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

Santiago, 7 and 8 November 2024

DRAFT SANTIAGO DECLARATION

The representatives of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Santiago on 7 and 8 November 2024, on the occasion of the ninth 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", and mindful of the potential for information and communications technologies to facilitate and advance efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

Reaffirming the principles and objectives agreed at the World Summit on the Information Society and the commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, and recognizing the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society,

Aware of the importance of the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 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 area of digital transformation,

Recognizing that, in the 19 years since the Rio de Janeiro Commitment established the importance of consolidating an international agenda on the information society, the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant contributions in building a common vision for building an inclusive information society in the region,

Bearing in mind the joint efforts of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to foster sound governance of artificial intelligence ecosystems and to promote them as well as their ethical and responsible use, , and recognizing the steps taken towards a framework for cooperation to promote the inclusive, equitable and sustainable development of artificial intelligence, strengthening intergovernmental and multi-sectoral cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the Global Digital Compact adopted at the Summit of the Future, held in New York on 22 and 23 September 2024,

Stressing the urgent need to foster meaningful and universal connectivity, reduce digital inequalities, boost innovation, ensure digital security, promote environmental sustainability, safeguard information integrity and strengthen digital governance,

Aware of the specific challenges facing the region, in particular the three development traps identified by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean —namely, low capacity for growth, high inequality and low social mobility and cohesion, and weak institutional capacities and ineffective governance—, and of the key role that digital technologies can play in overcoming them,

Reaffirming the commitment to fostering an inclusive, safe, sustainable and just digital transformation that enables Latin America and the Caribbean to fully harness the opportunities presented by the digital revolution and new technologies while addressing structural development gaps,

Underscoring that measures need to be implemented to guarantee Internet access in rural and underserved areas and that States need to prioritize expanding telecommunications infrastructure, through regulatory frameworks that encourage competition and incentivize the private and public investment, facilitating the creation and sharing of networks,

Recognizing that the achievement of meaningful connectivity requires more than access to the Internet, and emphasizing the importance of supporting comprehensive strategies that include the construction of quality infrastructure, affordable access to devices and the development of digital skills and media and information literacy for the entire population, with a view to contributing to a more inclusive and equitable digital transformation and fostering the production of data for monitoring progress in meaningful connectivity in the countries of the region,

Reiterating the need to strengthen digital security policies by developing regulatory frameworks and protection strategies that address digital threats, improve system resilience and foster digital literacy in security matters among individuals and businesses,

Underscoring the need to support the development of ethical and responsible frameworks for artificial intelligence that are equitable and respectful of human rights and privacy while fostering innovation, and that are flexible and adaptable in the face of rapid technological progress, balancing the protection of individuals against incentives for technological progress,

Recognizing the importance of leveraging artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies to increase social well-being, applying them in areas such as health, education and the environment, and encouraging their adoption in key productive sectors to improve competition and sustainability in the region,

Also recognizing the importance of achieving greater integration between digital transformation policies and productive development strategies, and of States coordinating their efforts to maximize the use of digital technologies in key economic sectors, ensuring the alignment of such policies with the Sustainable Development Goals,

Underscoring the need to foster a robust digital economy by supporting digital trade, digital financial services and the adoption of advanced technologies by businesses, in particular micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, in order to make key sectors in the region more competitive and productive,

Recognizing the barriers that vulnerable groups, including women and girls, face in accessing and using digital technologies, and the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective in digital transformation strategies,

Underscoring the importance of accelerating the digitalization of public services through improved administrative efficiency, transparency and citizen participation, and emphasizing that the adoption of digital systems must include the use of such tools as digital identities and signatures to facilitate access to public services and improve online government administration,

Resolve to

1.	*Adopt* the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2026);

2.	*Continue* to strengthen regional activities for digital cooperation in the framework of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean;

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 drafting of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2026) and invite them to participate actively in implementation of the Conference's agreements;

4.	*Also recognize* the leadership of the Government of Uruguay as Chair of the Presiding Officers and its coordination of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean over the 2022–2024 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 Government of Chile for hosting the ninth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean;

7.	*Thank* the Government of Brazil for offering to continue the process of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean and to host the tenth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2026.