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REGIONAL AGENDA FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

(Adopted by the Heads of State and Government on June 9, 2022)

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas,

AFFIRMING the essential role of dynamic and resilient digital ecosystems in supporting vibrant digital economies, enhancing preparedness for future health, natural disaster, and climate events, promoting digital inclusion for all peoples, encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, increasing innovation, competitiveness and investment, optimizing the provision of public services, and strengthening digital governance, transformation, and trust in the region by leveraging emerging and digital technologies;

EMPHASIZING that the pandemic caused by the coronavirus disease revealed the extent of the digital divide and underscored the importance of internet access, digital literacy, and protection of personal data, as well as leveraging the use of transformative technologies to drive our communities forward with a focus on traditionally underrepresented groups, particularly women and populations or groups in vulnerable situations;

RECOGNIZING the need for greater regional cooperation across multiple stakeholders to increase regional economic growth and competitiveness, bridge the digital divide and skills gaps, and promote the responsible and ethical use of digital technologies in line with the recommendations and commitments of the Declaration of Jamaica from the Sixth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that the digital divide and skills gaps can disproportionately affect women, children, persons with disabilities, and other individuals who are in situations of vulnerability and/or marginalization, and that these gaps are deeper in developing countries,

COMMIT TO:

A. Digital Ecosystems and Connectivity

1. Encourage the development of national plans or strategies on digital transformation and innovation that also promote the secure, responsible, and lawful use of digital technologies, in line with international standards.
2. Encourage, in particular, such action with respect to persons with disabilities or with specific needs, as well as members of groups that have been historically marginalized, discriminated against, and/or in vulnerable situations, as well as all women and girls, taking into account

their diverse conditions and situations, in a manner consistent with national legislation and international law, to broadly use digital platforms.^{1/2/}

3. Develop a set of public policies that will allow us to promote digital inclusion, citizen cybersecurity, and access to education and culture, to digital services provided in trustworthy and secure conditions, to open and public information, and to financial services to promote universal access and accessibility to digital content and products, as well as promote citizen participation through digital tools and means.
4. Promote national research and innovation networks and their regional and international integration, recognizing that information and communication technologies (ICTs), connectivity, and digital infrastructures are essential components for the economic, scientific, and technological development of countries.
5. Promote the dissemination and use of emerging and digital technologies.
6. To promote the appropriate, convergent, and progressive use of information and communication technologies, emerging technologies, and new technologies to promote sustainable and integral development, fostering innovation, inclusion, and competitiveness.
7. Promote the convergence of existing regional initiatives in this Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation in the Americas, based on current commitments and on the national strategies on the matter, as well as the collaboration of the relevant institutions of the inter-American system.
8. Request support from members of the Joint Summit Working Group for the process of defining and implementing the agenda via the Summit of the Americas process.
9. Promote equality of all persons in cyberspace regardless of their country of origin and facilitate equitable, meaningful, affordable, and universal broadband internet access and connectivity, particularly for remote and rural communities of the Americas.
10. Promote the development of infrastructure that enables the deployment of interoperable, resilient, secure, and reliable telecommunications networks with open architecture and which are technologically neutral, as well as regulatory policies that expand coverage, facilitate connectivity, promote competitiveness, and drive digital innovation.
11. Support digital infrastructure- and connectivity-related studies, national and regional networks, and projects currently underway that enable us to achieve greater integration within the region, and between the region and other continents and regions of the world.
12. Expand next generation broadband connectivity based on national capacities, promote enabling environments for new technologies, and strengthen interoperability by advancing regional harmonization on radio frequency allocation.

1. The Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica Mexico, and Uruguay support the phrase “women and girls in all their diversity” and consider that references in this document to ...
2. The Republic of Panama reiterates the importance of promoting national legislation to advance the human rights of all persons who are members of groups that have been historically ...

13. Expand the use of digital technologies for promotion of quality education, digital literacy, and digital citizenry for the future.
14. Foster the creation of smart cities and territories that enable integral development, digital government, reduce the digital divide, and further financial inclusion by expanding payment instruments, alternative financing mechanisms, and other digital financial services; and in this regard, acknowledge that building smart cities raises new challenges that require respect for citizens' security, privacy, and human rights.

B. Digital and Open Government

15. Promote respect for human rights, including freedom of expression, as well as digital literacy, privacy of personal data, and the dissemination and secure, responsible, and lawful development and use of emerging and digital technologies, in line with international standards, to address the challenges of content moderation and to fight against disinformation.
16. Foster the use of the internet in a responsible manner, while upholding freedom of expression, stability, security, and functionality, as well as the transparent and multi-stakeholder governance of the internet, provided that its use does not violate or impair human rights and fundamental freedoms, and it is otherwise in accordance with domestic legislation.
17. Accelerate digital government transformation and support the simplification of administrative procedures and modernization of public services, as well as strengthen the quality of digital literacy and digital citizenry, always taking into consideration the protection of citizens' personal data.
18. Continue to promote the use and leverage of information and communication technologies, with the digitalization of public service delivery to strengthen transparency, improve efficiency and accountability, as well as improve the quality of life of citizens, and promote democracy and citizen participation as protagonists of public management, respecting the sovereignty and integrity of each State.
19. Foster mechanisms for funding development of digital transformation policies in the Americas.
20. Promote the digitalization of citizen services to facilitate carrying out remote processes and services, as well as to establish technically efficient mechanisms, procedures, and standards for communication, openness and the interoperability of information among States, enabling the recognition of cross-border digital certificates, in accordance with each State's domestic legislation.
21. Further a strategy of open data and public information that facilitates interoperability in the region, strengthening collaboration and active participation among States, civil society, the private sector, and academia towards an open-government approach.
22. Promote transparency and accountability in the management, publication, and use of open data and digital technologies, including the responsible and ethical development and use of artificial intelligence systems and other transformative technologies, while protecting individual privacy and personal data and promoting equity and respect for human rights and inclusive growth;

and foster transparency and accountable use of algorithms that enable their auditing and technical evaluation, in a manner consistent with domestic legislation and international law.

