
ITU (International Telecommunications Union) Regional Development Forum for Americas (RDF-AMS)

Accelerating the digital development in the Americas

16-18 August 2023

San Salvador, El Salvador (CST — Central Standard Time - GMT-6)

Organized by: International Telecommunication Union

With the support of the Government of El Salvador

Remote participation at <http://www.itu.int/go/RDF-AMS2023>

MEETING REPORT

18 August 2023

1. Introduction & General Overview

The ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas (RDF-AMS) was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and hosted by the **Government of El Salvador**. The Forum was held on **16-18 August 2023 in San Salvador, El Salvador**. The RDF-AMS was held together with the ITEC-ITU New Technologies and Internet Colloquium.

RDF-AMS reported on the outcomes, and ongoing implementation of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) held in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2022. Emphasis was placed on the four Regional Initiatives for Americas approved at WTDC-22 and the five Partner2Connect Roundtables and their matchmaking process.

The Annual Regional Development Forum for Americas provided an opportunity for the exchange of views between ITU and decision-makers of ITU Member States and Sector Members as well as other stakeholders in the Americas region. It served as a platform for an exchange of views on how to achieve meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in the region. This year's Regional Development Forum was focused on matchmaking between Member States needs, and Partner pledges under the **Partner2Connect Digital Coalition** that have so far attracted over 750 pledges valued at 30 billion dollars globally. The main purpose was with partners, to operationalize these pledges and implement impactful projects and concrete actions across the Americas region.

In this context, the ITU Office for Americas launched a Regional Consultation that presented an opportunity for ITU Member States, Sector Members, International and Regional organizations, and other stakeholders to contribute to ITU's activities at the regional level considering the strategic needs of the region and partner offerings/commitments during the period, 2023 – 2025. ITU received a total of 27 contributions for this RDF (Regional Development Forum) 2023 which were added to the P2C



(PARTNER 2 CONNECT) pledging platform. As of 19 August 2023, there are 147 P2C pledges, worth \$9.86 billion made by 91 entities coming from 39 countries around the world that are already being implemented in the Americas to bring meaningful connectivity and digital transformation.

[List of Contributions](#)

No	Language	Title	Organization
1	English	Management of the radio frequency spectrum in Argentina	ENACOM, Argentina
2	English	Recomendaciones para una Inteligencia Artificial Fiable (Recommendations for Reliable Artificial Intelligence)	Undersecretariat of Information Technologies of the Secretariat of Public Innovation of the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers' Office, Argentina
3	English	"Mi Pueblo Conectado", addressing the connectivity divide	Undersecretariat of Information Technologies of the Secretariat of Public Innovation of the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers' Office, Argentina
4	English	Promotion of infrastructure deployment	Communications Regulation Commission, Colombia
5	English	Regulatory Improvement Policy	Communications Regulation Commission, Colombia
6	Español	Reporte de Implementación de Compromisos de COMTELCA	Comisión Técnica Regional de Telecomunicaciones (COMTELCA)
7	English	Desarrollo de habilidades y certificaciones: La contribución de Coursera y las microcredenciales (Skills Development and Certifications: Coursera's Contribution and Microcredentials)	Coursera, INC. México, Colombia, Costa Rica, Perú, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Paraguay, República Dominicana, Guyana, Belice y Suriname.
8	English	Facilitating 21st Century Government for addressing Caribbean Challenges	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
9	English	Single Regional ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Regulatory Framework/Caribbean Telecommunications Regulatory Commission	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
10	English	Caribbean Emergency Communications Framework	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
11	Español	Acciones y políticas del INDOTEL para avanzar en la conectividad y cierra de brecha digital de la República Dominicana	INDOTEL, República Dominicana
12	Español	INDOTEL como catalizador de Partner2Connect en República Dominicana	INDOTEL, República Dominicana
13	English	Tech as a driver of women's economic opportunities	Haiti



14	English	Committee of Small Operators	Federal Telecommunications Institute, Mexico
15	English	Digital Literacy Program 2022	Federal Telecommunications Institute, Mexico
16	English	Empowerment of Users in Indigenous Languages	Federal Telecommunications Institute, Mexico
17	English	Program to Promote Trust in the Digital Ecosystem Project	Federal Telecommunications Institute, Mexico
18	English	Gender Equality Plan "Experts who transform"	Federal Telecommunications Institute, Mexico
19	English	Aldeas Inteligentes, Bienestar Sostenible [Smart Villages, Sustainable Well-being]	Secretariat of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation, Mexico
20	Español	Compromisos de Nicaragua 2023-2025	Instituto Nicaragüense de Telecomunicaciones y Correos (TELCOR), Nicaragua
21	English	Amendment to Regulation for the installation, operation and shared use of infrastructures for telecommunications services	National Authority of Public Services (ASEP), Panama
22	Español	Avance de actividades P2C	INICTEL UNI, Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Capacitación de Telecomunicaciones de la Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería Lima Perú
23	English	Red Soldati Conectada	El Hormiguero
24	English	National Digital Transformation Strategy	Ministry of Digital Transformation, Trinidad and Tobago
25	English	ZTE's pledge in Americas	ZTE Corporation
26	English	Connectivity Roadmaps for those not conencted	Comisión Interamericana de Telecomunicaciones Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)
27	English	Connectivity and inclusion hand in hand with universal access in Costa Rica	SUTEL (Superintendencia de Telecomunicaciones de Costa Rica).



Participation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the RDF-AMS 2023

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are vulnerable countries that face particular situations of social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities and constraints. Their participation in the Regional Development Forum of the Americas was fundamental, which is why it promoted the active participation of its representatives and the cooperation of the various actors to achieve the development of communications and meaningful connectivity of its citizens. Likewise, ITU's initiatives, programmes and projects are promoting the development of these countries as a priority, through the Regional Initiatives.

At RDF Americas 2023, representatives from the Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, British Virgin Islands, the Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU) and Trinidad and Tobago participated in person and remotely.

RDF-AMS was **open to all stakeholders** willing to strengthen cooperation and partnership among telecommunication/ICT policymakers, regulators, industry, academia, regional and international development agencies, and organizations on specific regional telecommunication and ICT matters.

Within the framework of the Regional Development Forum 2023, the ITEC 2023 Colloquium on New Technologies and Internet was held under the theme **"INNOVATION IN CONNECTIVITY."** The discussion at this event was centred around the public and private agencies and entrepreneurs' perspectives.

