

PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE NINTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

PLACE: EXECUTIVE TOWER ANNEX BUILDING, LINIERS 1200, MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 – PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Session Two: EU-LAC Digital Alliance, building a digital future together.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Latin America and the Caribbean, navigating strategic challenges and opportunities.

Background

The launch of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance presents significant opportunities to strengthen cooperation between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, and to share the commitment to a human-centric vision of the digital economy and society. While Artificial Intelligence has strong potential to bring societal benefits, economic growth and enhance innovation, certain AI systems raise concerns, especially regarding safety, security, and fundamental rights protection.

In this context, international cooperation should prioritize promoting the benefits of AI, such as increased productivity, resource optimization, improved public services, and the development of technological ecosystems. At the same time, attention must be directed towards potential risks, including safety and security concerns, ethical considerations, transparency, and accountability as well as impact on jobs.

The EU's coordinated plan on AI (2021) emphasizes global collaboration on trustworthy AI founded on an open value-based approach. Meanwhile, Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries are formulating national policies and strategies on AI to cultivate talent, stimulate research and innovation, and establish regulatory frameworks.

The alignment of shared values between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean can facilitate convergence to effectively address these common challenges.

During the EU-LAC Digital Alliance conference held in Cartagena de Indias from November 27 to 29, 2023, emerging opportunities for EU-LAC cooperation in the field of AI were identified. Agreements were made to continue the discussion at high and technical level under the framework of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance. Chile, Brazil, and Uruguay from LAC, and Spain and Slovenia from the EU, will provide leadership and support for these initiatives.

This dialogue session on AI, within the framework of the preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society, aims to sustain and advance the work



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of cooperation and technical dialogue initiated during the conference in Cartagena de India's.

Preliminary Agenda

Moderation: Sebastián Rovira, Chief Unit of Innovation and New Technologies, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

14:30 - 15:00

Opening and interventions of the organizations in charge of leading the process.

- Paolo Berizzi, European Union Ambassador to Uruguay
- Guillermo López Gallego, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation, Spain
- Igor Šef, Charge d'Affairs of Slovenia to Uruguay
- Virginia Pardo, Director of the Information Society at the Electronic Government and Information Society Agency, Uruguay
- Juan Pablo Vial, Head of Digital Affairs, Science, Energy, Education, Innovation and Astronomy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile
- Daniel Boson, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazil

15:00 - 15:15

Keynote “Role of AI in Global Economy and Trade”: Mr. Jozef Sikela, Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Czech Republic

15:15 – 15:30

Presentation. A strategic vision from the EU to promote the development and use of human-centric, sustainable, secure, inclusive, and trustworthy AI.

Presentation: Juha HEIKKILÄ, Senior Adviser of the European Union on Artificial Intelligence

15:30 – 16:00

Presentation. Latin American Context, Advances and Challenges for the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence.

Presentation:

- Valeria Jordan, Economic Affairs Officer, ECLAC
- Rodrigo Durán, Chief executive officer, National Center for Artificial Intelligence, Chile
- Armando Guio, Affiliate Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University



A review of the Latin American context will be carried out based on the Latin American Artificial Intelligence Index, which offers a comprehensive analysis of the situation of AI in 12 countries. The index addresses the underlying conditions for the deployment of a robust AI ecosystem, as well as focuses on the maturity level of countries' research, development, and adoption ecosystem, and the state of the institutional and regulatory environment for AI development.

16:00 – 16:15

Coffee break

16:15 – 17:45

Public-private dialogue. Exploring possible areas of EU-LAC cooperation on AI, towards a cooperation plan.

This session will discuss possible areas of cooperation on AI within the framework of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance. The discussion is structured around the following components. Feedback from countries is expected at this session.

Moderation: Virginia Pardo. Director of the Information Society at the Electronic Government and Information Society Agency, Uruguay

Governance, regulatory convergence, standards, and security.

In the realm of regulatory matters, potential areas for cooperation include the facilitation of technical assistance, sharing experiences in implementing regulatory sandboxes in AI, and learning from the lessons associated with such initiatives to promote regulatory innovations.

Guiding questions:

*How can EU and LAC collaborate to facilitate technical assistance and share experiences in implementing policies and regulations for AI?
What lessons can be learned from such initiatives to promote regulatory innovations in the realm of artificial intelligence?*

Moderation: Daniel Boson, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazil

Capacity-building, talent, and research.

Proposed activities may involve organizing practical workshops to gain a comprehensive understanding of EU's regulatory framework on AI. Collaboration can extend to crafting clear guidelines and policies to support individuals whose jobs are



susceptible to automation. Efforts should also focus on facilitating reskilling programs and generating new opportunities in AI-related fields or other areas where human skills remain indispensable. As part of this activities, it could be consider to develop closer collaboration in research on AI/bigdata/Machine Learning, strengthening exchanges and networks but also reflect on capacity building in essential foundations such as data access and computing power to develop an enabling environment (considering also public-private partnerships).

Guiding questions:

How can joint efforts be directed towards crafting guidelines and policies to support individuals in jobs susceptible to automation, while also focusing on reskilling programs and creating new opportunities in AI-related fields?

Moderation: Alondra Arellano, Artificial Intelligence Cabinet Advisor, Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation, Chile

Use cases and application of AI in sustainable development.

In this field, various activities can be explored to facilitate the exchange of experiences and cases applied to the public sector. These may include initiatives to share experiences, showcase AI applications in the public sector, identify replicable solutions within the region, and offer technical assistance for the definition and execution of projects or pilots for the implementation of AI in the public sector. The overarching goal is to foster efficient and ethical implementation throughout these endeavors.

Guiding questions:

How can Latin American and European nations could collaborate to exchange experiences and showcase AI applications in the public sector? What initiatives can be undertaken to identify replicable solutions within the region, offer technical assistance, and define and execute projects or pilots for the implementation of AI in the public sector?

17:45 – 18:00

Closing

