COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

Eighteenth Session
Geneva, 4 to 8 May 2015

Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2014 to implement the outcome of the WSIS

Submission by

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Carribean (UNECLAC)

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 18th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WSIS ACTION LINES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The implementation of WSIS activities in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region has continued at the national and regional levels. The LAC countries remain committed to the development of the Information Society, as they demonstrate during the Preparatory meeting of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean that was held in San José, Costa Rica, from 5 to 7 November 2014, where they discussed the proposed "Digital Agenda eLAC2018" for the region that will be presented at the V Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, that will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, in August 2015.

High-level decision-makers in the region support UNECLAC efforts on promoting broadband development trough the Regional Dialogue on Broadband. Since its creation in 2010, its main contributions are: to strength the political dialogue with technical support, to foster integration trough the development of regional infrastructure (submarine cables and IXPs), to highlight the need of a regulatory framework update, and the generation of indicators on access, affordability and quality of broadband to support public policies decisions. Recently, it was held the VIII meeting of the Regional Dialogue on Broadband on 5th November in Costa Rica, where the countries reinforced their commitment and interest in further studies of connectivity through UNECLAC support.

Studies produced by UNECLAC revealed the urgent need for Latin American and Caribbean countries to increase their efforts to reduce the digital divide in terms of access and quality of access, to facilitate the use of more sophisticated ICT applications based in cloud computing in order to take advantage of the potential benefits of these technologies for the economic performance and social inclusion. In this regard, in 2014 UNECLAC deepened its work in two very relevant topics for the region: the conditions needed to deploy cloud computing in the region, and the use of big data analytics as a challenge for the region to take advantage of the exponential growth of data availability.

OVERVIEW OF TRENDS AND EXPERIENCES

UNECLAC contributed to achieving the WSIS targets through five action lines: *(1)* acting as Technical Secretariat of eLAC2015[1] and monitoring the Information Society progress in the region in several topics, particularly those prioritized in eLAC2015 (action line C1 and C11); *(2)* acting as Technical Secretariat of the Regional Dialogue on Broadband[2] (action line C2); *(3)* following up WSIS+10 and supporting Post-2015 Development Agenda (action line C1 and C11) *(4)* promoting and monitoring the development of ICTs applications (action line C7); and *(5)* providing technical assistance and capacity-building on selected issues for the development of the Information Society (action line C4 and C11).

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[1] eLAC is a plan of action for Latin America and the Caribbean with a long-term vision -towards 2015, according to the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) targets, which states that information and communication technologies (ICTs) are tools for economic development and social inclusion. In 2005, during the preparatory meetings for the second phase of WSIS, the countries of the region approved the Action Plan for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as eLAC2007. The continuity of the process was forged with the approval of the second plan, eLAC2010, and later with the eLAC2015, currently in implementation. After the Preparatory meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, it begun the process of discussion of the new Digital Agenda eLAC2018 that will be presented at the V Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico, 2015.

[2] The Regional Dialogue on Broadband emerged in 2010 as an initiative fostered by UNECLAC and the Undersecretary of Telecommunications of Chile (SUBTEL), to promote the integration of the regional demand for broadband, in order to achieve better prices for the Internet international traffic.

1. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF eLAC2015 AND MONITORING OF INFORMATION SOCIETY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

As the Technical Secretariat for eLAC, UNECLAC efforts focused on fostering the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action eLAC2015, by providing technical support to the regional follow-up mechanism, monitoring compliance with the plan's goals, and the generation of statistics and indicators for measuring progress. Also, UNECLAC was responsible for coordinating the Preparatory meeting of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean that was held in San José, Costa Rica, from 5 to 7 November 2014.

Those activities are related with WSIS action line C1, focused on the role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development. Given its continuity since 2005, eLAC has become a strategic guide for the digital development of Latin-American countries, which facilitates the definition of national digital agendas as it allows raising awareness on the role of ICTs for economic development and social inclusion.