ITEC 2023 Workshops

During the third day of the event, within the framework of ITEC 2023, a parallel agenda of workshops on digital transformation was held for Women Entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs from El Salvador. Likewise, a workshop on Regulatory Innovation was held for staff from regulatory teams of companies and regulatory bodies in the region.

2. Contributions and Documentation

The meeting resulted in the 2023-2024 Implementation Plan for Regional Initiatives for Americas. This outcome was built upon 12 presentations, 147¹ P2C pledges, including 27 written contributions. They are available on the [RDF WEBSITE](#) along with the presentations, video materials and photographs.

3. Participation

A total of 268 participants (142 face-to-face, 48 participating in parallel workshops, and 78 remote participants), 22 member states, out of which 18 Member States participated on the panels, 5 UN (United Nations) Agencies, 6 International Organizations and more that 35 representatives of private sector. Most of the Member States committed to continue improving their regulatory frameworks within the framework of the Partner2Connect initiative, with regulatory modernization being one of the objectives of Regional Initiative 4 in the Americas Region. The final list of participants is available on the [RDF WEBSITE](#)

¹ <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/pledges/explore-pledges/>, as of 19 August 2023.



It was moderated by the Regional Director of the ITU for the Americas Mr Bruno Ramos, and during the panel was possible to analyze digital development in the Americas, cases of digital transformation of countries such as El Salvador, Panama, the Central American vision, and the member states of the OAS (Organization of American States) were presented, as well as some challenges faced by Latin America to achieve digital development were defined. From the perspective of multiple stakeholders such as civil society, governments, international organizations, industry, unions, and experts. This panel was attended by representatives of the governments of El Salvador, Panama, CITEC, COMTELCA, SICA, Internet Society, Millicom, ASIET and Access Partnership.

The main findings were:

- Trade has grown thanks to digital platforms, so coordinated policies are required between the different actors of the ecosystem, but also between different policies of the ministries such as ICT and Trade.
- One of the most relevant challenges for digital development is coordination among stakeholders, there are many opportunities that require coordination efforts to be seized. Need to collaborate instead of competing.
- Governments through their ministries and regulators are updating their regulatory frameworks to be more effective in harnessing, regulatory agendas have been updated and we must continue along that path.
- Some of the most relevant policies that have been adopted in some countries of the region and that should be adopted by many more are the facilitative and non-collecting spectrum policy, the strengthening of cybersecurity, the creation of data centres, public-private partnerships and the differential approach in policies and regulation to connect the unconnected and remote areas.
- The challenge of service affordability remains despite a significant decline in revenue per user for operators. That entails the need to open possibilities for more people to make productive use of connectivity. Achieving financial sustainability, simplifying regulation, new ecosystem requires new rules, attention to intellectual property.
- This panel also analyzed regional visions such as the SICA Digital Strategy, the 21 CITEC amendments to connect the unconnected, reiterates the importance of focusing on equity and access, economic development of the region, the promotion of shared strategies, digital education, vision of unified region, solving the gap between urban and rural.
- There are also challenges from the supply side, how to optimize the value chain in order to provide the necessary infrastructure. Another challenge is the removal of structural barriers: vision of local governments on operators, gap in development of public policies, have a balanced vision on taxes, tariffs, spectrum valuation, in order to avoid that this cost ends up paying the user.
- Talent training is another challenge, avoiding the drain of talent and building capabilities at all levels.
- From the vision of the industry, it is aware of the challenges in connectivity beyond the infrastructure, the service may be available but not always users use it for various reasons, such as affordability, lack of digital skills, among others.



- We must discuss infrastructure sharing, market consolidation, improving investment conditions. Reengineering of regulations and public policies to serve a different market.

7. Panel Discussions

7.1. Panel ONE. Multistakeholder cooperation and digital development

This panel presented an overview of digital cooperation actions promoted by different international organizations, multilateral banks, and other stakeholders to achieve digital development in the Americas. Likewise, the progress report of some joint initiatives between ITU and other agencies we represented.

14:00 – 15:30 (22:00 – 23:30 CEST)	Moderator: Mr Miguel Alcaine, ITU Representative, Central America Area Office
	Ms Silvia Vides Canas Alliances and Resource Mobilization Officer, UNRCO El Salvador
	Ms Miriam Bandes UN Women Representative
	Ms Yvette Blanco (UNICEF Representative in El Salvador) and Jaime Ayala (UNICEF Education Officer)
	Mr Mauricio Ramirez UN Resident Coordinator, Dominican Republic (Remote)
	Mr Mauricio Agudelo Director of Digital Transformation, CAF
	Mr Antonio Garcia Zaballos Telecommunication Specialist, IDB (Remote)
	Mr Oscar Leon Executive Secretary, CITEL (Remote)
	Ms Lizania Perez Executive Secretary, COMTELCA
	Ms Natalia Otamendi European Union Delegation

This panel was moderated by Miguel Alcaine, ITU Representative for Central America, focused on the vision and opportunities for cooperation, as well as shared successful experiences cooperating to promote digital transformation, and the lessons learned that this exercise has left. Some of the main conclusions were:



- The joint work of the United Nations System through its agencies, funds and programs enhances social welfare, gender inclusion, human mobility, economic transformation, sustainability, peace, and that is why the entire system works for institutional strengthening to provide better services to the population taking advantage of digitalization. Examples of the common programmatic agenda with agencies, funds and programmes were presented.
- One of the success stories presented in this panel was the Global Gateway platform of the European Union that seeks to promote investment in digital, clean energy and transport, to project them to health, innovation. Likewise, the Digital Alliance between Latin America and the European Union in its pillars highlighting issues such as: digital policies, connectivity, incubator of digital initiatives, earth observation.
- Other experiences presented were the OAS training scholarships, more than 4000 annually, and OAS resolution 2966 with 21 guidelines to connect rural and underserved areas. To date, there are several memoranda of understanding, for example, with Ecuador, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, and Panama.
- UN Women presented its experience working with ITU on cross-cutting and multi-stakeholder digital inclusion issues, for example since 2016 with Equals. ITU in El Salvador piloted the Digital KIT for digital transformation, piloting with women in the country.
- The multilateral organizations also presented their results in terms of support with programs, credits and technical assistance, entities such as CAF, the IDB showed their contributions to countries on issues of capacity building, artificial intelligence, infrastructure, climate resilience among others.
- The work of UN and multilateral bodies such as CAF and IDB focuses on joint work government, academia, civil society, multilaterals. Investment loans and technical cooperation.
- A very important initiative to highlight has been GIGA, which is developed by UNICEF and ITU. Two of the most relevant products of this initiative has been the School Mapping that allows to see the lack of connectivity of schools, as well as the proposal of use models and business plans for school connectivity.

