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

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

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Mandate and functions

The sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean is convened in follow-up to the Mexico City Declaration,[1] adopted at the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held from 5 to 7 August 2015.

Pursuant to the Declaration and the agreements adopted by the governments, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in its capacity as technical secretariat, performs the following main functions:

- Provides technical support for the regional follow-up mechanism for the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018), specifically to the Presiding Officers and their Chair, and facilitates the organization and coordination of the working groups.

- Produces substantive studies and information, prepares newsletters and maintains the online collaboration platform.

- Provides support for the organization of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean and its preparatory meetings.

2. Objectives of the Conference

The sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean is called upon to examine progress on the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018) and agreements adopted at the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in 2015, in addition to moving ahead with cooperation commitments for 2020.

3. Organization of work

The Ministerial Conference will last for three days and will be opened by the Government of Colombia. The programme includes the election of Presiding Officers, the opening statement, six panel discussions and keynote presentations. Lastly, there will be a debate on the proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) and the draft Cartagena de Indias Declaration.

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[1] See *Report of the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Mexico City, 5-7 August 2015) (LC/L.4106).

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Opening statement and panel discussions.

4. Keynote presentations.

5. Other matters.

6. Consideration and adoption of the proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) and the draft Cartagena de Indias Declaration.

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Election of officers

The delegations will elect the Presiding Officers of the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, who will serve until new Officers are chosen at the following regional conference.

In accordance with the criteria established by the Presiding Officers, every effort will be made to ensure that the new Presiding Officers are chosen with due regard for the principles of adequate geographical distribution and rotation.

The Presiding Officers will be composed of two representatives from each of the four country groupings below, until the following ministerial conference:

Andean countries:	Chair and Vice-Chair
Southern Cone:	Vice-Chairs
Mexico and Central America:	Vice-Chairs
The Caribbean:	Vice-Chairs

The Presiding Officers may allow organizations and institutions from the private sector, the technical community, development banks and civil society to participate as observers.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Delegations will have before them the provisional agenda[2] for consideration and adoption. This draft agenda has been prepared by the secretariat in accordance with chapter II of the rules of procedure of ECLAC, bearing in mind the various mandates of the Commission. The representatives of member States may make such observations or suggest such modifications as they deem appropriate under the aforementioned rules of procedure. It is suggested that the agenda should be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation to be held on 18 April 2018.

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[2]   LC/CMSI.6/1.

3.   Opening statement and panel discussions

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC will present the document entitled *Data, algorithms and policies: redefining the digital world,* which analyses the moment of opportunity that exists today, in which the spread of digital technologies and new technological trajectories are driving a convergence between the digital and physical worlds, offering great potential to achieve a structural change and an environmental big push. This reflection build on the precepts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which draws attention to the importance of these technologies as values tools for improving the quality of education, promoting women's empowerment, driving inclusive and sustainable industry and promoting innovation.

Working document:

- Data, algorithms and policies: redefining the digital world (LC/CMSI.6/4)

Six panels discussions will then be held to examine the role of digital agendas in sustainable development, the digital economy and evidence-based innovation, emerging technologies for productivity and inclusion, culture and digital skills, the digital market and regional connectivity, and competition and regulatory challenges in the digital age. The panels will comprise representatives of the governments of the region and experts from the private sector, the technical community and civil society.

4.   Keynote presentations

Keynote presentations will be given at the Conference that will analyse the disruptive effects of digital technologies and how these affect organizations' behaviour at an unprecedented rate, touching all sectors of the economy and society, and bringing about changes in production systems, business models and governance.

5.   Other matters

Under this agenda item, delegations will consider any other issues they may wish to raise.

6.   Consideration and adoption of the proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) and the draft Cartagena de Indias Declaration

The Ministerial Conference will be asked to consider the document *Proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020)* and the draft Cartagena de Indias Declaration. It is suggested that the discussions be organized in three blocks: (i) the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020); (ii) the programme of regional cooperation activities for the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean 2018-2020; and (iii) the draft Cartagena de Indias declaration.

Working documents:

- Proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) (LC/CMSI.6/5)
- Draft Cartagena de Indias Declaration (LC/CMSI.6/6)
- Follow-up mechanism for the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) for the period 2018-2020. Note by the secretariat (LC/CMSI.6/3/Rev.1)