According to the UNECLAC studies, Latin America and the Caribbean is progressing at two very different technological speeds: in some countries, ICTs are having a positive impact on economic growth, technological investment, production structure and business/consumer behavior, while in other countries progress is slower (hence the need to strengthen institutions and public policies with a long-term strategic vision). For example, there is an asymmetrical development of critical infrastructure with mobile broadband penetration in the region: the three best performing countries represent a rate equivalent to 75% of ICT Development Index of the OECD countries, while the three worst performers, only reach 38%. Furthermore, the digital divide between Latin America and countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in terms of mobile broadband is getting wider, in 2013, in the region mobile broadband penetration reached 17% of the population and 8% in the case of fixed broadband versus 71% and 28% respectively in OECD countries.

Other economic impacts of ICTS in the region are:

- *Quantification of the contribution of ICTs to economic growth.* The digital economy represents 3% of Latin America's GDP (by contrast, EU 27 is 5%, U.S. Is 6%, Japan is 7%).

- *10% increase in broadband penetration can boost GDP by up to 2.5%*, while the impact may only be 0.16% in Latin American countries.

- *50% of the population does not subscribe to the service because of its high cost (in Nicaragua and Honduras the cost of mobile broadband subscription exceeds an average of 10% of monthly GDP per capita while in England and Japan it represents 0.6% and 0.7% respectively.*

- *Broadband and digital technologies use is concentrated in applications for personal use* and entertainment and basic ICTs for business. The impact on productivity is, therefore, low.

Due that the eLAC process is a multi-stakeholder meeting space (public, private, academia and civil society); it constitutes a platform for high-level political dialogue and regional cooperation, in line with WSIS action line C11. eLAC2015 has successfully brought the governments of the region together in a political commitment to prioritize the universalization of broadband, achieve a transactional and participatory e-government, use information and communication technology (ICT) to ensure access, security and continuity of health care for users of health services, achieve access to ICT for all microenterprises and SMEs, promote the use of ICT for regional integration and provide universal access to ICTs for education and expand their use in this field.

At the Preparatory Meeting for the V Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean that was held in San José, Costa Rica, from 5 to 7 November 2014, the countries of the region discussed the proposed " Digital Agenda eLAC2018, " and they agreed to call on countries to provide inputs and comments to the first draft of the Digital Agenda discussed during this meeting. Also, the countries request UNECLAC, as technical secretariat of the eLAC process, to take the necessary steps to: i) initiate the call to the V Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Mexico City, Mexico, in August 2015; ii) to coordinate the organization of the V Ministerial Conference and the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF), to be held jointly in 2015; and iii) to foster that regional intergovernmental negotiation for the review of World Summit on Information Society in 2015, be coordinated with the eLAC platform under the V Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the Preparatory meeting, the countries expressed their intention to renew the agreements under the eLAC jointly with the strengthening the process of regional integration in digital matters, taking in to account technological dynamism, social changes and the transition to a knowledge society. The challenge of this proposal is to upgrade regional commitments, identifying new challenges and priorities with special attention to the trends set by the ubiquity of the Internet, convergence, high-speed networks, the digital economy, e-government and big data analytics without neglecting the unmet needs in access to and use of ICT.

For this purpose, the Digital Agenda eLAC2018 mission is to develop a digital ecosystem in Latin America and the Caribbean, through a process of regional integration and cooperation, strengthen policies that encourage knowledge-based society, inclusion and equity, innovation and environmental sustainability.

In this regard, this proposed Agenda contains certain priorities that seek to consolidate a set of actions with a regional perspective, which should be supported by critical factors affecting digital development, such as, strengthening the institutional and regulatory framework, deployment of broadband, capacity building, development of content and applications, and monitoring and evaluation of the objectives. Under this scheme, 24 goals, interdependent and complementary, mutually affecting its results, are presented and arranged in a reference map of five guidelines: i) access and infrastructure; ii) digital economy; iii) e-government; iv) social inclusion and environmental sustainability; and v) governance.

Other study done by UNECLAC is related with cloud computing and the conditions that would allow it implementation in the region. In this sense, it is important to note that in Latin America, the low penetration of service associated with Internet, its poor quality in terms of speed and latency, with insufficient regional connectivity hold back the appropriation of more advanced technologies such as cloud computing or big data, with a corresponding impact on the economy. The expansion of cloud computing could create more than 200,000 SMEs in an economy the size of Brazil, generating about 900,000 new jobs in the next five years.