23. Foster coordinated and transparent practices in the digital issuance of government permits by, *inter alia*, using digital one-stop shops as a measure to prevent corruption, promote competitiveness, and expedite the corresponding permits.
24. Improve and leverage the production of data and statistics by digital technologies with the aim of designing evidence-based equitable public policies as well as developing digital policy impact assessments.
25. Improve user-centered public service design and delivery, fostering cooperation with public, private, and civil society stakeholders to create public value.
26. Promote digital transformation of government through inclusive policy-making processes, the professional development of civil servants, and other institutional capacities, which reinforce public institutional leadership and public trust.
27. Promote regional efforts to share knowledge, tools, and digital solutions that could accelerate digital transformation of government across the Americas, reinforcing the central role of the collaborative networks.

C. Cybersecurity

28. Coordinate, articulate, and strengthen cooperation actions with international agencies, regional public entities, and Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) to manage cybersecurity incidents and strengthen trust in the digital milieu.
29. Promote the development of digital talent specialized in cybersecurity in the region with the goal of strengthening the different stakeholders' cybersecurity risk management and identification capacities and of encouraging appropriate digital behaviors and practices by society at large.
30. Foster the discussion of standards and the exchange of best practices in the areas of cybersecurity and protection of users and consumers, as well as citizens in general, on cybercrime prevention in line with the provisions of international and regional instruments, such as the Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe (Budapest Convention), where applicable, with participation of the private sector, academia, and other stakeholders.
31. Promote and strengthen international cooperation among States to effectively prevent, prosecute, investigate, and try cybercrimes, illicit use of data that belong to government, private institutions, and persons and other criminal activities furthered by the misuse of information and communication technologies, such as human trafficking, migrant smuggling, child sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual violence, and illicit drug and arms trafficking, as well as money laundering, *inter alia*, in a framework of respect for human rights and with a gender perspective.

32. Promote technical assistance, programs, projects, and transfer of capacity and experiences in preventing cybercrime in information and communication technologies among states, in accordance with each country's national legal system.
33. Support discussions at the United Nations and other global and regional fora, on existing and emerging threats, the development and implementation of the framework for responsible-state behavior in cyberspace, including respect for international law in activities in cyberspace, confidence-building measures, capacity building, and institutional dialogue to foster responsible use of ICTs by states, and international peace and stability.
34. Strengthen articulation with the private sector, academia, civil society, and other stakeholders to promote shared responsibility and cooperation, and design coordinated actions for digital security and trust in the face of risks in the digital world.

D. Economic Growth and Competitiveness

35. Foster an inclusive, resilient, efficient, and equitable economic recovery, making use of digital technologies.
36. Promote the development of competitiveness indicators by using the digital economy and implementing digital technologies.
37. Support ICT intellectual property protection and entrepreneurship.
38. Promote and encourage the use of digital technologies in the health sector to improve, *inter alia*, patient accessibility, process efficiency, and service delivery, while accommodating those who do not have digital access.
39. Strengthen regional cooperation on digital trade in goods and services, including commitments to facilitate the free flow of cross-border data, considering applicable regulatory frameworks, protecting privacy and user data.
40. Promote the development of smart industries based on the use of clean energies.
41. Expand opportunities and capacity for businesses, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), and entrepreneurs, to participate in e-commerce, utilize digital technologies or tools, and logistics services encouraging free competition to improve their operations and develop digital skills for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and access to markets to become more competitive.
42. Promote the use of digital technologies to develop a smart, sustainable, and resilient tourism sector.
43. Strengthen financial inclusion through the use of digital payments and other digital financial services.

44. Leverage and develop inclusive digital tools in providing immediate response to climate events, disasters, and other emergencies, while strengthening resilience and decision-making based on empirical evidence.

FOOTNOTES

1. ... to “all women and girls, taking into account their various conditions and situations” fall short of the language that leaders should support at a Summit of the Americas which must aim for inclusiveness. “Women and girls in all their diversity” acknowledges the fact that women and girls are not a homogeneous group and embraces their different identities, including, for example, as part of the indigenous Afro-descendant, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and of two spirits (LGBTIQ2), as well as other dimensions and communities. Likewise, it recognizes the need to adopt an intersectional and multidimensional approach to meaningfully respond to the needs of women and girls of different backgrounds, respecting and valuing the full diversity of their identities and realities. This approach underlines the interconnectedness of multiple forms of discrimination, exclusions and inequalities that impede their empowerment and the full enjoyment of their rights. Diversity as a concept has been recognized in numerous international and regional texts, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2001 Quebec Summit of the Americas Plan of Action.

2. ...marginalized, discriminated against and/or are in vulnerable situations, especially women in all their diversity – forums for multilateral dialogue being ideal vehicles for this purpose.