**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) nations established the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, a cooperative framework aimed at enhancing digital collaboration. This informal alliance promotes dialogue on digital policies, internet governance, data protection, and emerging technologies, while emphasizing human rights and inclusivity. Key initiatives include the BELLA fibre-optic cable project, regional Copernicus data centers, and the EU-LAC Digital Accelerator to foster joint ventures. The alliance seeks to close digital gaps, empower citizens, and ensure that digital transformation benefits all, particularly marginalized groups. Regular meetings will facilitate the identification of joint priorities and the adaptation of strategies to evolving needs. The partnership underscores a commitment to a human-centric digital economy that prioritizes security, privacy, and sustainable development.

## Characteristics

* The EU-LAC Digital Alliance is a cooperative framework for digital partnership between the EU and Latin American/Caribbean countries, promoting shared values and mutual benefits.
* It focuses on a wide range of digital issues, including governance, cybersecurity, AI, and digital skills development, aiming for inclusive and sustainable digital economies.
* The Alliance emphasizes human rights, privacy, and data protection, ensuring that digitalization benefits all citizens, particularly marginalized groups.
* Regular dialogues and meetings will facilitate information exchange and the identification of joint priorities, adapting to evolving digital needs.
* Key initiatives include enhancing digital infrastructure, such as the BELLA fibre-optic cable and regional Copernicus data centers, to foster innovation and connectivity.

## Actors

| Category | Actors |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | 1. European Union; 2. Argentina; 3. The Bahamas; 4. Barbados; 5. Belize; 6. Brazil; 7. Chile; 8. Colombia; 9. Costa Rica; 10. Dominican Republic; 11. Ecuador; 12. El Salvador; 13. Grenada; 14. Guatemala; 15. Guyana; 16. Honduras; 17. Jamaica; 18. Mexico; 19. Panama; 20. Paraguay; 21. Peru; 22. Suriname; 23. Trinidad and Tobago; 24. Uruguay; 25. European Commission |
| Research and Innovation Actors | 26. Digital4Development Hub; 27. Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE); 31. Academia |
| Civil Society Actors | 28. Non-governmental organisations; 30. Civil society |
| Economic Actors | 29. Private stakeholders |

## Main Themes

| Themes | Sub-category |
| --- | --- |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Agenda |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Acceleration |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Infrastructure |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Policy |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Investment |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Ecosystem |
| Technology & Innovation | Artificial Intelligence |
| Technology & Innovation | Tech-Driven Solutions |
| Technology & Innovation | ICT Innovation |
| Data & Governance | Data Governance |
| Data & Governance | Data Protection |
| Data & Governance | Cybersecurity |
| Data & Governance | Digital Rights |
| Data & Governance | Digital Governance |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Gender Equality in Tech |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Education |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Connectivity |
| Regional & International Cooperation | EU-LAC Digital Alliance |
| Regional & International Cooperation | Bi-regional Cooperation |
| Regional & International Cooperation | Global Digital Cooperation |

### Main Themes Description

* **Establishment of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance**: A collaborative framework aimed at enhancing digital cooperation between the EU and Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, promoting shared values and mutual benefits.
* **Values-Based Cooperation**: The Alliance emphasizes a human-centric approach to digitalization, focusing on universal human rights, democratic principles, and the importance of cybersecurity and data protection.
* **Broad Range of Digital Issues**: Cooperation will cover various digital topics, including internet governance, data governance, digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and digital trade, among others.
* **Investment Agenda**: The Alliance aims to develop a bi-regional Investment Agenda to support digital projects, leveraging funding sources like the Global Gateway initiative.
* **Regular Dialogue and Meetings**: The partners will engage in periodic high-level policy dialogues and technical meetings to exchange information, identify priorities, and adapt to changing digital landscapes.
* **Focus on Inclusivity and Digital Skills**: There is a strong commitment to closing digital gaps, promoting gender and racial equality, and enhancing digital literacy and skills, particularly for marginalized groups.
* **Implementation Framework**: A structured approach to dialogue and collaboration involving various stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and academia, to align digital policies and regulatory frameworks.
* **Specific Initiatives for 2023**: Key projects include extending the BELLA fibre-optic cable, implementing a regional Copernicus Strategy, and establishing an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator to foster innovation and joint ventures.
* **Annual Progress Review**: The Alliance will conduct annual assessments to evaluate progress and adapt strategies as necessary to ensure effective cooperation and 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.

## 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.
* Review progress on the commitments on an annual basis.
* 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 enhance digital connectivity.