



Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA GAID www.un-gaid.org), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), International Development Research Centre - Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (IDRC-ICA), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), we are honoured to invite you to the launch of the GAID Latin American and Caribbean Regional Network.

The seminar will take place on **4-5 February 2008** at the Radisson Hotel in San Salvador, El Salvador, in the two days preceding the II Ministerial Conference on the Information Society eLAC2007 (www.eLAC2007.org) in San Salvador. This will be a bilingual event, with simultaneous translation in Spanish and English.

The main objective of the seminar will be to gather ICT4D experts together to elaborate concrete proposals to present at the Ministerial Conference, in the areas of ICT and poverty eradication, health, education, youth employment, and e-government for improved accountability.

The Global Alliance was launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2006 to contribute to transforming the spirit and vision of the World Summit on the Information Society into action and promoting the use of ICT for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. It does so by providing an inclusive, multi-stakeholder global forum and platform for cross-sectoral policy dialogue and by enabling and catalyzing multi-stakeholder partnerships for action under the GAID umbrella.

In this spirit, the creation of the GAID Network for Latin America and the Caribbean will contribute to the implementation of the regional public-private meta-platform and Action Plan "eLAC". Its launch follows the negotiations for a new Regional Action Plan for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2010). eLAC is a new type of regional agreement, where Governments maintain the leadership role in the process of elaborating and implementing a public policy agenda, facilitating at the same time the participation of new actors, such as the private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations.

Please find attached a preliminary programme for the meeting. A background note with discussion points will be forwarded shortly. We encourage you to contribute to this innovative, multi-stakeholder Network and we look forward to your participation in the launch seminar. Please contact Ms. Carolina Jara at Carolina.Jara@cepal.org for any matters related to your participation, including confirmation.

We look forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely,

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