7.2. Panel Two: Innovation and entrepreneurship for digital development

his panel involved presentations and discussions on Innovation and Digital Entrepreneurship as an enabler for digital development in the Americas. The Moderator introduced the topic referring to the general understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship covering areas such as AI (Artificial Intelligence), bitcoin. He also spoke of its importance, opportunities and challenges using some references to statical levels. ITU's Accelerating Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development initiative was introduced with specific cases of work in LDCS / SIDS / LDCS, the work of the ITU in emergency telecommunications, and the initiatives that aim at the development of innovation and



reporting in accordance with the mandates of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), Plenipotentiary (PP) and their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The panellist listed below, were asked several questions surrounding the topic including:

- 1) What have been the main actions from your organization to achieve digital development in your country, the region and how has it contributed to digital innovation?
- 2) How well is the region doing in advancing and encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship?
- 3) What are the main challenges experienced in advancing and encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in their countries or agencies?
- 4) Give one specific advice you would give to those that are about to start innovation and entrepreneurship in their district, and
- 5) is there too much talk and little action on the topic in the region? What is needed immediately to move the needle, so to speak?

16:00 – 17:30 (00:00 – 01:30 CEST)	Moderator: Mr Cleveland Thomas, ITU Representative, Caribbean Area Office
	Mr Nelson Arroyo President of INDOTEL Dominican Republic
	H.E. Mr Leon R. Williams The Commonwealth of The Bahamas Ambassador to the ITU
	Mr Rodney Taylor Secretary General Caribbean Telecommunication Union, CTU
	Mr Diego Castilla Cabrera, President of Technological Park of Cuba Representative of Government of Cuba (MINCOM)
	Mr Marcelo Rute, Director Communications Development Fund Representative of Government of Chile (Remote)
	Mr Javier Marin, Founder Numu Group Expert in Digital Innovation
	Dr William Ernesto Mejia Director of Technology Ministry of Education Government of El Salvador

Each participants shared many interesting innovative and entrepreneurship programmes undertaken as an enabler for digital development, improve efficiency and profitability, introduce new products or business models etc. Some of these included fibre connectivity, digital parks, harmonized policies and regulations for regional integration, digital training, education, health, and security. There is a general view that notwithstanding the progress, not enough is done in the region and that the region follows



other developers rather than help shape the future. Overall, the session provided latest information and an excitement to build local and regional innovation and entrepreneurship capabilities.

It was a panel with experts from the private sector and with the participation of regulators, and governments, giving special emphasis to the Caribbean countries which were represented on the panel through delegates from Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Cuba, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, but also delegates from El Salvador and Chile.

The main highlights and reflections of this panel were:

- One of the challenges facing entrepreneurship and digital innovation are human talent, cybersecurity capabilities, and support for startups. Costs for startups are a topic of special attention.
- The coordinated work and joint agendas by various State agencies are key to encourage entrepreneurship and digital innovation, an example that was presented in the panel was that of the Dominican Republic through the digital agenda 2030 which is a collaborative agenda and the formation of the Digital Transformation Cabinet.
- Comprehensive agendas that set goals of 100% coverage, training, modern regulation, is key to connecting the unconnected. Putting technologies at the service of people.
- For the digital development of the Caribbean but also to support innovation in all countries of the region, it is key to work with the right institutions, and to have precise and modern legislation. The initiative for a single ICT market in Caricom was presented.
- Likewise, the panel showed the experience of the Matanzas technology park in Cuba, as a dynamic entity of innovation. Cuba currently has two scientific and technological parks: Havana and Matanzas, which becomes the University Business Interface, one of its purposes is to develop innovation projects in the area of ICTs to lead to the real economy. It is noteworthy that anyone can bring a technological innovation project to the park and will be supported.
- Another experience presented was that of Chile through regulation, ICT public policies and the telecommunications development fund allows the State to generate projects supporting companies.
- Finally, the program "Links with education" of El Salvador was presented, and the country objective of achieving digital inclusion to 100% of students in all areas regardless of income. Another program to develop digital skills and training in all areas as well as connectivity.

8. Partner2Connect Roundtables

This year's Regional Development Forum in Americas focused on matchmaking between Regional Initiatives and country priorities with the commitments made by the partners under the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition. To date, the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition has attracted over 751 pledges valued at 30.6 billion dollars globally.



The five Partner2Connect Roundtables focused on priorities of the region / countries fostering partnership building to accelerate digital development in Americas. This series of roundtables offered a comprehensive understanding of the effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into the scalable and actionable projects with impact on the ground for sustainable development in the Americas. Four of the five Partner2Connect roundtables focused on each of the four ITU Regional Initiatives for Americas receiving commitments from the partners which through matchmaking will result in implementable projects.

Ahead of the Forum, ITU Member States, Sector Members, International and regional organizations, and other stakeholders were invited to report on progress as well as add on already several dozen of active P2C pledges and reflect on the strategic needs of the region for 2023 – 2024, submit additional commitments and contributions towards to advance meaningful connectivity. As of 18 August 2023, Partner2Connect pledging platform² contains 147 pledges benefiting the Americas region that are already being implemented in line with the Regional Initiatives. These pledges have an estimated value of \$9.86 billion and are made by 91 entities across all sectors from around the globe. 27 written contributions³ were submitted by the time of the RDF-AMS which are taking stock of the implementation of commitments made in a wholistic manner, presenting results achieved on the ground, generating new commitments and partnerships as well as discussing different challenges ITU Member States and Sector Members face in implementing their commitments through matchmaking. All submissions were presented at the Partner2Connect Roundtables where regional priorities and country priority needs were matched against commitments by the partners through matchmaking that would result into tangible actions to advance meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in the region. The roundtables also witnessed the spirit of collaboration amongst the members to benefit by sharing best practices and encouraged partners to make additional pledges through the Partner2Connect platform, thereby, strengthening the ICT ecosystem conducive for sustainable growth.

