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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on
their efforts in 2017 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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 21st 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.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF WSIS ACTION LINES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN 2017

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 for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago de Chile, from 7th to 9th of August, 2017. At meeting, countries representatives discussed a draft version of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean towards 2020, which sets policy objectives in seven areas of action: digital infrastructure; transformation and digital economy; digital government; culture, inclusion and digital skills; governance for the information society; emerging technologies for sustainable development and regional digital market.

UNECLAC continues its efforts on promoting digital policies in the LAC region by fostering political dialogue and cooperation, leading research, providing training and generating statistical information on ICTs access and use as well as broadband adoption, affordability and service quality.

UNECLAC has lead several activities to improve national capabilities in the LAC region for the design of ICT policies. In particular providing training about the use of Big data techniques to measure the digital economy, with the organization of three workshops in Chile, Brazil and Mexico. Also, UNECLAC has lead a series of training activities about the digital ecosystem (CE-Digital), providing 14 short courses, online and in person, in different topics (e.g. spectrum management for mobile services, Internet of Things, competition policies in the digital era, Internet governance, mobile money, etc.), instructing 350 professionals from 15 countries between 2016 and 2017. UNECLAC has also organized the third edition of the Summer school: "Digital Transformation and Innovation in Latin America: Digital and Regional Integration" held in Barcelona, Spain in 2017, with the participation of policy makers and professionals from the private sector and NGOs from several LAC countries.

UNECLAC continued with its research activities, providing studies to support the political dialogue on ICTs. In this way, UNECLAC prepare a set of documents to facilitate the discussions held in the preparatory meeting for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago de Chile in August, 2017. One of these documents entitled "Digital transformation for productivity and inclusion: elements to consider for eLAC2020" (working document), details a series of aspects to take into account in the review of a strategic ICT agenda for the region. This document details how technologies are changing the competitive dynamics of companies, causing disruptions in value chains and the limits of industries, posing challenges for less developed economies and gaps in productivity and technological development. The adoption of digital technologies in the area of production will define competitiveness conditions, economic growth and social development in the next decade.

UNECLAC continued to contribute to the WSIS targets through the following action lines: The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development (C1), Capacity building (C4) and International and regional cooperation (C11).

C1. THE ROLE OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AUTHORITIES AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PROMOTION OF ICTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

UNECLAC has continued to build partnerships with the private sector; the civil society and the technical community, these efforts have resulted in the organization of a series of activities, including a set of conferences and seminars. One of these events were the forums: "Education for the 21st century: education and connectivity in the education system", held in Brazil and Colombia in November 2016 and Ecuador in 2017. These events were aimed to discuss the use of ICT's in the classrooms of Latin America, organized by UNECLAC, the Latin American Bank of Development (CAF) and CISCO. Among the participants were policymakers and representatives from the education sector, non-governmental organizations and the ICT industry.

Also, UNECLAC has been promoting the debate about the impact of new digital technologies in the productive sector. In this area, UNECLAC, together with the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay, organized in November of 2017, the seminar "Fourth Industrial Revolution: New challenges for development". In this event, experts and policy makers discussed topics like the impact of robotization in employment and the Internet of Things (IoT) and Big Data as fundamental enablers for the digital development and the digitalization of SMEs.

Among other initiatives, UNECLAC co-organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina and the Latin American Association of Internet (ALAI), the seminar "Latin American SMEs facing digital globalization" on December, 2017, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The event was attended by high level representatives from the government and private sector, as well as specialists and experts. The discussions were aimed to address the opportunities for SMEs in a more integrated digital market in the region and the impact of global digital platforms in small businesses.

UNECLAC also co-organized the seminar "Digital economy: public policies for development and inclusion in Latin America", on December, 2017 along with the Ministry of Modernization of Argentina and GSMA. Some of the topics address at the seminar where the modernization of the regulatory framework for the digital economy, the development of a regional digital market for Latin America and the Caribbean and the commitment of the mobile industry to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

At the preparatory meeting for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held on August 2017, in Santiago de Chile, UNECLAC and ITU organized a session on the role of digitization and innovation in the implementation of SDGs: the regional perspective and the WSIS contribution. The session was aimed to provide a platform for information sharing and collection of regional inputs on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, in particular towards the achievement of SDGs. Specifically, the session give the opportunity to build regional capacity on the WSIS implementation review process and its alignment with 2030 Agenda. Some of the participants of the session included UNESCO, ISOC, the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), GSMA and representatives from the Government of Mexico.

C1. CAPACITY BUILDING

UNECLAC carried out several training activities regarding ICT's in 2017, some of which are detailed below:

- Summer school: "Digital Transformation and Innovation in Latin America: Digital and Regional Integration". This summer school is an initiative of UNECLAC, the Barcelona Institute for International Studies (IBEI) and the Latin American Bank of Development (CAF). The school

school seeks to discuss the impact of new digital technologies, such as Big Data analytics, the Internet of the Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence, in the economy and the society. The training is aimed to policy makers and professionals from the private sector and NGOs. The fourth edition of the summer school took place in Barcelona in 2017 from the June 12 to 16, with the participation of representatives from Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Brazil, Venezuela and Peru.

