



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

Montevideo, 16–18 November 2022

MONTEVIDEO DECLARATION

Building together in the digital age

We, the representatives of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Montevideo, from 16 to 18 November 2022, on the occasion of the eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, by which the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

Reiterating the principles and objectives agreed at the World Summit on the Information Society, held in two phases, the first in Geneva in 2003 and the second in Tunis in 2005, to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and harness the potential of knowledge and of information and communication technology to promote sustainable development,

Considering General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015 on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, requesting that a high-level meeting be held in 2025,

Taking into account the recommendations of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make better use of the opportunities offered by digital technologies, as set out in the reports of the Secretary-General entitled *Road map for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation*¹ and *Our Common Agenda*,² the latter of which proposes holding a Summit of the Future —planned for September 2023— during which a Global Digital Compact would be agreed, with shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all.



ECLAC

¹ A/74/821.

² A/75/982.

Recalling that the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2022) was adopted by the countries of the region at the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling also resolution 761(XXXIX) adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-ninth session, held in Buenos Aires from 24 to 26 October 2022, which called upon all member States of the Commission participate in the eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Mindful of the importance that the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2022) has had in promoting cooperation and regional integration in digital matters, facilitating dialogue, sharing of experiences, research, capacity-building and measurement in the digital sphere,

Emphasizing that digital technologies have been essential for economic resilience and for mitigating the effects of movement restrictions and lockdowns during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

Recognizing that effective, affordable, quality broadband connectivity for all is a cornerstone of greater social inclusion and less inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Stressing the importance of developing the digital skills and capacities of all persons, so that they benefit from the new digital revolution and drive the economic and social transformation of Latin American and Caribbean countries,

Highlighting the need to strengthen institutional frameworks and provide resources to the entities responsible for the design, implementation, follow-up and sustainability of digital transformation policies, agendas and plans in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing that the digital economy, innovation and digital entrepreneurship are crucial components of the transformation of Latin American and Caribbean countries' development model,

Emphasizing that statistical measurement and harmonization processes must be strengthened with regard to the digital sphere, to foster evidence-based policymaking in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing the need to promote the use and appropriation of emerging technologies to harness the potential of the technological revolution and enhance its impact on the economy, society and sustainability,

Stressing the importance of promoting digital transformation of strategic sectors such as agriculture, health, manufacturing, commerce, tourism and mobility, to contribute to improved innovation, productivity and competitiveness and to reduce environmental impacts,

Recognizing the importance of pursuing regional cooperation processes and partnerships in digital matters, to inspire the fundamental principles and values of solidarity and inclusion, freedom, participation, security and sustainability in the digital transformation of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Stressing the importance of continuing to support the construction of a regional digital market in which administrative barriers and transaction costs are reduced, to encourage cross-border e-commerce and growth in the region's digital economy,

Highlighting the importance of having an up-to-date legal and regulatory framework that guarantees legal certainty, trust and the protection of people's rights in the digital environment,

Underscoring the need to promote cybersecurity to build trust in digital media through policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks that are consistent with international standards and the protection of human rights,

Resolve to

1. *Adopt* the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2024);
2. *Continue* strengthening regional cooperation activities in digital matters within the framework of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean by formulating a programme of cooperation activities for the 2022–2024 period, facilitating dialogue, sharing of experiences, knowledge management and capacity-building;
3. *Recognize* the participation and work of regional and international entities and organizations from the private sector, civil society, the technical community and development banks in the construction of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2024) and invite them to participate actively in implementation of the Conference’s agreements;
4. *Also recognize* the leadership of the Government of Ecuador as Chair of the Presiding Officers and its coordination of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean over the 2020–2022 period;
5. *Further recognize* the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as technical secretariat of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean and its vital importance for the continuity of the process;
6. *Thank* the people and the Government of Uruguay for hosting the eighth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean;
7. *Thank* the Government of Chile for offering to continue the process of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean and to host the ninth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2024.