In contrast, in developed countries, recent progresses in virtualization, storage, broadband connectivity and processing have come together to enable a new model of IT provision services: cloud computing. The result is a new paradigm, extremely attractive from an economic perspective due to its capacity to combine cost-saving with increased flexibility in the management of the ICT needs of firms and governments.

The expansion of cloud computing faces the followings constraints in the Latin American region: i) inadequate broadband infrastructure to support online services and applications which demand high bandwidth and limited connectivity; ii) weak legal and regulatory frameworks that generates uncertainties about the competences for regulating the cloud market and the applicable law due the no boundaries features of this model; iii) limited privacy and security due to external data storage, dependency upon public internet and multi-tenancy; and (iv) lack of human resources with IT skills.

In order to seize the opportunities offered by cloud computing, governments and industry must face two key challenges involving political, legal and regulatory issues: protection of users' interests and the provision of sufficient network access and capacity. The main challenge is doing so with a regional or global approach.

With this purpose UNECLAC, jointly with European Commission organized a seminar about "Promoting cloud computing in Europe and Latin America" that was held in Santiago, Chile, on February 4, 2014. In this opportunity representatives from Latin American countries and from Europe analyzed the regulatory frameworks, the challenges and opportunities in both regions for the developments of cloud computing, and it was announced the creation of a permanent forum for exchanging experiences, debate and policy making to exploit synergies between European and Latin American efforts aimed at encouraging the massification of cloud computing.

The Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC) has continued to support the ICT measurement in the region. The data on ICT access and use represent an important input for formulating, monitoring and evaluating public policies which guarantee a more inclusive access and usage of ICT in the region.[3] OSILAC maintains updated an online Statistical Information System on ICT which gathers available databases of household surveys from the countries of the region, allowing the calculation and analysis of ICT and socioeconomic indicators over time, among the countries, within the countries of the region, and in relation to other countries and regions of the world.

The Regional Broadband Observatory continues to produce indicators on diffusion and access to broadband, tariffs and service speed. The specific data is an important input for defining and formulating broadband national plans. Data shows a significant progress in the broadband services offered in the region: a reduction in the fixed broadband service tariffs by 72% between December 2010 and August 2014, and the improvement in the quality of broadband connections. Between March 2010 and December 2014, download speeds increased by 409%, while upload speeds increased 509%.

2. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON BROADBAND

In order to address the problematic of the universal access to broadband and the digital gap in access and deployment of this technology, in 2010 the Regional Dialogue on Broadband was established as a political forum to exchange knowledge and different approaches to developing policies for massifying broadband. In 2014, this dialogue has continued and grown, and is made up of 12 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

The region's public and private sectors have boosted investment in the infrastructure needed to deploy new networks and in programs which encourage broadband use by individuals and businesses. The region realizes that it is not a sectoral issue to be treated solely at the national level. Its implications are for the economy as a whole and the costs of international connectivity is a regional issue; an estimated of 85% of Internet traffic passes through the United States, which raises the final price of the service by around 20%-40%.

It is necessary to address the factors directly impacting costs by expanding traffic exchange points (IXPs), promoting web caching and hosting content on servers located within the region. At the national level, it is necessary to facilitate the expansion of mobile broadband: one year of delay in the deployment of new

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[3] For example, data generated for the 12th session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean shows that the gap widened in several countries. The difference between men and women is almost 5% (39.3% versus 44%) in Chile - which has one of the highest Internet usage rates overall. In Peru, 26% of women and 34.1% of men report using the Internet. This digital gender gap is more common in urban than rural areas, and mainly affects older women of all levels of education. The prevalence of Internet usage increases in proportion with the household level of income, although the gender gap is narrower in those groups where the technology is less accessible. For instance, Uruguay is the most unequal country in this regard, and 34.5% of women in the first quintile report using the Internet compared with 63% from the fifth quintile.

networks has a cost of 66 billion dollars, or 1% of regional GDP. Digital policies currently in place do not attach due importance to making infrastructure-building and mass uptake of broadband part of national industrial policy strategies.

