the clear objective of improving the inclusion of girls, young people and other underrepresented or disadvantaged groups. In addition, promote the updating of curricular content to enable students and citizens to meet the challenges of the digital economy.

Goal 13: Strengthen advanced technical and professional skills in machine learning and big data analytics, in addition to providing incentives for labour market efficiency and for companies to train workers continuously on digital matters, taking into account the inclusion of girls, young people and other underrepresented or disadvantaged groups.

Goal 14: Massively expand access to digital services and content production with a view to achieving universal access, ensuring the inclusion of specific population groups and stimulating content generation in indigenous and native languages.

Goal 15: Identify and promote a digital culture that gives citizens incentives to build up digital competencies and make innovative and responsible use of ICTs, with a view to a violence-free coexistence.

5. Emerging technologies for sustainable development

Goal 16: Promote the design of evidence-based policies through data innovation.

Goal 17: Support the convergence of different types of emerging technologies in the implementation of public policies.

Goal 18: 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.

6. Regional digital market

Goal 19: 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 harmonization, connectivity integration, the development of digital platforms of goods, services and content, and cross-border data flows.

Goal 20: Foster measures for regional trade facilitation through the use of digital technologies, institutional coordination and interoperability among different national foreign trade systems.

7. Governance for the information society

Goal 21: 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 22: Prevent and combat cybercrime through digital security strategies and policies, the establishment of legislation and regulatory frameworks, capacity-building, and local, regional and international coordination between computer security incident response teams.

Goal 23: 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 24: Promote institutional, regulatory and policymaking harmonization, based on open standards, technological neutrality and the participation of different actors in the digital ecosystem.

Goal 25: Strengthen the institutional structure of the entities responsible for designing, implementing, following up and giving continuity to digital policies, fostering the multi-stakeholder engagement model.

Goal 26: Strengthen normative coherence and the effectiveness of policies aimed at protecting privacy and personal data, consumer protection on the Internet, access to public information and freedom of expression.

C. PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

8.   The following is a proposal for a programme of regional cooperation activities on the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2018-2020. This programme is intended to help achieve the goals set out in the digital agenda and to develop cooperation activities. Particulars of the programme of activities, including their detailed description, timeframes and parties responsible, will be defined under the aegis of the Presiding Officers within three months of the adoption of the digital agenda.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE DIGITAL AGENDA FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2018–2020

Areas of action	Proposed activities	
1. Digital infrastructure	1.1	Propose a regulatory framework model for convergence and public policies for the development of digital infrastructure.
	1.2	Foster dialogue and regional cooperation for promoting policies to develop broadband infrastructure.
	1.3	Conduct a study to review the deployment of 5G services and make recommendations, especially with regard to the challenges concerning spectrum allocation and mobile broadband policies.
	1.4	Investigate viable alternatives in local and community access networks.
2. Transformation and the digital economy	2.1	Conduct studies on the digitization of production activities in the region and the design of industrial Internet policy.
	2.2	Conduct studies and foster cooperation on new methodologies for measuring the digital economy that include the use of big data analytics, as well as the digital ecosystem development index for Latin America and the Caribbean.
	2.3	Promote lines of work that support the development of the digital economy in Latin America and the Caribbean.
	2.4	Define indicators and harmonized statistics for monitoring the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020).
3. Digital government	3.1	Strengthen regional dialogue and experience-sharing on digital government, in coordination with the e-Government Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GEALC network).
4. Culture, inclusion and digital skills	4.1	Promote the preparation of studies on the design of strategies for digital skills development.
	4.2	Encourage training programmes for public officials on the digital ecosystem and policy design.
	4.3	Promote the consolidation of a regulatory framework for telework in the region through the development of methodologies to measure telework and the implementation of training programmes to strengthen digital competencies.

Areas of action	Proposed activities
5. Emerging technologies for sustainable development	5.1 Conduct studies on normative and regulatory frameworks for financial technologies (fintech) and the deployment of initiatives on protocols for recording encrypted transactions and distributed databases (blockchain).
	5.2 Review the digital platforms ecosystem and emerging opportunities for the development of new business models in the region.
	5.3 Review policy trends and experiences regarding the industrial Internet.
6. Regional digital market	6.1 Strengthen regional dialogue on the promotion of a regional digital market by organizing seminars and workshops and preparing studies.
	6.2 Promote lines of work that foster regional integration in the digital economy and e-commerce, fostering the design of policies on data transfer, content and new business models.
7. Governance for the information society	7.1 Coordinate joint activities with mechanisms for dialogue on Internet governance, in particular the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF).