



ORGANIZACION DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Comisión Interamericana de Telecomunicaciones
Inter-American Telecommunication Commission

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DRAFT AGENDA
HIGH LEVEL MEETING
“DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE
AMERICAS”
MARCH 12, 2018
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
(Item on the Agenda: 16)
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NOTE: Speaker Curriculumums are not included in the English version, just in Spanish.

HIGH LEVEL MEETING
“DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS”
Hotel Emperador, Buenos Aires, March 12, 2018

Digital inclusion, understood as the democratization of access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) to enable the inclusion of all in the information society, remains as a priority consideration when defining and implementing development policies in the Americas.

Discussions on this topic are not limited only to ICT access, but must also address all areas of the transition to a digital ecosystem. These include the deployment of infrastructure related to new technologies, connectivity, digital capacity building and its relation with the transformation of employment (Industry 4.0), digital users, and the digital economy as a driver of socio-economic development in the countries of the region.

To this end, coordinated joint efforts by all stakeholders are required, both within CITEC (OAS member states, associate members and the academia) and among other specialized agencies of the OAS, the UN and its specialized agencies (particularly the ITU and the ECLAC in this region), and other regional organizations. Accordingly, the goals must take into account the OAS Strategic Initiatives, the 2030 ICT Alliance and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In regards to the CITEC, its aim is to facilitate and promote the integrated, sustainable development of interoperable, innovative and reliable telecommunications/ICTs in the Americas under the principles of universality, equity and affordability.

The formal antecedents of this discussion include the following resolutions from the Santo Domingo Declaration of February 2014, which state:

- “a) That active participation in the ‘digital economy’ through the advent of telecommunications/ICTs is essential in promoting economic growth, competitiveness, and access to knowledge through information, contributing to the eradication of poverty and the integration of all countries;*
- b) That telecommunications/ICTs are the most efficient and effective instruments in enabling ample access for all to information and education and in allowing for freedom of speech and expression, which are essential components to the promotion of democracy, the defense of human rights, the assurance of security and the fostering of integral development and prosperity in the hemisphere, the four pillars of the Organization of American States (OAS);”*

In this context, it would be useful for Argentina to continue with this discussion. Progress is evident, as today virtually all inhabitants of the region have cell phones and the amount of Internet users has more than doubled in the past ten years (the percentage of Latin Americans using the Internet grew from 16.6% in 2005 to 53.5% in 2015, according to the report “*El ecosistema y la economía digital en América latina*,” co-published by CAF, ECLAC, CET.La and *Fundación Telefónica*). However, this percentage is far from the levels of approximately 82.2% recorded in the developed countries of the OECD, representing a gap of over 28 percentage points. Moreover, the heterogeneity of the countries within this region should be added.

Furthermore, “*progress in the region’s digital economy is still very incipient, considering that while 50% of the Latin American population is actively participating in the digital universe, the local supply of goods and services has still not consolidated into a dynamic, sustainable process of value creation. This is particularly significant given the potential to create a regional market that could generate*

economies of scale and create a world-class competitive supply.” (ECLAC, CAF/CET.LA, Raúl Katz, “El ecosistema y la economía digital en América latina”, ISBN: 9788408146629)

To this end, we should also mention the 2030 ICT Alliance for the Americas of June 2016, by which the Organization of American States, together with ECLAC and private sector representatives, undertook to: “1. Work together to contribute to the global goal of connecting 1.5 billion more people by 2020; 2. Ensure that every public school in the Americas is connected to the Internet by 2030, and create relevant local contents; 3. Promote digital training and contribute in improving the quality of education, and develop talents for the new digital economy; and 4. Strengthen democratic participation in the Americas through ICTs.”

Likewise, according to the ECLAC, “*The main challenges are to ensure the minimum conditions necessary for investment in information and communication technologies (ICTs) to have a positive impact on economic growth; to promote and consolidate a broadband-based technological innovation and diffusion model, compatible with the objectives of social inclusion; and to foster a change in the production structure that, based on the specific economic and institutional characteristics of each country, articulates knowledge with production and strengthens the software sector. Second, a consolidated policy framework needs to focus on the key factors for the deployment of the digital economy. The main deficiencies that need to be addressed are investment in telecommunications infrastructure, the demand for broadband and the development of the software industry and applications. Public policy is crucial for ensuring equality of access and use of ICTs that facilitate the provision of social services (public administration, health and education) and public goods. Third, the region needs to move towards establishing an institutional framework for the digital economy that integrates policy initiatives on broadband, ICT industries and digital inclusion.*” (ECLAC, “*The Digital Economy for Structural Change and Equality,*” LC/L.3602, 2013-186, United Nations).

Therefore, the Meeting seeks to present these priorities issues for the Americas and, through open discussions at the highest level, to identify lines of action that will commit the countries of the Americas to work in pursuit of the transition towards a digital ecosystem in the region.

AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30 OPENING SESSION

- **Luis Almagro, Secretary General, Organization of American States (participation via video message)**
- **Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary General, International Telecommunications Union**
- **Jorge Faurie, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina**
- **Andrés Ibarra, Minister of Modernization, Argentina**

The digital revolution is doubtless the most significant period of economic and social transformation since the industrial revolution. Of immeasurable magnitude, it is progressing at an increasing rate and poses numerous challenges to all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, the academia, and society at large. Therefore, it is essential to work together. The countries of the Americas must prepare for and further these changes through the widespread use of technology and the digitalization of all areas of daily life, including the economy, and take comprehensive public policy measures to benefit their societies.

