

# IV Colombia-European Union Forum - Bridging Regions for a Triple (Digital, Green & Social) Transition

Bogotá, Colombia | 15-16 March 2023

## 1. Background

Organised by the Euroamérica Foundation immediately after the launch of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance in Bogotá, the IV Colombia-EU Forum gathered public- and private-sector leaders to discuss how to deepen cooperation and mobilise investments for a sustainable and inclusive transformation of Colombia aligned with the European Union's Global Gateway strategy.

## 2. Objectives

- Highlight the strategic opportunities of the EU-Colombia partnership within the Global Gateway investment agenda.
- Promote the triple transition - digital, green and social - centred on people and shared values.
- Foster public-private collaboration and identify concrete investment projects in connectivity, energy and skills.

## 3. Key Topics Discussed

- **\*\*Global Gateway & Resilient Connectivity\*\***: Scaling digital infrastructure and rural connectivity projects.
- **\*\*Digital Transformation\*\***: Presentation of Spain's 'España Digital 2026' plan and Colombia's 'ConectaTIC 360' roadmap.
- **\*\*Green Transition\*\***: Renewable-energy investment opportunities and the role of development banks (CAF, IDB).
- **\*\*Inclusive Growth & Skills\*\***: Digital-skills training to boost productivity and social inclusion.

## 4. High-Level Participants

- **\*\*EU\*\***: Margrethe Vestager (Executive Vice-President, European Commission), Félix Fernández-Shaw (Director for LAC, DG INTPA), Ambassadors of Sweden & Spain.
- **\*\*Colombia\*\***: Gustavo Petro (President of Colombia), Sandra Milena Urrutia (Minister of ICT), national authorities.
- **\*\*Private Sector\*\***: Fabián Hernández (CEO, Telefónica Colombia), multiple European and Colombian companies.
- **\*\*Organisers\*\***: Euroamérica Foundation; supported by Telefónica.

## 5. Outcomes & Commitments

- Affirmation of a shared agenda under the EU-LAC Digital Alliance with Colombia as a regional frontrunner.
- Calls for accelerated spectrum renewal and innovative business models to expand 5G and fibre networks.
- Alignment on green-energy projects and climate-finance avenues under Global Gateway.
- Agreement to showcase progress during Spain's EU Council Presidency (H2 2023) and the EU-CELAC

Summit.

## 6. Next Steps

- Consolidate a pipeline of flagship connectivity & renewable-energy projects eligible for EU funding instruments.
- Intensify skills programmes and digital-innovation hubs focusing on rural and vulnerable populations.
- Monitor implementation and report at forthcoming EU-LAC ministerial dialogues in 2024.

## 7. Sources & Further Reading

- Telefónica blog recap (ES):  
<https://www.telefonica.com/en/communication-room/blog/iv-colombia-european-union-forum-a-call-for-unity-between-both-regions/>
- EU-LAC Digital Alliance launch (EC Press): <https://www.eeas.europa.eu>
- Euroamérica Foundation event page: <https://www.euroamerica.org>