



7 August 2015

ENGLISH
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Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico City, 5-7 August 2015

MEXICO CITY DECLARATION

We, the representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean countries meeting in Mexico City from 5 to 7 August 2015 at the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reiterating the principles and objectives agreed upon during the World Summit on the Information Society, with a view to channelling the potential of information and communications technologies to enable individuals and peoples to use them to improve their quality of life and to promote sustainable development,

Recalling the Bávaro Declaration adopted in the Dominican Republic in January 2003; the Rio de Janeiro Commitment and Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2007), adopted in Brazil in June 2005; the San Salvador Commitment and Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2010), adopted in San Salvador in February 2008; the Lima Declaration and the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), adopted in Peru in November 2010; and the Montevideo Declaration and the Plan of work 2013-2015 for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the information and knowledge society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), adopted in Uruguay in April 2013,

Aware of the important role played by the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) in promoting regional cooperation on matters relating to information and communications technologies,

Considering that, by virtue of resolution 68/302, the United Nations General Assembly decided that the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society would conclude with a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in December 2015, to be preceded by an intergovernmental preparatory process that would also take into account inputs from all relevant stakeholders,

Considering also United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/167 on the right to privacy in the digital age,

Taking into consideration the Internet Governance Principles and the Roadmap for the future evolution of the Internet Governance Ecosystem, adopted at the Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance (NETmundial), the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF), and the national Internet governance forums,

Reaffirming that science, innovation and information and communications technologies are essential for promoting the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development,

Reiterating the importance of ensuring active participation by all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community, academia and users, in the public policy processes relating to the development of the information society,

We declare

Our commitment to promote the treatment of cyberspace as a sphere of peace and development through cooperation between States and multi-stakeholder participation;

Our commitment to the objectives set forth in the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018), as a guide to strengthening cooperation, coordination and regional integration on digital matters;

Our commitment to the promotion of and respect for human rights in Internet governance, including privacy; freedom of expression, of access to information, and of creation and information-sharing; cultural and linguistic diversity; and accessibility;

Our firm resolve to participate in an active and coordinated manner in the discussions at the high-level meeting for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

Our commitment to Internet governance based on democratic multi-stakeholder processes, ensuring significant and responsible participation by all parties, including governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community, academia and users, all fulfilling their respective roles and responsibilities;

Our commitment to improve regional capabilities to tap the digital revolution to increase and promote access and infrastructure, the digital economy, e-government, Internet governance, social inclusion and sustainable development;

We resolve to

1. *Adopt* the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018);
2. *Adopt also* the composition of the eLAC2018 Regional Follow-up Mechanism;
3. *Continue* strengthening regional cooperation on digital matters with regional scope agreements and activities directed towards innovation, training, and dissemination and transfer of new technologies and good practices in the region;
4. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the promotion of and respect for all rights in the digital environment, as well as the use of ICTs to build peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development;
5. *Promote* the use of ICTs to create solutions in all areas of life, particularly access to justice, health, education and agriculture, as well as to build effective, responsible and inclusive institutions at all levels;
6. *Recognize* the work of regional and international bodies and agencies working in the area of policies on information and communications technologies and urge them to play an active part in the implementation of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018), fostering coordination and integration of efforts;
7. *Acknowledge* the Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC) as a space for collaboration and promotion of e-government in the region and request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to coordinate with this mechanism in order to foster and promote fulfilment of the respective objectives of the digital agenda;
8. *Emphasize* that the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF) held in Mexico City on 3 and 4 August 2015 represented an important step in strengthening links with the eLAC mechanism and in further building cooperation between the two;
9. *Recognize* the progress made in universal access to and use of Internet in the region, as well as the urgent need to close the significant and persisting digital divide, in order to attain the objectives of inclusion necessary for a connected, participatory and welfare-enhancing society;
10. *Recognize also* the need for Internet governance to promote the preservation of a universal, open and distributed Internet architecture, maintaining its end-to-end nature;
11. *Recognize further* the importance of strengthening the development of the digital economy and ecosystem in Latin America and the Caribbean, fostering, inter alia, the generation of contents and applications, the creation of digital enterprise and the provision of digital goods and services at the national and regional levels; and examine the advantages and feasibility of making progress towards the establishment of a single digital market in the region;
12. *Foster* the development of digital talent in the region;

13. *Request* the Government of Mexico, in its capacity as Chair of the eLAC Follow-Up Mechanism, to convey the outcomes of the present meeting, as a regional contribution, to the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, to take place at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in December 2015;

14. *Express* the support of the Latin American and Caribbean region for the extension of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF);

15. *Commend* Uruguay on its leadership in steering the Regional Follow-up Mechanism of eLAC2015 and its role in advancing and promoting this platform for dialogue and cooperation;

16. *Recognize* the work carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its role as technical secretariat of eLAC and the vital importance of those efforts for the continuity of the process;

17. *Thank* the people and the Government of the United Mexican States for the outstanding organization of the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean;

18. *Thank also* the Government of Chile for its kind offer to host the Preparatory Meeting for the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2017;

19. *Thank further* the Government of Colombia for its kind offer to provide continuity to the eLAC process by hosting the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2018.