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

Virtual meeting, November 23–26, 2020

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Mandate and functions

The seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean is convened in follow-up to the Cartagena de Indias Declaration, adopted at the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held from 18 to 20 April 2018.[1]

2. Objectives of the Conference

The seventh 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 (eLAC2020) and agreements adopted at the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in 2018, in addition to moving ahead with cooperation commitments for 2022.

3. Organization of work

The seventh Ministerial Conference will last for four days and will be opened by the Government of Ecuador. The programme includes the election of Presiding Officers, the opening statement, presentation of the document *Tecnologías digitales para un nuevo futuro*, panel discussions, and keynote presentations. Lastly, there will be a debate on the proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2022).

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Presentation of the document *Tecnologías digitales para un nuevo futuro* and panel discussions

4. Keynote presentations

5. Other matters

6. Consideration and adoption of the proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2022).

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[1] See the *Report of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CMSI.6/7).

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.   Election of officers

The delegations will elect the Presiding Officers of the seventh 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.

3.   Presentation of the document *Tecnologías digitales para un nuevo futuro* and panel discussions

ECLAC will present the document *Tecnologías digitales para un nuevo futuro*. It discusses the impact of the economic and social crisis triggered by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and how physical distancing measures have accelerated the use of online channels to preserve economic and social activity. In this context, there is no stopping the acceleration of the digital transformation of production and consumption. At the same time, for there to be recovery, there must be a move towards new governance that guarantees a digital welfare state and promotes progressive structural change based on a combination of productivity and environmental sustainability objectives.

Working document:

  − Tecnologías digitales para un nuevo futuro (LC/CMSI.7/3)

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[2]   LC/CMSI.7/1.

Three panel discussions will then be held to examine the role of digital technologies in recovery, the universalization of digital technologies for social inclusion and the shift in production patterns and skills in the digital era. The panels will comprise representatives of the governments of the region and experts from the private sector, the technical community and civil society. Workshops on policy coherence and digital integration, the potential of digital technologies to change the dynamics of product development, innovations in data for measurement, the boom of e-commerce during the pandemic, digital transformation for a better reconstruction and digital cooperation will also be held.

4.   Keynote presentations

Keynote presentations will be given at the Conference that will analyse the main access and connectivity challenges and the possible policy measures that countries can adopt to reduce asymmetries in that regard. They will also address the challenges in the adoption and uptake of digital technologies by businesses and the policies needed to bring about a productive and social transformation in the region through the use of digital technologies.

5.   Other matters

Under this agenda item, the delegations may consider any other matter they deem appropriate.

6.   Consideration and adoption of the proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2022).

The Ministerial Conference will be asked to consider the document *Proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean* (eLAC2022).

Working documents:

−   Proposed digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2022) (LC/CMSI.7/4)