**Faithfulness Score**: 100/100 - Excellent

# EU-Latin America and Caribbean Joint Declaration on a Digital Alliance: A Framework for Enhanced Digital Cooperation

**Date**: 2023-07-17

**Location**: Brussels, Belgium

## Executive Summary

On July 17, 2023, the European Union (EU) and various Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries established the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, a cooperative framework aimed at enhancing digital collaboration. This informal alliance promotes dialogue on digital issues such as internet governance, data protection, and emerging technologies, while emphasizing a human-centric approach to digitalization that prioritizes universal rights and inclusivity. The initiative seeks to close digital gaps, foster innovation, and ensure equitable access to digital resources, particularly for marginalized groups. Key projects include extending the BELLA fibre-optic cable, implementing a regional Copernicus Strategy, and establishing an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator to support joint ventures. Regular meetings will facilitate ongoing dialogue and adaptation to evolving digital needs, reinforcing the commitment to a sustainable and inclusive digital economy.

## Characteristics

* The EU-LAC Digital Alliance is a cooperative framework for digital partnership between the EU and Latin American/Caribbean countries, focusing on shared values and mutual benefits.
* It promotes dialogue on various digital issues, including governance, cybersecurity, data protection, and emerging technologies, fostering collaboration among governments, private sectors, and civil society.
* The Alliance aims to enhance digital skills, promote inclusivity, and close digital gaps, particularly emphasizing the empowerment of women, youth, and marginalized communities.
* It supports strategic digital projects, such as the BELLA fibre-optic cable and regional Copernicus data centers, to improve connectivity and innovation.
* Regular meetings and dialogues will assess progress and adapt priorities to meet evolving digital needs and opportunities.

## Actors

| Category | Actors |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | European Union; Argentina; The Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras; Jamaica; Mexico; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; Uruguay; European Commission; United Nations |
| Research and Innovation Actors | Digital4Development Hub; Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE); BELLA programme; Copernicus Centres; LAC Cyber Competence Centre; EL PAcCTO programme; Academia |
| Civil Society Actors | Civil Society Organisations; Non-governmental organisations |
| Economic Actors | Private stakeholders |

## Main Themes

| Sub-category | Themes |
| --- | --- |
| Digital & Technological Partnerships | EU-LAC Digital Alliance |
| Digital Policy | Digital Policy Dialogue |
| Digital Skills Development | Digital Skills Development |
| Digital Inclusion | Digital Inclusion |
| Cybersecurity | Cybersecurity |
| Data Protection | Data Protection |
| Digital Economy | Digital Economy |
| Digital Governance | Digital Governance |
| Connectivity | Connectivity |
| Tech-Driven Solutions | Innovation in Computing |
| Sustainable Digital Development | Sustainable Digital Development |

## Practical Applications

* Establishment of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance as a framework for cooperation on digital matters between the EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries.
* Ongoing cooperation initiatives under the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, including:
* The BELLA programme for extending fibre-optic connectivity.
* Implementation of a regional Copernicus Strategy with data centres in Panama and Chile.
* Establishment of an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator to facilitate at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation.
* Regular bi-regional dialogue and cooperation on digital policy, including data protection, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.
* Development of a bi-regional Investment Agenda in the digital domain underpinned by the Global Gateway initiative.

## Future Commitments

* Facilitate and accelerate at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation by the establishment of an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator.
* Implement a regional Copernicus Strategy including two regional Copernicus data centres in Panama and Chile.
* Extend the BELLA fibre-optic cable to interested countries to build secure digital backbone connectivity.
* Review progress on the commitments on an annual basis.