Since Regional Dialogue on Broadband creation in 2010, its main contributions are: strengthening the political dialogue with technical support, fostering integration through the development of regional infrastructure (submarine cables and IXPs), highlighting the need for a regulatory framework update, and the generation of indicators on access, affordability and quality of broadband to support public policy decisions. These indicators show a significant progress in the broadband services offered in the region in terms of affordability and service quality.

In November 2014, took place the VIII meeting in Costa Rica, where the members reinforced their commitment to the Dialogue. In this opportunity there was a presentation of a study regarding the implementation of national and regional IXPs. The countries expressed great interest in deepening this study through UNECLAC support and even requesting its technical assistance in this field.

All these activities are in accordance with the C1, C2 and C11 WSIS action lines.

3. FOLLOW UP TO WSIS+10 AND SUPPORT TO THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

With the purpose to follow up the WSIS+10 Process, UNECLAC designed the questionnaire for the collection of data to measure the progress towards the WSIS targets. In addition, UNELAC helped with the elaboration of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for development report for WSIS+10, "The Final WSIS Targets Review: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward". This report was launched at the occasion of the WSIS+10 High Level Event, held in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2014.

Also, in 2014 the Regional Action Plan on Information Society (eLAC2015), in which UNECLAC acts as the Technical Secretariat, was nominated for an award from the WSIS in the "International and Regional Cooperation" category, for the achievements made in its different areas of work. This was the recognition to the progress made by eLAC2015 as a regional platform.

In line with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Executive Secretary of UNECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, was part of the Independent Expert Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG, composed by more than 20 international experts) , which aims to propose ways to improve access to information in order to move towards sustainable development and to monitor these achievements.

For this purpose, last November 6th, the IEAG submitted to the Secretary General of the UN the report "A world that counts, mobilizing the data revolution for sustainable development". The report highlights two big global challenges for the current state of data: the challenge of invisibility, for instance gaps in what we know and when we know it, and the challenge of inequality, including the gaps between those who know and those who do not know what they need to know make their own decisions.

4. ICTS APPLICATIONS

Some of the activities undertaken by UNECLAC during 2014 are listed below, by thematic areas:

E-Education

UNECLAC has focused the work in this area in the Identification of critical factors for its development in LAC: teacher training in ICTs, digital educational contents, integration of ICTs in the curriculum, and use of ICTs for teaching and school management.

▪ May, 2014: "La integración de las tecnologías digitales en las escuelas de América Latina y el Caribe. Una mirada multidimensional". In this book the various gaps, which go beyond mere access to technologies are evaluated: content gap, gap that arises in the use that is
done with technologies and different capacities to take advantage
fairly, in asymmetries that some authors identify as
a "second gap" digital.

▪ September, 2014: "Los derechos de la infancia en la era de Internet: América Latina y las nuevas tecnologías" (by UNECLAC and UNICEF). ICTs are embedded in the everyday life of a growing number of people in the region. However, its rapid development and technological penetration does not mean they are unresolved issues related to the use of opportunities, minimizing risks or even how they are changing the ways to interact, learn, inform, entertain and communicate, among others. Therefore, the objective of this study is to address opportunities, risks and challenges presented by these technologies from the
Convention on the Rights of the Child and by focusing on the experience of Latin America.
In a context in which the right to privacy, honor and reputation are vulnerable
when no regulatory framework that safeguard in the digital world, where practices such as
digital harassment expand, the analysis presents the dominant polarized positions, which protect, empower and build capacity are restricted against are some of the premises.

▪ September, 2014: "Derechos de la infancia en la era digital" (by UNECLAC and UNICEF). While new generations are connected and its members
are digital natives, inequalities between socioeconomic groups persist, even when they have been reduced through connectivity programs
in the public schools of the region. This article deals gaps and progress in this area. Access is only the first step; then it is necessary to protect children and adolescents from the risks of connectivity and enhance relevant learning, promoting more articulated uses with the educational curriculum.