SESSION 1: INFRASTRUCTURE, CONNECTIVITY AND 5G

In recent years, the evolution of telecommunications in general and the dynamic development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in particular have enabled the emergence of innovative services and applications. The deployment of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure is essential, both to bridge the digital divide by providing connectivity and Internet access to areas that are unserved or have unmet needs, and to support the data traffic to be generated in the medium and long term. Its continuing growth and the future implementation of 5G broadband mobile data technology will generate greater demand based on new applications and services. Therefore, both public policy making and implementation, and telecommunication/ICT research and investment, should consider the deployment of infrastructure, various connectivity solutions and suitable planning of spectrum requirements for the deployment of 5G systems as priority areas for development in the Americas.

9:30 – 10:30 **PANEL 1: – What public policies are needed to promote and favor telecommunication /ICT infrastructure development to bridge the digital divide and connect the unconnected?**

In this panel, speakers will present alternative public policies to connect the unconnected and help to bridge the digital divide in the Americas. Bridging the digital divide means equity in ICT access and use, and making policies aimed at meeting the needs of the most vulnerable groups of society (people with special needs, the elderly, women and children). Currently, nearly 50% of the population in our region is still not connected to the Internet.

MODERATOR: *Oscar Leon, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)*

- **Miguel De Godoy**, President of ENACOM, Argentina
- **Dr. André Müller Borges**, Secretary of Telecommunications, Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications, Brazil
- **Edwin Estrada**, Deputy Minister of Telecommunications, Costa Rica
- **Dr. Martha Suarez**, Director General of the National Spectrum Agency, Colombia

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 PANEL 2: What transformations is the telecommunications and Internet-based services industry promoting in the Americas to further the digital revolution and address its challenges?

At this panel, speakers will present the status of the digital ecosystem and the digital divide in the region, and will discuss the investments needed to overcome asymmetries by deploying infrastructure and connectivity, and the benefits and challenges of using new technologies such as the 5G and the IoT, in order to create the environment of trust needed to develop the means to provide access for low-income households.

MODERATOR: *Raúl Echeberría, Vicepresident Global Engagement, Internet Society (ISOC)*

- **Mariah Shuman**, Board Member of the Satellite Industry Association, Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs-OneWeb
- **Sebastian Cabello**, Head of Latin America, GSMA
- **José Otero**, Director of Latin America and the Caribbean, 5G Americas
- **Federico Rava**, President for Argentina, Telefónica
- **Sebastian Kaplan**, Director Regulatory Affairs Latin America, Millicom

12:00 – 12:30 **2030 ICT ALLIANCE FOR THE AMERICAS**

12:30 – 2:30 **LUNCH**

SESSION 2: THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

This second part of the meeting will present and discuss the various components comprising what is now known as the digital ecosystem, which is no more than the sum of all elements and tools making up the digital strategy of a country, a company and/or a region. Notable among the main issues to address is the public policies for digital inclusion being promoted and planned for implementation, ranging from open government to the digital single market. Another important factor to consider in this digital revolution age are platforms, understood as environments and/or networks in which all the stakeholders can work together to generate ideas, developments and innovations by using ICTs.

2:30 – 3:30 PANEL 3: What public policies do the Americas need to develop their digital ecosystem?

This panel will discuss public policy challenges in the Americas to ensure that the digital ecosystem helps maximize value creation in the region and promotes the equitable development of their countries. We anticipate that public policy options favoring digital inclusion and development in the region will be recommended, especially analyzing the evolution of the digital economy that could take shape in a region-wide digital single market.

MODERATOR: *Ezequiel Domínguez, Head of the Americas and Europe, Cullen International*

- **Dr. Mario Cimoli**, Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean- ECLAC
- **Stephen Breaux**, Chief Executive Officer, Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority-URCA, Bahamas
- **Teresita Palacios**, President National Telecommunications Commission - CONATEL, Paraguay
- **Fabricio Gómez Mazara**, Member of the Board of Directors of the Dominican Institute of Telecommunications (INDOTEL), Dominican Republic
- **Pablo Bello**, Executive Director, of the Inter American Association of Telecommunications Companies (ASIET)

3:30 - 4:00 Coffee break

4:00 - 5:00 **PANEL 4: How can the digital revolution generate inclusion through the emergence of platforms that promote innovation?**

This panel will discuss new ways of coordinating among governments, the private sector, the academia and society to harness the potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to generate development opportunities, both specifically within the technology sector and in other vital areas such as education, health, the environment, the management of scarce resources, and others.

MODERATOR: Heber Martinez, Director, Enacom

- **Daniel Abadie**, Undersecretary of Digital Government of Argentina.
- **Gabriel Solomon**, Vice-President Government & Industry Relations Region Europe and Latin America, Ericsson
- **Francisco Barreto**, Vice-President External Affairs - Southern Region DIRECTV Latin America, AT&T
- **Fernando A. Loureiro**, Director of Public Policies and Government Relations, Intel
- **Alejandro Anderlic**, Director of Legal and Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Argentina

5:00 - 5:30 **CLOSING SESSION**

- **Oscar Giovanni León Suárez**, Executive Secretary of the OAS Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)
- **Andrés Ibarra**, Minister of Modernization (Argentina)

6.30-9.00 **RECEPCION EN EL PALACIO SAN MARTIN**

- Reception for all participants - invitation of the Ministry of Modernization of Argentina.