P2C Roundtable One

This session established the context by introducing the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, highlighting its accomplishments and its significance as a premier UN-led multi-stakeholder alliance for global digital development. The roundtable served as a platform for participants, including notable P2C Champions, to engage in conversations about the most efficacious strategies for translating commitments into substantial digital impact for sustainable development in the Americas.

The commitments emanating from this session were centered around a multifaceted digital framework. This encompassed creating an environment conducive to digital growth, investing in essential infrastructure, enacting policy reforms, devising strategies for harnessing the potential of Artificial Intelligence, ensuring the security and integrity of cyberspace, bolstering digital education and skills, promoting the digital inclusion of diverse groups including women, indigenous communities, vulnerable

² <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/pledges/explore-pledges/>, as of 18 August 2023

³ <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Americas/Pages/EVENTS/2023/RDF-AMS-2023/contributions/default.aspx>, as of 18 August 2023



entrepreneurs, government personnel, students facing adversity, and small telecommunications operators.

An issue that garnered significant attention was the need for coordination among stakeholders within the UN System, the private sector, and governments. This coordination challenge was not only identified as a hurdle but also recognized as an opportunity to leverage complementary strengths, thereby expediting the role of digital technology as a pivotal enabler for sustainable development.

P2C (PARTNER 2 CONNECT) Roundtable One	
Effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into the scaled-up impact of digital for sustainable development in Americas and beyond through Partner2Connect.	
09:00 – 9:55 (17:00 – 17:55 CEST)	Moderator: Mr Sameer Sharma, Head of Special Initiatives, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
	Mr Sostenes Diaz Commissioner, IFT (Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones) (Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones) México
	Mr Antonio Garcia Representative, IDB (Remote)
	Mr Mauricio Agudelo, Director, Digital Transformativo, CAF
	Mr Norberto Martinez Senior Director of Industry Relations, ZTE Corporation
	Laura Fernández Lord Head of Sustainability and Women, BBVA (Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria) Microfinance Foundation Spain (Remote)
	Ms Ophelia Blanchard Director (Ag), Department of Technology, Ministry of ICT and Posts Government of St. Kitts and Nevis
Ms Maria Cristina Cárdenas Representative, Coursera	
09:45 – 09:55 (17:45 – 17:55 CEST)	ITU-Huawei Signing Agreement Ceremony

P2C Roundtable Two

This roundtable was in alignment with the objectives of Regional Initiative 1, which revolves around the establishment of contemporary, robust, secure, and sustainable information and telecommunication technology. The panel consisted of a diverse array of stakeholders representing various sectors.



Together, they delved into the ways in which the execution of their P2C commitments is yielding tangible benefits on the ground for populations still devoid of economical access to ICT. This is particularly vital for the vulnerable and marginalized communities residing in underserved or unserved regions, where commercial viability for operators is often lacking. During the roundtable discussions, a unanimous agreement emerged regarding the exploration of pioneering connectivity avenues presented by different providers. This exploration is underpinned by enabling policy and regulatory approaches that stimulate innovation, facilitate investment, and furnish consumers with an array of options for accessing ICT affordably.

P2C Roundtable Two	
AMS1: Regional Initiative for Americas Deployment of modern, resilient, secure, and sustainable information and telecommunication technology infrastructure.	
10:20 – 12:15 (18:20 – 20:15 CEST)	Moderator: Mr Miguel Alcaine, ITU Representative, Central America Area Office
	al Sr. Daniel Argandoña Martinez, Subdirector de Análisis Regulatorio de la Dirección de Políticas Regulatorias y Competencia OSIPTEL Perú (Remoto)
	Mr Hildeman Rangel National Director of Telecommunications ASEP Panamá (Remoto)
	Mr Atilio Rulli Vice President, Huawei
	Ms Elizabeth Peña Jauregui Head of Government Relations for North LATAM and The Caribbean at Ericsson
	Mr. Alejandro Albanese Director Enterprise and Government, NOKIA
	Mr German Arias Manager of Regulation of SBA
	Ms Gabriela Lago Director of Regulation and Government, Hughes Network (Remote)

P2C Roundtable 3

P2C Roundtable 3 was wholly dedicated to the advancement of empowerment and inclusion through the enhancement of digital skills and literacy for all individuals, with a special focus on the most vulnerable populations. This resonates with the objectives of Regional Initiative 2 for the region, as it holds the key to realizing meaningful connectivity. The core themes that emerged from the discussions during the roundtable encompass several vital aspects. First and foremost, there is a unanimous consensus among the panellists about the paramount importance of government-led initiatives to



update and modernize educational programs. These programs should be both inclusive and forward-looking, ensuring that they cater to the evolving needs of the future. Additionally, there was a strong call for increased collaboration with the private sector, particularly in the domains of upskilling and re-skilling the workforce. This partnership becomes especially pertinent in areas such as cybersecurity and advanced technological proficiencies. Such collaboration has the potential to unlock new avenues for improved wages and expanded employment opportunities, aligning with the overarching goals of empowerment and inclusion through enhanced digital skills.

P2C Roundtable Three	
AMS2: Regional Initiative for Americas Improving and promoting digital literacy, digital skills, and digital inclusion programmes, particularly for vulnerable population.	
14:00- 15:00 (22:00 – 23:00 CEST)	Moderator: Sergio Scarabino, ITU Representative, South America Area Office
	Ms Agustina Brizio Undersecretary of Information Technologies, Argentina
	Ms Patricia Carreno Vice Minister of Communications, Perú (Remote)
	Ms Ledenika Mendez Director of Digital Inclusion, SCT México
	Mr Daniel Nunez Representative of ATC (Academy Training Centres) – INATEL, Brazil (Remote)
	Video by INICTEL UNI, Presenting pledge for P2C (Remote)
	Ms Maria Zaghi ITU Expert on Digital Transformation (Project Digital KIT)
	Ms Amparo Arango Director International Affairs, Indotel, Dominican Republic
	Mr Allan Ruiz Madrigal Representative, Access Partnership
	Mr. Diauva Pierre, National Project Officer ITU-EIF Project Enhancing the Digital Ecosystem and Digital Skills for the Economic Empowerment of Women in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

P2C Roundtable 4

P2C Roundtable Four was aligned with Regional Initiative 3, titled 'Effective support for digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded, and sustainable connectivity projects'. The consensus among the panellists was that when devising national strategies, a



comprehensive approach integrating digital transformation, innovation, and sustainability is crucial. Notably, one of the predominant hurdles faced by many countries in the region remains the limited access to funding, a pivotal prerequisite for the rapid expansion of projects aimed at achieving swift digital transformation. During the discussions, participants not only exchanged valuable insights into best practices but also openly addressed the challenges they encounter. Moreover, they expressed their proactive readiness to assist other Member States keen on pursuing similar endeavours. A strong emphasis was placed on the tremendous value of knowledge-sharing within the Americas region.