E-Health

The main achievement in this area has been to position the topic among the decision makers, with the preparation of the second volume of "eHealth handbook for managers of healthcare services and systems in collaboration "(August, 2014). As stated in the first volume, it is essential an active commitment of States to effectively incorporate ICT into public health systems. In this new book, the instrumental purpose of contributing to the formulation and implementation of e-health strategies integrated with health policies and in particular the strategy of primary health care is maintained. In this Manual are collected, again, experiences and learnings from both Spain and Latin America, in a collaborative work that has summoned 27 specialists from 5 different countries as authors of content presented here or as reviewers and editors.

ICTs and production

The line of action in this area aims to raise awareness about the need for greater adoption of ICT in the value chain as a tool for structural change and the development of Latin American countries. During 2014, this was done trough the following activities.

Workshops and seminars

▪ "Promoting cloud computing in Europe and Latin America" held in Santiago, Chile, on February 4, 2014, which was organized by UNECLAC and the European Commission, with the support of the Development Bank of Latin American (CAF), the Undersecretariat of Telecommunications of Chile (Subtel), Pais Digital Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce of Santiago. In the event were

analyzed the contexts in Europe and Latin America for the development of cloud computing, the challenges and opportunities in both regions, the regulatory framework necessary for its deployment, and policies and experiences in the public sector. Upon completion, it was announced the creation of a permanent forum for exchanging experiences, debate and policy making to exploit synergies between European and Latin American efforts aimed at encouraging the massification of cloud computing.

Publications

▪ April, 2014: "Cloud computing in Latin America: current situation and policy proposals". Cloud computing is not a stand-alone technology, but rather a mix of a large set of various technologies. Although based upon previous trajectories, recent progress in virtualization, storage, connectivity and processing have come together to create a new ecosystem. The result is a new paradigm extremely attractive from an economic perspective due to its capability to combine cost saving with increased flexibility to manage the ICT needs of firms. This document analyses the current situation of Cloud computing in the region and the conditions to foster its implementation.

▪ April, 2014: "La integración productiva latinoamericana mediante proyectos regionales en ciencia, tecnología e innovación". The productive integration in Latin America and the Caribbean has different dimensions ranging from investments in multiple countries by transnational companies, to complementary production efforts driven by government or business entities under more or less extensive bilateral or multilateral agreements. In a context of rapid technological change, such as characterizing the global economy, complementarity and integration in technology is a key to advance with the productive integration and diversification.

▪ May, 2014: "Nuevas instituciones para la innovación: prácticas y experiencias en América Latina". This book is an effort from the experience of those who participated in various stages of the transformation of some institutions to support science, technology and innovation (STI) in countries of the region. This effort seeks to understand what happens with at least three elements of national systems of innovation: incentive systems, institutions and relationships among agents that compose the system.

▪ August, 2014: "Innovación sustentable: espacios para mejorar la competitividad de las pymes argentinas". This document is a joint effort of the UNECLAC and the Industrial Union of Argentina (UIA), which had the support of the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ), to identify the potential of the sustainable innovation in four strategic sectors of the productive area of Argentina (food and beverages, auto parts, wood and furniture and plastic). This work also deepened the knowledge and the relevance of sustainable innovation, and allows greater awareness of the need to approach from the productive sector itself.

▪ September, 2014: "Datos abiertos y ciudades inteligentes en América Latina: Estudio de casos". This publication brings together some of the works performed under the Open Data project for public policy in Latin America and the Caribbean (OD4D), whose objective was to contribute to the development of open data strategies and intelligent cities in the region. The project was led by UNECLAC and W3C Brazil , in collaboration with the International Center for Development Research (IDRC).

▪ October, 2014: "Big data and open data as sustainability tools: A working paper prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean". The two main forces affecting economic development are the ongoing technological revolution and the challenge of sustainability. Technological change is altering patterns of production, consumption and behavior in societies; at the same time, it is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure the sustainability of these new patterns because of the constraints resulting from the negative externalities generated by economic growth and, in many cases, by technical progress itself. The present document explores the opportunities being opened up by information and communication technologies, in terms of increasing the

effectiveness (outcomes) and efficiency (relative costs) of soft technologies that can improve the way environmental issues are handled, in business management and in public policy formulation and its implementation.

