



eLAC2015

Building inclusive
and innovative
digital societies

DS1-I

5 April 2013

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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

Montevideo, 3–5 April 2013

MONTEVIDEO DECLARATION

We, the representatives of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean meeting in the city of Montevideo from 3 to 5 April 2013 at the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reiterating the principles and objectives agreed upon during the first and second phases of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in December 2003 and in Tunis in November 2005, with a view to channelling the potential of information and communications technologies to promote the Millennium Development Goals,

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, and the Lima Declaration and the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) adopted in Lima in November 2010,

Recognizing that the global objectives of the Geneva Plan of Action are to be met by 2015 and that implementation of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) represents an important contribution to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming our common desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society based on human rights and on the principles of peace, solidarity, inclusion, freedom, democracy, sustainable development and cooperation,

Renewing our commitment to involve civil society, the private sector and the scientific and technical communities in an open, participatory and multisectoral dialogue in accordance with the principles laid down at the World Summit on the Information Society,

Mindful that, pursuant to resolution 60/252, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to conduct an overall review in 2015 of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Mindful also that 2013 marks a major milestone in the follow-up to and evaluation of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), and thus to reviewing the progress made towards meeting the targets of the World Summit on the Information Society for 2015,

Mindful further that information and communications technologies are a useful tool for promoting human development, social inclusion and economic growth,

Recognizing the important contribution that information and communications technologies can make to improving the coverage and quality of social services in connection with education, health and safety, and to promoting respect for gender equity, diversity and fundamental rights in the digital environment,

Emphasizing the importance of fast-tracking growth of the digital economy as the key to changing production patterns, generating quality employment, creating value added at the local level and enhancing the region's competitiveness and integration into global markets, and the need for further policies on structural change that foster more knowledge- and innovation-intensive production activities and that promote sustainable growth with social equality,

Recognizing that the use of information and communications technologies can contribute to the protection of the environment, efforts to combat climate change, the sustainable use of natural resources and the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters,

Stressing the importance of regional participation in the various forums for discussion on Internet governance, with a view to fostering the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet as a fundamental part of the infrastructure of the information society,

Aware that requests have been submitted to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to register the generic top-level domain (gTLD) names “.amazon” and “.patagonia” in several languages,

Recognizing that, with a view to defending sovereignty and human rights, it is necessary to protect the present and future rights of the countries and peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean in the information society and to prevent circumstances from arising that would limit their opportunities for legitimate advancement and development in the digital environment,

Recognizing also the positive trends and opportunities arising from technological convergence and global connectivity, and in particular the development of high-speed networks, the use of cloud computing, big data analytics, open government and the development of digital content and applications,

Recognizing further that several countries in the region face conditions and limitations which place them on an unequal footing in relation to the pursuit of development and the enjoyment of the benefits of the information society,

Renewing our commitment to design and implement policies and regulation on the information society which are based on respect for and compliance with the Declaration of Human Rights,

Declare

Our commitment to continue making progress towards meeting the goals identified in the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) and carrying out the activities of the various working groups,

Our firm determination to enhance regional collaboration on the information society, undertaking joint efforts to highlight the progress made in Latin America and the Caribbean in the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes and to participate actively and in a coordinated manner in the discussions that will guide the agenda beyond 2015,

Our resolve to reject any unilateral measure at variance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the countries of the region and runs contrary to the well-being of its citizens,

Our commitment to promote access to telecommunications services by means of initiatives that help to expand infrastructure, reduce the costs and improve the quality of service access, promote international connectivity, and encourage the efficient use of networks,

Our determination to promote research, technological development and innovation in information and communications technologies, as the basis for the information and knowledge society.

We resolve to

1. *Adopt* the plan of work 2013-2015 to enhance progress towards the commitments established in the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015);

2. *Endorse* the new composition of the eLAC2015 follow-up mechanism;

3. *Work* to find financial mechanisms to support all stakeholders in the region in the forging of synergies for the activities envisaged in 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);

4. *Continue* to strengthen existing cooperation with stakeholders outside the region and seek out new opportunities for collaboration;

5. *Recognize* the work of governmental and non-governmental entities and agencies in the region, invite them to play an active part in the implementation of Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), and request the technical secretariat to coordinate with these stakeholders in order to avoid the duplication of efforts, maximize resources and pool experience;

6. *Reaffirm* the commitment of the countries of the region with respect to the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes (WSIS+10), scheduled for review at high-level meetings in 2014 and 2015, at which the future agenda will also be defined;

7. *Strengthen* the coordination of the countries of the region and other relevant stakeholders and their participation in forums on Internet governance;

8. *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;

9. *Recognize also* the importance of the support provided by the European Commission to eLAC since its inception, foster the consolidation of achievements and the operation of successful regional organizations, including the Latin American Telecommunications Regulators Forum (REGULATEL) and RedCLARA, and invite the European Commission to continue cooperating at the policy and strategic levels, given that emerging trends raise common challenges on which cooperation would benefit both regions;

10. *Reject* any attempt to appropriate, without the consent of the respective countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the denominations “amazon” and “patagonia” in any language, or any other generic top-level domain (gTLD) names referring to geographical areas or historical, cultural or natural features, which should be preserved as part of the heritage and cultural identity of the countries of the region;

11. *Express our gratitude* to the people and the Government of Uruguay for the outstanding organization of the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean;

12. *Thank* the Governments of Costa Rica and Mexico for their kind offer to provide continuity to the eLAC process by hosting the forthcoming ministerial meetings on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014 and 2015, respectively, and accept with gratitude.