

# PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE NINTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 – PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

## Session Two: Digital Alliance European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, building a digital future together.

### Connect to include: Opportunities for meaningful connectivity

#### Background

The launch of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance presents significant opportunities to strengthen cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), adopting a human-centered and rights-oriented approach to digitalization. LAC has made significant progress in connectivity and digital transformation led by its governments with plans and programs aimed at digital inclusion for all as well as the growing deployment of 5G technology. However, as the benefits that people obtain from being connected increase, the cost of not being connected to the network and to digital opportunities also increases.

The European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean share important common values in connectivity (human-centered, inclusive, accessible, affordable). Bilateral cooperation can benefit from lessons learned and best practices in both regions. For example, the EU has developed the European Union Toolbox for Connectivity that provides recommendations and lessons learned that have the potential to facilitate implementation and investment in innovative technologies, such as very high-capacity networks (VHCN), including fiber and 5G. In LAC, Mexico in collaboration with the German government has developed a guide to facilitate the implementation of 5G in the areas of greatest economic impact through the strengthening of the value chain. Both initiatives are considered a valuable experience and input for policy makers in LAC.

During the EU-LAC Digital Alliance conference held in Cartagena de Indias from November 27 to 29, 2023, several opportunities for EU-LAC cooperation on connectivity, regulation, and deployment of new technologies (such as 5G) were identified. Agreements were made to continue the discussion at the technical level and to undertake a series of cooperative activities in the framework of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance. This session on Connectivity and Inclusion, within the framework of the preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Conference on the Information Society, aims to advance the cooperation and technical dialogue in this field and to establish the co-leadership role of Mexico and Ecuador, initiated during the EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

## Agenda

**Moderation:** Alejandro Patiño, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

**09:00 - 09:20**

### **Opening Interventions**

- Vicenta Macías, Vice-Minister of Information and Communication Technologies, Ecuador
- Susana Cruz Soriano, Director Secretary of Infrastructure, Communications and Transport, Mexico
- Markus Handke, Head of Cooperation European Union Delegation Uruguay
- Romina Laumann, Coordinator EU-LAC Digital Digital Alliance, German Cooperation (GIZ)
- Sebastián Rovira, Chief Unit of Innovation and New Technologies, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

**09:20 - 10:05**

### **Navigating 5G: Insights and Best Practices the European Union and Mexico in 5G Implementation**

The EU Connectivity Toolbox – Best Practices and Strategic vision from the European Union on 5G

Presentation:

- EU Commission, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT)

The 5G Implementation Guide – Best Practices and Recommendations from Mexico

Presentation:

- Daniel Solterbeck, Head of Mexican-German Digital Dialogue, German Cooperation (GIZ) Mexico
- Susana Cruz Soriano, Director Secretary of Infrastructure, Communications and Transport, Mexico

**10:05 - 10:50**

### **Dialogue to operationalize the Connectivity and Inclusion pillar of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, exploring areas of cooperation, value proposition and work plan.**

Presentation:

- Franziska Seiffarth, Project Manager EU-LAC Digital Alliance Connectivity and Inclusion, GIZ Chile
- Fernando Rojas, Senior Assistant Economic Affairs, ECLAC



*This session introduces the work on Meaningful Connectivity and Inclusion in the context of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, co-implemented by Mexico, Ecuador, GIZ and ECLAC. Key focus areas and milestones for 2024 will be presented, the complementarity with the eLAC-Working Group on Meaningful Connectivity highlighted, and possible additional areas of cooperation discussed. Input and comments from countries are highly encouraged at this session.*

**10:50 – 11:00**      Closing