5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

UNECLAC carried out capacity building activities, among which stands out the following ones:

- ▪ Workshop on Measuring ICT in the health sector, held on March 31 and April 1, 2014, at in Sao Paulo, Brazil, that was organized by the ICT working group of Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) from UNECLAC, coordinated by National Bureau of Statistics of the Dominican Republic, UNECLAC as the technical secretariat of eLAC2015, Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization (PAHO/ WHO) and CETIC.br. This activity was part of the agenda of the working group on ICT measurement of SCA-UNECLAC, which produces an ICT module for the health sector that will define a set of rules for generating statistical information on access and use of ICT facilities health of the region.

- ▪ II Workshop on Surveys Methodology to Evaluate Information and Communications Technologies Policies, that was held on November 4 and 5, in San José, Costa Rica, and was organized by the Regional Centre of Studies for the Development of the Information Society –under the auspices of UNESCO (CETIC.br) and UNECLAC, as the technical secretariat of eLAC2015. The purpose of this workshop was to training representatives of governments of the region on the production of ICT statistics, essential for the monitoring of the information society and the formulation of public policies in this area. In this second edition, the workshop addressed the evaluation of public policies and the relevance of regional and international coordination for the production of reliable and comparable statistics.

- ▪ Additionally, UNECLAC has supported the ICT working group of Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) from UNECLAC with the elaboration of a "Compendium of statistics practices on information technologies and communication in Latin America and the Caribbean" (December, 2014). This document is the third version (preceded by versions published in 2007 and 2010) of a compendium of practices on the collection of ICT statistics in household and business surveys in the region. The compendium aims to become a reference on key practices in the generation of standardized information on measuring ICT access and use in the region, besides of presenting international progress on statistical ICT standardization.

- ▪ In June, 2014, within the framework of the High Level Meeting on WSIS+10, UNECLAC as technical secretariat of eLAC2015, coordinated a thematic workshop. This workshop was held on June 9 with representatives of Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico, Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal, Federation of IT (ALETI) and LACNIC (LACNIC).

FUTURE ACTIONS

- ▪ UNECLAC will continue to act as Technical Secretariat of the eLAC process. The main activity for 2015 will be the organization of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Information Society for Latin America and the Caribbean that will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, on August 2015.
- ▪ The Broadband Regional Dialogue will continue to be supported as an important political forum to discuss massification policies that addresse the region needs in this matter. The XIX meeting of the forum will be held in August, 2015.
- ▪ A seminar related to "AGROTIC: a new way to innovate for women and youth in rural areas" will be held on December 11th, 2014. It's being organized by UNECLAC and the Fundation for Agricultural Innovation FIA - Ministry of Agriculture of Chile, and Its purpose is to generate a space for dialogue

between the public sector, farmers' organizations and international organizations, in order to identify the role of rural women and youth in the development and promotion of ICT in agriculture.

- New issues will be deepened such as big data and internet of things taking into account the regional dimension. In this sense, closing the digital gap, particularly the use of big data, implies increasing access and appropriation of digital technologies and accelerating their diffusion across all economic sectors, through the definition and implementation of policies that, according to the post-2015 agenda, transform economies for quality jobs and inclusive growth.
- In line with this objective, UNECLAC has proposed to undertake policies of structural change for equitable and sustainable development. In this framework, through innovations and new technologies, the digital economy can foster investment, diversification of the production structure and productivity growth. See bit.ly/1pTYXL2
- UNECLAC jointly with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Iberoamerican Association of Research Centers and Telecommunications Companies (AHCIET) and Fundación Telefónica, will prepare in 2015 a book on "The digital ecosystem and industrial development in Latin America", which aims to contribute to the understanding of the digital ecosystem, identifying transformations facing the industry of telecommunications and Internet, from the phenomenon of convergence. Also taking into account the risks and opportunities for Latin America in its interaction with the global digital ecosystem, the book will present recommendations of policy that promote digital development in Latin America.
- When requested, technical assistance activities will continue to be carried out, specially in less developed countries.