



Notes & links for the CTU's 1st International ICT Forecast and Industry Watch Meeting participants- 15-01-2024

prepared by Yacine Khelladi

EU-Latin America and Caribbean Digital Alliance: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/global-gateway/eu-latin-america-and-caribbean-digital-alliance_en

The EU-LAC Digital Alliance is an informal, values-based framework for dialogue and cooperation, open to all Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries and EU Member States who may participate through their respective governments and agencies related to the digital agenda.

Under that umbrella there are already an overarching regional initiative based on four pillars:

- Pillar 1 **EU LAC High-level Policy Dialogues on Digital Policy and Regulations**, in areas such as Connectivity, Data Governance, E-Governance, AI and cybersecurity
- Pillar 2 increased **secure connectivity** and bringing the **research** communities of the EU and LAC closer – Red Clara
- Pillar 3 **regional Copernicus Strategy** including two regional Copernicus data centers in Panama and Chile for earth observation to address societal challenges.
- Pillar 4 the **EU-LAC Digital Accelerator** aiming to foster joint ventures and collaboration between EU and LAC corporations, SMEs and innovative start-ups. The objective is to facilitate and accelerate at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation.

EU-Latin America and Caribbean: Joint Declaration on a Digital Alliance:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_23_3892 (includes Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay)

Cartagena high level policy dialogue: <https://d4dhub.eu/news/eu-lac-digital-alliance-partners-agree-on-joint-areas-of-collaboration-towards-2025-summit> (OECS, CTU, CARICOM, Belize, SVG, Dominica), set objectives for the next 2 years in 6 areas

Operational summary of the Cartagena high level policy dialogue

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/blk966ej0txny90iow8t3/EN_Conclusions.pdf?rlkey=yllx4uqd3pkemxahn5rx79ksn&dl=0

- **Cybersecurity:** LAC and EU cybersecurity frameworks are better aligned and more effectively enforced to provide safe digital space for all citizens, business and governments.
- **Connectivity,** EU and LAC collaborate in implementing innovative policies and strategies to achieve inclusive and secure connectivity
- **E-Governance;** Development of interoperable digital identity mechanism within LAC and between EU-LAC,
- **Data Governance** improved free and safe flows of data,
- **AI:** EU and LAC are better prepared for the AI revolution, mitigate risks and seize its potential opportunities.
- **Caribbean** specific target on sub-regional initiatives and mechanisms, as development of a Cybersecurity Toolbox, supports the legal & regulatory needs, a regional coordination of issues at the sub-regional level to facilitate cooperation with EU and rest of region, knowledge transfers, peer-to-peer exercises and access to experts and e-Governance.

First follow-up dialogue on cybersecurity in February 2024 will be hosted by the Dominican Republic, with follow-up dialogues on connectivity and digital inclusion, data governance and e-governance to take place later in the year.

Governments and their agency are being directly consulted and contacts through the EU delegations (EEAS) and DG INTPA in Brussels

To **prepare these two virtual preparatory meetings with Civil Society CSOs** to present the process and learn about your perspectives, priorities, concerns and proposals on this topic, before the in-person event of February.

- **one in English on Tuesday the 23rd from January 2024** at 16:00 UTC (5 pm in Brussels, 1pm in AR, BR and CL, 12pm in DR, 11 am COL, 10 AM in CR and MX)
- one in Spanish on Monday the 22nd from January 2024 at 16:00 UTC (5 pm in Brussels, 1pm in AR, BR and CL, 12pm in DR, 11 am COL, 10 AM in CR and MX)

Please register here <https://forms.gle/9Nk4oCLUSdRydBP66> and feel free to share the invite to relevant Caribbean CSOs

For private sector we invited umbrellas PSOs including CANTO we have meeting Monday 22nd of January 2024 at 14:30 UTC. *If any other Caribbean umbrella private sector organization (ICT/digital) let me know*

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INVITATION SENT TO CSOs

Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Operations Unit (B2) of the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission, **we invite you to participate in a virtual meeting for the LAC civil society organizations (CSOs)** in preparation for the upcoming **EU-LAC Digital Alliance high-level policy dialogue on cybersecurity** .

That policy dialogue will take place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in mid-February 2024 with the objective of agreeing on a specific two-year action plan to achieve the cybersecurity objectives agreed last **November in the dialogue Cartagena** (in which some 15 LAC CSOs participated in person) (See attached an operational summary of the conclusions of said event).

The active participation of the **Civil Society Organizations** of Latin America and the Caribbean in this process is key and that is why we organize **two virtual preparatory meetings** to present the process and learn about your **perspectives, priorities, concerns and proposals** on this topic, before the in-person event of February.

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Please **register here for one of these**. And feel free to share the invite to relevant Caribbean CSOs

The **EU-LAC Digital Alliance** seeks to increase collaboration between LAC and EU countries, the harmonization of policies and regulations to accelerate a sustainable and inclusive digital transformation process and build a strong, comprehensive and mutually beneficial alliance. It also aims to establish or improve bi-regional mechanisms of **coordination and governance for digitalization**, based on **common values and interests** as **agreed by the heads of state in July 2023**

I remain attentive to any questions or concerns about this process, and I hope that LAC CSOs take advantage of this opportunity to influence digital policies in the region.

Kind regards,

Yacine Khelladi

External advisor to the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Operations Unit (B2) of the General Directorate of International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission - Latin America and Caribbean Digital Advisory Services (D-LACAD)