- CE Digital - Training for the Digital Ecosystem. This program aims to offer training opportunities to officials of regulatory agencies and professionals responsible of formulating policies on ICTs in Latin America. The program has been developed by UNECLAC, the Latin American Bank of Development (CAF) and GSMA. Through a range of fourteen training courses (face-to-face and online) the program offers an overview of the latest advances in technology and the ICT industry. Some of the topics are spectrum management for mobile services, Internet of Things, competition policies in the digital era, Internet governance, mobile money, mobile privacy, universal service and taxation for the mobile industry. Between 2016 and 2017, 350 professionals were trained from 15 countries and 16 public institutions.
- Workshops on "Big Data for the measurement of the digital economy". These workshops were aimed to generate skills to understand the conceptual, technical, methodological, political and ethical aspects behind the Big Data paradigm and its impact for development. The workshops were organized by UNECLAC and Data Pop Alliance (a global coalition on Big Data) and include expert presentations, technical tutorials, group work and data-driven explorations. The training is structured around four key dimensions or "blocks" for developing practical skills in professionals and policy makers. These blocks include: i) Contexts and concepts, ii) Methods and tools, iii) Design and strategy and iv) Ethics and commitment. The workshops were aimed to professionals and mid-level public servants who are interested in acquiring skills that allow them develop Big Data projects. In 2017, three workshops were organized: Santiago de Chile in March, Sao Paulo in September and Mexico City in October, with the participation of more than 120 participants.

C11. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

UNECLAC acts as the technical secretariat of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018), approved at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in 2015. This process began in 2005 in Rio de Janeiro with the approval of the first action plan for the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2007), signed at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). This action plan was then followed by the plans approved in El Salvador in 2008 (eLAC2010) and Lima in 2011 (eLAC2015). As technical secretariat of eLAC, UNECLAC efforts are focused on fostering the implementation of the action plan, by coordinating its follow-up mechanism, monitoring the compliance of the plan's goals and the generation of research and ICT statistics.

The agreements of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean also give continuity to this policy forum with a vision beyond 2018, and stated to hold the Sixth Ministerial Conference in Colombia in 2018. Following these agreements, a preparatory meeting was held in August 2017 in Santiago de Chile at UNECLAC headquarters, with the participation of government representatives from 14 countries. During this meeting a draft Digital Agenda towards 2020 was discussed and part of the agreements included the definition of seven strategic issues: digital infrastructure; transformation and digital economy; digital government;

culture, inclusion and digital skills; governance for the information society; emerging technologies for sustainable development and regional digital market.

The follow-up mechanism of eLAC2018 is comprised of three levels of coordination and cooperation which includes a steering committee, national focal points and 9 working groups: access and infrastructure, digital content, education, Internet governance, strengthening the IT Industry, Digital Single Market, eHealth, teleworking and legal framework. Within these working groups is important to highlight the regional digital market group, which is working around three topics: public policy, knowledge dissemination and public-private projects. The group has been able to organize four face-to-face meetings, the last one in April 2017 at the World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Argentina and also developed a study led by CAF and CULLEN, published in December 2016 entitled: [Towards the strategy for the digital single market in Latin America](#).

Regarding the production of ICT statistics, UNECLAC has continued to support the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC), collecting data from household surveys on ICT access and use. OSILAC maintains and update a database, which allows the calculation of ICT and socioeconomic indicators and its analysis over time and among the Latin American countries. This information is published through the statistical portal of UNECLAC (CEPALStat).

UNECLAC has also continued to support the Regional Broadband Observatory (ORBA), which has been periodically carrying out the collection of statistical information on the development of broadband in the LAC region. The information includes statistics on access, use and quality of the fixed and mobile broadband Internet service. This information is processed from different sources such as the International Telecommunication Unit (ITU) database, household surveys and the collection of data on tariffs based on public sites of service providers and other sources (e.g. Statista, Akamai and bnamericas). The information collected allow to calculate indicators about Internet users by age, by geographical area, by gender and statistics on fixed and mobile broadband rates and connection speeds.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- UNECLAC will continue to act as the technical secretariat of the eLAC process, generating statistical information, research and supporting the steering committee of the process. UNECLAC will be also coordinating the working groups on the following topics: 1) access and infrastructure, 2) digital content, 3) education, 4) Internet governance 5) strengthening the IT industry, 6) digital single market, 7) health, 8) teleworking, social inclusion and sustainable development 9) data protection and privacy on the internet, 10) cybersecurity, 11) technological waste and 12) regulatory framework of the information society.
- UNECLAC will facilitate the organization of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society, to be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from the 18th to the 20th of April, 2018.
- UNECLAC is expected to organized in 2018 one training workshop on Big Data for the measurement of the digital economy in Colombia and the new version of the Summer school: "Digital Transformation and Innovation in Latin America: Digital and Regional Integration" in Barcelona, Spain.
- UNECLAC will deepen its research agenda on issues related to the digital ecosystem and digital economy, the Internet industry and IoT. Specifically, progress will be made in research about the use of Big Data for measuring the digital economy.
- As the technical secretariat of the Subsidiary Body on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of Latin America and the Caribbean, UNECLAC will

organize the Third Ministerial Conference of the subsidiary body, which will aim to discuss policies on development, innovation and digital economy.