P2C Roundtable Four	
AMS3: Regional Initiative for Americas Effective support for digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded, and sustainable connectivity projects.	
15:00- 15:45 (23:00 – 23:45 CEST)	Moderator: Mr Cleveland Thomas, ITU Representative, Caribbean Area Office
	Ms Silvana Rica Under Secretary of Public Administration, Argentina (Video) Ms Agustina Brizio Public Policy National Transformation in Argentina, Under Secretary of Information Technologies, Argentina
	Dr Jesús Aguila Hermoso General Coordinator Information Society, SICT Government of México (Remote)
	Ms Lizania Perez Executive Secretary, COMTELCA
	Mr Layard Terrero Director of Engineering, FORTINET
	Mr Diego Castilla Cabrera President Technological Park, Cuba
	Ms Doris Margarita Jaime, Director Escuela Superior de Innovación y Tecnología.
	Sr Sigfredo Mancía Peña Director of Infrastructure, Secretary of Innovation Government of El Salvador

P2C Roundtable 5

This roundtable focused on fostering an environment conducive to the advancement of digital development both nationally and regionally. This objective aligns seamlessly with the goals of Regional Initiative 4, which centres on the establishment of policies and regulatory structures that extend connectivity to underserved populations through accessible and cost-effective information and



P2C Matchmaking

The matchmaking exercise which was a highlight of the P2C sessions, was based on the matching the regional priorities and country specific priorities with the commitments made by the P2C partners at the roundtable through their pledges, contributions, resulting into actionable projects for implementation in the region.

Examples of matchmaking highlighted at the Regional Partner2Connect Roundtable include but not limited to the projects in El Salvador, Guatemala and Argentina by the Interamerican Development Bank in the fields of infrastructure and connectivity and the development of a digital ecosystem to boost employment, growth and social inclusion; activities by the Development Bank of Latin America in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador in the areas of digitalization of services, telemedicine and Artificial Intelligence; the work in Bolivia and other by ZTE to help develop their 5G sector; and activities by the BBVA MicroFinance Foundation in several countries in the region benefiting vulnerable communities.

For further information on matchmaking, please refer the Matchmaking table in **Annex-2** which is matched against the ITU Regional Initiatives for Americas.

Annex 1 (Regional Initiatives)

AMS1: Deployment of modern, resilient, secure, and sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology infrastructure

Expected Results

1. Assistance in designing, funding, and implementing national, regional, and subregional broadband plans and resilient networks, including support to community networks, with special attention to indigenous communities, underserved and unserved areas, critical environment areas and vulnerable populations, taking into account innovative connectivity solutions that can be locally deployed and managed, including access to spectrum and high-speed networks.
2. Assistance in developing, funding, and implementing national emergency telecommunication plans and network infrastructure.
3. Enhanced and strengthened confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), including capacity building and support for the development of national cybersecurity strategies.
4. Effective use of sustainable telecommunications/ICTs to mitigate climate change and enhance environmental sustainability.
5. Assistance in designing effective spectrum-management plans, enabling affordable access to backbone facilities, development of Internet exchange points and appropriate use of universal service funds.

AMS2: Enhancement and expansion of digital-literacy, digital-skills, and digital-inclusion programmes, especially among vulnerable populations

Expected Results



1. Support in developing human capacity through national, regional and subregional capacity-building projects, such as training programmes or workshops, to exchange expertise and knowledge, as well as national and international experiences, which will provide practical skills and tools to bridge the digital divides, including the gender digital divide, in order to contribute to the development of sustainable telecommunications/information and communication technologies, enhancing competition, investment and innovation.
2. Provision of diligent assistance in planning, implementing, and evaluating projects and programmes on digital literacy, digital skills, and digital inclusion.

AMS3: Effective support for digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded, and sustainable connectivity projects

Expected Results

1. Assistance in planning and implementing foundational infrastructure and special-purpose e-services.
2. Increased capacity building and multistakeholder cooperation to facilitate and enhance innovation in telecommunications/information and communication technologies in support of digital transformation in the region, with special focus on all developing countries in the region, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, indigenous communities, and in particular youth and women in rural, remote, unserved or underserved areas and communities.
3. Promotion of the active engagement of civil society, international financial institutions, industry partners, academia, and other relevant stakeholders.

AMS4: Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/information and communication technologies that support achievement of the sustainable development goals and progress towards the digital economy

Expected Results

1. Support for and promotion of sustainable telecommunications/information and communication technologies in all developing countries in the region, including least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), and in protected areas, for emergency communications and for protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.
2. Support in developing an enabling policy and regulatory environment and in facilitating investment and innovation to connect the unconnected and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Support for Member States in implementing policy and regulatory strategies to connect the unconnected, with a focus on affordability, including support for small operators and community networks.
4. Enhanced outreach to all developing countries in the region, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, for greater participation in ITU processes and better access to finance and expertise.



					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago
10	AMS1.2 AMS4.1	Caribbean Emergency Communications Framework	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigua and Barbuda • Barbados • Belize • The Bahamas • Dominica • Grenada • Guyana • Jamaica • Saint Kitts and Nevis • Saint Lucia • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago
11	AMS1.1 AMS1.2	\$1 billion for funding of digital infrastructure with a social and productivity purpose	Interamerican Development Bank (IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000,000,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina • Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • Bolivia • Brazil • Chile • Colombia • Costa Rica • Dominican Republic • Ecuador • Haiti • Honduras • Mexico • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Suriname



					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecuador Mexico Peru
22	AMS1.1	Satellite Connectivity for Resilience and Sustainability	Access Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries in the region, where applicable
23	AMS2.1 AMS2.2	Train 1 million people in cybersecurity skills (a global pledge)	FORTINET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7,000,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries in the region, where applicable
24	AMS2.1 AMS2.2	Profuturo digital education programme	Telefonica SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 216,000,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina Bahamas Barbados Belize Benin Chile Colombia Costa Rica El Salvador Guatemala Guyana Mexico Nicaragua Panama Peru Uruguay Venezuela
25	AMS1.1	Connectivity Roadmaps for those not connected	CITEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dominican Republic Ecuador Paraguay Panama Colombia

8. Declaration, meetings, and Special Announcements

The Regional Development Forum provided an opportunity for special announcements:

- During the RDF, the Director signed an agreement with Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd Latin America, and the Caribbean to welcome a voluntary contribution of



150,000 USD from Huawei to the ITU in support of the implementation of Regional Initiatives for the Americas Region.

