**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. It seeks to close digital divides and foster socio-economic growth through shared values and mutual investment in digital infrastructure. Key initiatives include extending the BELLA fibre-optic cable, implementing a regional Copernicus Strategy, and launching an EU-LAC Digital Accelerator to stimulate joint ventures. The alliance will regularly review priorities and progress, ensuring adaptability to evolving digital landscapes.

## 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, 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 meetings and dialogues will facilitate the exchange of best practices and the convergence of digital policies between the regions.
* Key initiatives include extending digital infrastructure, establishing data centers, and fostering innovation through joint ventures and investment agendas.

## 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 |

## 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 Economy |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Skills Development |
| 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 | Social Cohesion |
| 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 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 the private sector, to align digital policies and practices.
* **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.

## 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.
* 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.