**PROPOSAL**

**DIGITAL AGENDA FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN eLAC2022**

**A. BACKGROUND**

1. The Agenda 2030 recognizes a new epochal change and a moment of opportunity, where the diffusion of information and communication technologies and global interconnection have great potential to accelerate human progress, facilitate access to information and develop knowledge societies, also recognizing that scientific and technological innovation is critical in areas central to development such as health and energy. In this agenda, information and communication technologies are expressly indicated as instruments to improve the quality of education, promote the empowerment of women using technology, motivate inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, as well as being part of the means to instrumentalize their implementation[[1]](#footnote-1).

2. During the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Cartagena de Indias from 18 to 20 April 2018, the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) was approved and it was agreed to hold the Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in Brazil in 2020, to continue with this space for cooperation, renewing its commitments to a vision beyond 2020.

3. The Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean aims to be an activator instrument for regional cooperation efforts in digital matters and a mechanism to promote policy design, research, capacity building and political dialogue around the challenges and opportunities presented by digital transformation in society and the economy.

4. The Follow-up Mechanism for the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) has three levels of coordination and cooperation: The Ministerial Follow-up Conference, the Presiding Officers and the Focal Points. The Follow-up Mechanism is accompanied by observers representing civil society, the private sector, and the technical Internet community of the region. ECLAC serves as the technical secretariat of the process.

5. To prepare this proposal, a survey of eLAC2020 Focal Points and observers was carried out, as well as a review of bibliographic sources. The following document has the objective of giving continuity to the agreements mentioned above and providing inputs for the political dialogue that will take place within the framework of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean. The following is the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2022), which includes eight areas of action and 29 objectives.

**B. AREAS OF ACTION AND OBJECTIVES**

**1. Digital infrastructure**

**Objective 1:** Promote the deployment of broadband and high-capacity networks by fostering competition and establishing a favorable environment for investment.

**Objective 2:** Promote affordable and quality connectivity in remote rural and semi-urban areas, stimulating the development of community networks and alternative models of investment and sustainability.

**Objective 3:** Promote policies and incentives for the deployment and operation of infrastructure and technologies necessary for the development of the Internet, especially Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and IPv6 protocols.

**Objective 4:** Promote the coordinated and harmonized deployment of 5G in all countries of the region, facilitating the provision of spectrum under international standards and recommendations.

**2. Digital transformation and digital economy**

**Objective 5:** Promote the adoption, dissemination and effective use of advanced digital tools to promote business productivity, foster business dynamism and structural change, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

**Objective 6:** Promote entrepreneurial ecosystems and public-private collaborative actions to drive data-driven innovation and accelerate technology-based ventures, including incubators, accelerators and business networks.

**Objective 7:** Stimulate diversified financing options for technology-based ventures, including alternative sources of financing, person-to-person loans, digital platform financial services and others, in addition to using digital technologies to reduce information asymmetries and barriers to access to capital markets.

**Objective 8:** To address the emerging challenges of the digital economy by updating rules and regulations on taxation, competition and international trade, in a framework that promotes sustainable development.

**3. Digital Government**

**Objective 9:** Establish and promote digital service standards that facilitate and streamline government services and promote multiple access channels, favoring an interoperable regional environment of digital services through the development of infrastructure, platforms, architectures, standards and integrated systems.

**Objective 10:** Promote the adoption of a regional strategy of standards for the management and interoperability of digital identity, advanced digital or electronic signatures, electronic apostilles and electronic medical records, which promote innovations in the public and private sectors, preserving the privacy of information, strengthening security and trust in online transactions

**Objective 11:** Promote the use of digital systems for government procurement, service contracting and public works, to ensure transparency, citizen oversight and effective accountability.

**4. Inclusion and digital skills**

**Objective 12:** Promote the development and incorporation of digital skills and computational thinking in the teaching-learning processes, through the updating of curricular contents, according to the capacities that future activities will demand

**Objective 13:**  Strengthen advanced digital, technical and professional skills, and provide incentives for companies and governments to continuously train workers, based on local needs and labor market demands.

**Objective 14:**  To promote a digital citizenship that encourages the development of digital skills and competences for the innovative, safe and responsible use of ICT for digital inclusion.

**Objective 15:**  Promote the accessibility of digital technologies as a necessary condition for the inclusion of people with visual, hearing, mobility, dexterity and cognitive disabilities in work, education, health, access to justice, public services and intelligent cities.

**Objective 16:**  Promote a comprehensive gender equality perspective in public digital development policies, ensuring full access to and use of ICTs for women and girls, as well as promoting their participation and leadership in public and private decision-making spaces.

**Objective 17:** Promote new forms of employment and telework in the region, updating labor policies to promote adequate social protection and worker participation in the digital economy.

**5. Emerging technologies for sustainable development**

**Objective 18:**  Promote digital and data innovation, through incentives for the development of new products, the provision of public and private financing, a flexible regulatory environment and the encouragement of open innovation.

**Objective 19:**  Promote openness and reuse of data in the public and private sector to drive innovation and co-creation of value.

**Objective 20:** Promote the use of advanced emerging technologies in a convergent and interoperable manner, while considering aspects of ethics, impartiality, transparency, accountability, security and privacy.

**Objective 21:** Promote the use of digital technologies to prevent, mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change and natural disasters, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development

**6. Confidence and digital security**

**Objective 22:**  Prevent and combat cybercrime through public policies and digital security strategies, the development and establishment of regulatory frameworks, capacity building, and local, regional, and international coordination among computer incident response teams.

**Objective 23:** Coordinate actions aimed at guaranteeing privacy, personal data protection, online consumer protection, access to public information and freedom of expression, in the digital environment, avoiding the improper and unauthorized use of data, and strengthening collaboration mechanisms among the competent authorities of the region.

**7. Regional digital market**

**Objective 24:** Promote a regional digital market strategy that facilitates cross-border e-commerce through the integration of digital infrastructure, normative coherence, free flow of data, facilitation of e-commerce, improvement of postal and logistics services and promotion of regulations that promote innovation in digital payment services.

**Objective 25:** Facilitate greater regional coordination through a digital integration plan that establishes a shared vision and objectives, with mechanisms for dialogue and coordination with existing local and subregional organizations.

**8. Regional digital cooperation**

**Objective 26:**  Promote strengthened regional digital cooperation in Internet governance processes by strengthening regional dialogue mechanisms and multi-stakeholder mechanisms

**Objective 27:** Strengthen the institutional framework of the entities responsible for designing, implementing, monitoring and continuing public policies for digital transformation and national digital agendas, and promote the coordination and participation of the various stakeholders in the development of these policies.

**Objective 28:**  Promote digital normative coherence at a regional level, especially in the areas of data protection, cybersecurity, e-commerce, and online consumer protection.

**Objective 29:** Improve the measurement of the digital transformation and the digital economy by strengthening data collection processes for official statistics, including the use of advanced technologies and the strengthening and harmonization of common indicator frameworks and their monitoring through regional observatories.

1. General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)