- The Director also held several bilateral meetings during RDF-AMS:
 - Meeting with Nelson Arroyo and Julissa Cruz of INDOTEL
 - Meeting with Agustina Brizzio, Under Secretary of Information Technologies of Argentina
 - Meeting with Rodney Taylor, Secretary General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
 - Meeting with H.E. María Luisa Hayem Brevé, Minister of Economy of El Salvador
 - Meeting with H.E. Leon R. William, Ambassador of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
 - Meeting with Paola Bonilla, Commissioner of the Communications Regulation Commission (CRC) of Colombia
 - Meeting with Layard Terrero and Lady Didiana Velásquez of Fortinet
 - Meeting with Lizania Perez, Executive Secretary Comisión Técnica Regional de Telecomunicaciones (COMTELCA)

- On Friday, the ITEC 2023 Internet and New Technologies Colloquium was held with 4 panels focused on innovation in networks and deployment, future networks, and innovative initiatives to connect the unconnected. Representatives of the industry, experts, academia, civil society and representatives of the Member States participated in this colloquium.
- Likewise, on Friday, August 18, workshops on digital transformation and appropriation of the Digital KIT were held for entrepreneurs, micro and small entrepreneurs. Focused on women and youth. The Director shared in a conversation with these women and young people within the framework of the RDF.

9. Final conclusions

For three days, initiatives, programs, projects, ideas were presented, but above all concrete actions to achieve the objectives of meaningful and universal connectivity. The mandates of the Kigali World Telecommunication Development Conference can be fulfilled with the determined commitment of all parties concerned. Member States together with the private sector, academia, international organizations, and civil society must continue to work together so that no citizen in the world is disconnected.

At RDF Americas 2023, we had the opportunity to listen to several authorities and regulators from the Americas Region, who presented their digital and regulatory agendas that largely welcome recommendations and good practices promoted by ITU.



The Governments of 22 Member States participated in this RDF, face-to-face and remote delegates from Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba St Kitts and Nevis, Chile, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, and as special guests' delegates from British Virgin Island.

A major conclusion from this Regional Development Forum is the need to pool funding resources and programs to achieve that meaningful universal connectivity and digital transformation. In this we agreed with colleagues from the United Nations, agencies such as UNICEF and UN Women as well as with other international organizations that were present, such as CITELE, COMTELCA, CTU and the European Union, the multilateral Bank represented with CAF and IDB, all allowed us to conclude a vision of the cooperation actions promoted by the different organizations and leads us to conclude on the need to work together. That's a big takeaway.

Likewise, there were representatives of the telecommunications industry, operators, providers of communications networks and services, digital content industry, applications, digital education, cybersecurity, technology manufacturers, among others; more than 35 private organizations, participated in the RDF and becomes a challenge of cooperation with the private sector.

Among the immediate actions to be considered by the Americas Region are:

- Monitor the implementation of Partner2Connect commitments and participate actively and as far as possible in the matching exercise with the needs of countries and promote the impact of these commitments on member states and society in general.
- Promote cooperation and possibilities for joint work with industries, and member states, as well as with other organizations of academia and civil society through BDT initiatives, programs and projects.
- Promote and manage joint work and cooperation with international organizations, international funds, and multilateral banks in order to develop joint projects for the benefit of Member States and their citizens.
- Continue monitoring the actions and mandates of the KIGALI World Development Conference.



AGENDA

ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas (RDF-AMS)

Accelerating the digital development in the Americas

16-18 August 2023

San Salvador, El Salvador (CST — Central Standard Time - GMT-6)

Organized by: International Telecommunication Union

With the support of the Government of El Salvador

Remote participation at <http://www.itu.int/go/RDF-AMS2023>

Wednesday, 16 August 2023

Master of Ceremony: Mr Carlos Lugo Silva, Programme Officer, ITU Central America Area Office
Ms Ligia Roca, Journalist and TV Host

Accreditation (delivery of badges): 8:00-9:00 a.m.

9:00 – 10:00 (17:00 – 18:00 CEST)	<p><u>Opening Ceremony</u></p>
	<p>H.E. Ms María Luisa Hayem Brevé Minister of Economy Government of El Salvador</p>
	<p>Ms Laura Almirall, Representative UNHCR, UN Resident Coordinator (a.i)</p>
	<p>Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU</p>
	<p>Moderator: Mr Bruno Ramos, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for the Americas</p>
	<p><u>Appointment of the Chair</u> <u>ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas</u></p>
10:00 – 10:30 (18:00 – 18:30 CEST)	<p><u>Group Photo. Coffee Break</u></p>



Opening Panel

Digital development in Americas: Trends, opportunities & challenges

This is a multistakeholder panel, with the objective to present the current state of digital development in the Americas, planned projects and actions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals in the Americas. The panel will also report the progress of the Kigali Action Plan and an overview of outcomes of WTDC 2022.

10:30 – 12:00 (18:30 – 20:00 CEST)	Moderator: Bruno Ramos, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for the Americas
	Mr Alejandro Panameño Manager Productive and Digital Innovation Minister of Economy, Government of El Salvador
	Mr Armando Fuentes, General Administrator ASEP, Panamá (Remote)
	Mr Christian Oflaherty Vice President, Internet Society
	Ms Maryleana Mendez Secretary General of ASIET
	Mr Horacio Romanelli Director of Regulation, Millicom
	Mr Allan Ruiz Representative of Access Partnership
	Lic. Ricardo Cáceres Salmán, Director Information Technologies SICA (Sistema de Integración Centroamericano) (Remote)
	Mr David Nix IEC Digital Transformation Officer, International Electrotechnical Commission, Brazil (remote)
12:00- 12:15 (20:00-20:15 CEST)	<u>Special Presentation: Result of ITU- ANATEL cooperation for 25 years</u> Ms Roberta Dos Santos Pereira Hakme ANATEL, Brazil (in person)
	Mr Rodrigo Robles Programme Office ITU Americas Regional Office (remote)
12:15 – 14:00 (20:15– 22:00 CEST)	<u>Lunch</u>



Panel One

Multistakeholder cooperation and digital development

This panel will present an overview of digital cooperation actions promoted by different international organizations, multilateral banks, and other stakeholders to achieve digital development in the Americas. Likewise, the progress report of some joint initiatives between ITU and other agencies will be presented.

