**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 multiple 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 various digital issues, including internet governance, cybersecurity, and digital skills development, while emphasizing human rights and inclusivity. The initiative seeks to close digital divides, foster innovation, and ensure that digitalization benefits all citizens, particularly marginalized groups. Key projects include extending the BELLA fibre-optic cable, implementing a regional Copernicus Strategy, and launching an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator to stimulate joint ventures. Regular meetings will facilitate the exchange of best practices and the adaptation of priorities to meet evolving needs. The alliance underscores a commitment to a people-centered digital economy that aligns with democratic values and sustainable development goals.

## Characteristics

* Establishes an EU-LAC Digital Alliance for enhanced cooperation on digital issues among EU and Latin American/Caribbean countries.
* Focuses on a human-centric digital economy, emphasizing universal rights, privacy, and inclusion.
* Promotes bi-regional dialogue on digital policy, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies.
* Aims to close digital gaps, enhance digital skills, and foster innovation and entrepreneurship.
* Supports infrastructure projects like BELLA and Copernicus to improve connectivity and data access.
* Regular reviews and updates to priorities ensure alignment with evolving digital needs.

## 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,; 27. European Commission,; 28. United Nations,; 29. EU Member States, |
| Research and Innovation Actors | 25. Digital4Development Hub,; 26. Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE),; 32. Academia, |
| Economic Actors | 30. Private Sector, 31. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) |
| Civil Society Actors | 32. Civil Society, |

## 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 and Data Protection |
| 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 support for the BELLA programme, which includes the extension of the BELLA fibre-optic cable to enhance digital connectivity.
* Implementation of a regional Copernicus Strategy, including the establishment of two regional Copernicus data centres in Panama and Chile.
* Creation of the EU-LAC Digital Accelerator aimed at fostering collaboration between EU and LAC corporations, SMEs, and innovative start-ups, with a goal of facilitating at least 40 joint ventures for bi-regional innovation and digital transformation.
* Regular high-level policy dialogues and technical meetings to exchange information and identify joint priorities in digital policy and regulatory frameworks.

## 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.