14:00 – 15:30 (22:00 – 23:30 CEST)	Moderator: Mr Miguel Alcaine, ITU Representative, Central America Area Office
	Ms Silvia Vides Canas Alliances and Resource Mobilization Officer, UNRCO El Salvador
	Ms Miriam Bandes UN Women Representative
	Ms Yvette Blanco (UNICEF Representative in El Salvador) and Jaime Ayala (UNICEF Education Officer)
	Mr Mauricio Ramirez UN Resident Coordinator, Dominican Republic (Remote)
	Mr Mauricio Agudelo Director of Digital Transformation, CAF
	Mr Antonio Garcia Zaballos Telecommunication Specialist, IDB (Remote)
	Mr Oscar Leon Executive Secretary, CITEL (Remote)
	Ms Lizania Perez Executive Secretary, COMTELCA
	Ms Natalia Otamendi European Union Delegation

15:30- 16:00 (23:30 – 00:00 CEST)	<u><i>Coffee Break</i></u>
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AGENDA

REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND PARTNER2CONNECT (P2C) ROUNDTABLES

Accelerating the digital development in the Americas

16-18 August 2023

Remote participation at <http://www.itu.int/go/RDF-AMS2023>

Thursday, 17 August 2023

Master of Ceremony: Mr Carlos Lugo Silva, Programme Officer, ITU Central America Area Office

PARTNER2CONNECT (P2C) ROUNDTABLES

Fostering partnership to accelerate digital development in Americas and beyond

The Partner2Connect regional roundtable is a multistakeholder platform to present the progress of implementation of Regional Initiatives in the Americas and to identify the digital development needs of the Member States and carry out a matchmaking process between pledgor and the beneficiaries through the Partner2Connect initiative. Through a discussion between the pledge makers and the Member States, as well as new partners, it will seek to transform the commitments into concrete actions to be implemented in accordance with the region's priorities.

P2C Roundtable One

Effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into the scaled-up impact of digital for sustainable development in Americas and beyond through Partner2Connect.

<p>09:00 – 9:55 (17:00 – 17:55 CEST)</p>	Moderator: Mr Sameer Sharma, Head of Special Initiatives, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
	Mr Sostenes Diaz Commissioner, IFT México
	Mr Antonio Garcia Representative, IDB (Remote)
	Mr Mauricio Agudelo, Director, Digital Transformativo, CAF
	Mr Norberto Martinez Senior Director of Industry Relations, ZTE Corporation
	Laura Fernández Lord Head of Sustainability and Women, BBVA Microfinance Foundation Spain (Remote)
	Ms Ophelia Blanchard Director (Ag), Department of Technology, Ministry of ICT and Posts Government of St. Kitts and Nevis
<p>09:45 – 09:55 (17:45 – 17:55 CEST)</p>	<u>ITU-Huawei Signing Agreement Ceremony</u>



9:55- 10:20 (17:55– 18:20 CEST)	<u>Coffee Break</u>
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P2C Roundtable Two

AMS1: Regional Initiative for Americas
Deployment of modern, resilient, secure, and sustainable information and telecommunication technology infrastructure.

10:20 – 12:15 (18:20 – 20:15 CEST)	Moderator: Mr Miguel Alcaine, ITU Representative, Central America Area Office
	al Sr. Daniel Argandoña Martinez, subdirector de Análisis Regulatorio de la Dirección de Políticas Regulatorias y Competencia OSIPTEL Perú (Remoto)
	Mr Hildeman Rangel National Director of Telecommunications ASEP Panamá (Remoto)
	Mr Atilio Rulli Vice President, Huawei
	Ms Elizabeth Peña Jauregui Head of Government Relations for North LATAM and The Caribbean at Ericsson
	Mr. Alejandro Albanese Director Enterprise and Government, NOKIA
	Mr German Arias Manager of Regulation of SBA
	Ms Gabriela Lago Director of Regulation and Government, Hughes Network (Remote)

12:30 14:00 (20:30 – 22:00 CEST)	<u>Lunch</u>
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P2C Roundtable Three

AMS2: Regional Initiative for Americas

Improving and promoting digital literacy, digital skills, and digital inclusion programmes, particularly for vulnerable population.

<p>14:00- 15:00 (22:00 – 23:00 CEST)</p>	Moderator: Sergio Scarabino, ITU Representative, South America Area Office
	Ms Agustina Brizio Undersecretary of Information Technologies, Argentina
	Ms Patricia Carreno Vice Minister of Communications, Perú (Remote)
	Ms Ledenika Mendez Director of Digital Inclusion, SCT México
	Mr Daniel Nunez Representative of ATC – INATEL, Brazil (Remote)
	Video by INICTEL UNI, Presenting pledge for P2C (Remote)
	Ms Maria Zaghi ITU Expert on Digital Transformation (Project Digital KIT)
	Ms Amparo Arango Director International Affairs, Indotel, Dominican Republic
	Mr Allan Ruiz Madrigal Representative, Access Partnership
	Mr. Diauva Pierre, National Project Officer <i>ITU-EIF Project Enhancing the Digital Ecosystem and Digital Skills for the Economic Empowerment of Women in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)</i>



P2C Roundtable Five

AMS4: Regional Initiative for Americas

Developing enabling policies and regulatory frameworks to connect people who are still unconnected through accessible and affordable information and telecommunications technologies.

16:00- 17:30 (00:00 – 01:30 CEST)	Moderator: Mr Carlos Lugo Silva, Programme Officer, ITU Central America Area Office
	Ms Paola Bonilla Commissioner, CRC Colombia
	Dr Kim Mallalieu Deputy Chair of the Board of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) (Remote)
	Mr Adrian Mazon Villegas Directo, FONATEL / SUTEL Costa Rica (Remote)
	Ms Celia Reyes Ochoa Deputy Director, TELCOR Nicaragua
	Ms Maria Fernanda Bernal Regulatory Compliance Director, Telefonica Hispan (Remote)
	Mr Horacio Romanelli Director of Regulation, Millicom
	Ms Julissa Cruz Executive Director INDOTEL, Dominican Republic
	Ms Mercedes Aramendia President, URSEC Uruguay (Remote)
17:30 – 17:45 (01:30 – 01:45 CEST)	<u>Summary Report Day 2</u> Mr Bruno Ramos, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for the Americas

AGENDA

ITU New Technologies and Internet Colloquium – Fifth Edition

16-18 August 2023

Remote participation at <http://www.itu.int/go/RDF-AMS2023>



Friday, 18 August 2023

Master of Ceremony: Mr Carlos Lugo Silva, Programme Officer, ITU Central America Area Office

Ms Ligia Roca, Journalist and Hostess

9:00 – 9:15 (17:00 – 17:15 CEST)	<u>Opening remarks</u>
	Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

Panel 1. Innovating in the deployment process

The concept of Innovation implies the implementation of a new or significantly improved process, a new method, or new business practice, workplace organization or external relations. ICTs contribute to achieve results at scale, speed, quality, accuracy, lower costs, etc.

ICTs are transversal to all industries allowing to deliver quality goods, quality services, quality of experience in the areas of health care, education, finance, commerce, entertainment, governance, agriculture, production, critical infrastructure, among many others.

Innovation in ICTs will help to have greater advances to reduce poverty and hunger, boost health, create new jobs, mitigate climate change, improve energy efficiency, increase GDP, make cities and communities sustainable.

Innovation challenges the concept of “business-as-usual” and help to approach connectivity and promote new ways of “doing things differently”, exploring innovative ideas to effectively use technology to achieve faster and everlasting results for development and develop innovative solutions for connectivity.

In this sense, this Panel will analyse different initiatives, different perspectives, contributions, proposals related to innovative processes to adopting and deploying innovative technologies, the expectation in the near future, towards 2030, and how these innovative processes can contribute to reach the SDGs and connect the unconnected.

09:15 – 09:20 (17:15 – 17:20 CEST)	<u>Mr José Otero</u> Vice President for Latin America and The Caribbean of 5G Americas (Remote)
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09:20 – 09:25 (17:20 – 17:25 CEST)	<u>Mr Lucas Gallito</u> Head of Latin America at GSMA (Remote)
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09:25 – 10:40 (17:25 – 18:40 CEST)	Moderator: Mr Pablo Palacios, ITU Programme Officer for South America
	<u>Mr David Cuesta</u> International Business Development for LATAM at SBA
	<u>Ms Lizania Perez</u> Executive Secretary of COMTELCA
	<u>Sr. Rudiger Fogelbach</u> Manager Engineering FORTINET Central America
	<u>Mr Edwin Estrada</u> Ex Vice-Minister of Telecommunications of Costa Rica Representative, Government of El Salvador



10:40 - 11:05 (18:40 – 19:05 CEST)	<u>Coffee Break</u>
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Panel 2. Future of Networks

With the deployment of innovative technologies, the new technological revolution, the evolution of the networks and the constant optimization of resources, the main question here is: How will be the new networks? What are the innovative technologies going to offer? What can we expect in the near future? In this panel will be analysed the vision, strategy, programs for new infrastructures, champions, capital, resources, markets, culture, communities, policies, and regulations.

11:05 – 11:10 (19:05 – 19:10 CEST)	<u>Mr Carlos Rebellon</u> Director Government Affairs Latam - Intel Corporation (Remote)
11:10 – 11:15 (19:10 – 19:15 CEST)	<u>Ms Martha Suarez</u> President of DSA (Remote)
11:15 – 12:30 (19:15 – 20:30 CEST)	Moderator: Sergio Scarabino, ITU Representative, South America Area Office
	<u>Mr Atilio Rulli</u> Vice-President, Huawei
	<u>Ms Elizabeth Peña Jauregui</u> Head of Government Relations for North LATAM and The Caribbean at Ericsson
	<u>Mr Guillermo Jimenez</u> CTO Enterprise LAT at NOKIA

12:30 - 14:00 (20:30 – 22:00 CEST)	<u>Lunch</u>
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Panel 3. Innovation to connect the unconnected

Innovation allows states to improve public services, develop ICT solutions, make governments, civil society, and private sector work together. Innovation allows to foster knowledge sharing, collaboration, interdependence, greater benefits; innovation is an essential part of a thriving ICT sector, and more broadly a thriving economy, enabling businesses to develop ICT solutions and compete on a global scale by creating jobs, wealth, and economic growth, bridge the digital divide, create a more equal world where more and more people can enjoy the benefits of ICTs.

The adoption of new technologies implies new methods of deployment, building blocks of ICT-centric innovation policies, new non-traditional issues, harmonization, different means of communication, common language, efficient resource utilization, access to unserved populations, among others.

The main intention of this session is to highlight the need for innovation to find solutions to serve unconnected populations. How can the different stakeholders innovate their processes to reach unconnected populations? What is the main role and initiative of the governments? What are the initiatives, solutions, programs to connect the unconnected?



Closing Panel: Accelerating the digital development - reduction of Digital Divide of new technologies in the Americas

The main goal of connecting the unconnected - no one behind, is the basis for panel, where will be analysed the efforts that governments are doing to reduce the existing digital divide and with more emphasis, avoid the increase with the advent of new technologies between the different populations in the countries, between countries, and in the Region.

Countries need to adopt competitive strategies to accelerate digital development, which includes human and natural resources, efficiency on manufacture and production, innovation, and knowledge production. Each locality needs to create an ecosystem that reflects its own unique needs and circumstances, coordination between key stakeholders, public and private actors, and policies.

15:50- 17:10 (23:55 – 01:10 CEST)	Moderator: Mr Cleveland Thomas, ITU Representative, Caribbean Area Office
	<u>Ms Agustina Brizio</u> Under Secretary of Technologies of Information of Argentina
	<u>Mr Sostenes Diaz</u> Commissioner of IFT - México
	<u>Ms Paola Bonilla</u> Commissioner of Communications of CRC - Colombia
	Mr Bruno Ramos Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for the Americas
	<u>Ms Maryleana Mendez</u> Secretary General, ASIET
17:10 – 17:30 (01:10 – 01:30 CEST)	<u>Closure Ceremony</u>
	<u>Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava</u> Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
	<u>Representative Government of El Salvador</u>
	<u>Ms Ligia Ventura, Chairwoman RDF 2023</u>



