



ITU REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM FOR AMERICAS (RDF 26)

**Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for
an inclusive and sustainable digital future**

16 and 17 June 2026 | Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

itu.int/go/RDF-AMS-26

OUTCOME REPORT

1. Introduction

ITU Regional Development Forum for the Americas (RDF-AMS) 2026 was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in close collaboration with the Communications Regulation Commission of Colombia (CRC). The Forum was held in a hybrid format on 16 and 17 June 2026 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, back-to-back, immediately preceding the ITU Regional Workshop on Regulatory Innovation and Sandbox.

RDF-AMS 2026, held under the theme "*Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future*", provided an opportunity for an exchange of views between ITU and decision-makers of ITU Member States and Sector Members, as well as other stakeholders across the Americas region. RDF-AMS also functioned as a platform for assessing strategic orientations that may affect ITU's regional work plan.

The Forum featured six roundtables and one special session. Roundtable One focused on the state of digital development and trends in the region, examining challenges, opportunities, and ongoing ITU projects and initiatives. Roundtable Two provided an opportunity to discuss regional priorities in the context of the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25), held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, in November 2025. Roundtable Three addressed the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives (RIs) for the Americas, with contributions from key regional organizations including CITEL, CTU, COMTELCA, CAF, ISOC, and CANTO.

Roundtables Four and Five were dedicated to the Partner2Connect (P2C) matchmaking exercise, offering all stakeholders the opportunity to match specific countries' and/or regional needs with potential stakeholders' interests in supporting digital development across the Americas. Roundtable Six addressed governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable digital transformation.

The Forum concluded with a Special Session on Regulatory Experimentation Pilots, presenting proposals for Regulatory Experimentation Pilot Projects in Central America and the Dominican Republic, within the framework of the ITU–European Union cooperation project. During this session, the document *"Designing Regulatory Experimentation: A Practical Guide for the Public Sector"* was formally presented. The Forum closed with a summary by the Chair, Mr. Felipe Diaz, Commissioner and Executive Director of CRC, followed by closing remarks by Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau.

2. Participation

RDF-AMS was attended by over 135 participants, representing 20 Member States, 4 regional organizations, 13 sector members, and other stakeholders. RDF-AMS was joined by 16 High-level officials. The list of participants is available on the [RDF website](#).

3. Contributions

With the aim of facilitating the process of Partner2Connect matchmaking, a regional consultation was launched, giving an opportunity for ITU Member States, Sector Members, and other stakeholders to express their willingness to contribute to the ITU's activities at the regional level while reflecting the strategic needs of the region during the implementation period, 2026 – 2029.

Twenty-five (25) contributions were received and considered by the RDF-AMS (Annex Two), and are published on the [RDF Web page](#)

This is the list of contributions received:

No.	Country	Organization	Title	Type
1	Colombia	MinTIC Colombia	Spectrum Allocation in Colombia – AMS RI 01 – Resilient Infrastructure	◇ P
2	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Non Terrestrial Networks by CRC – AMS RI 01- Resilient Infrastructure	⚙ OG
3	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Access to Content Delivery Networks CRC – AMS RI 01- Resilient Infrastructure	⚙ OG

4	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Regulatory Framework for Cross-Sector Infrastructure Sharing – AMS RI 05 – Regulatory Frameworks	 OG
5	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Code of Good Practices- Removing Infrastructure Deployment Barriers -AMS RI 05- Regulatory Frameworks	☒ BP
6	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Regulatory Improvement Policy – AMS RI 05- Regulatory Frameworks	 OG
7	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Measures to Mitigate Cyber Fraud – AMS RI 04- Cyber-Resilience	☒ BP
8	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Child and Adolescent Protection – AMS RI 02- Digital Inclusion	 OG
9	Colombia	TIGO Colombia	ConTIGO Digital + AI Sandbox- AI Pilot in Customer Service – TIGO – AMS RI 05 Regulatory Frameworks	☒ BP
10	Jamaica	Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR)	National Inventory and Mapping of Telecommunication and Broadcasting Infrastructure - AMS RI 01 – Resilient Infrastructure	 P
11	Dominican Republic	INDOTEL	Modelo de Conectividad Asequible – AMS RI 01 – Resilient Infrastructure	☒ BP
12	Dominican Republic	INDOTEL	Digital Public Infrastructure – AMS RI 01- Resilient	☒ BP

			Infrastructure	
13	Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama	SBA Communications	Decalogue of Best Practices for Telecommunications and Infrastructure Deployment- SBA Communications- AMS RI 05 Regulatory Frameworks	☑ BP
14	Caribbean (21 CTU member states)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	CARIB Connect+ Institutional Capacity for Caribbean ICT Policy Harmonization- AMS RI 05 Regulatory Frameworks	◇ P
15	Caribbean (15+ CARICOM states)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	Regional Regulatory Body for Electronic Communications– AMS RI 05 Regulatory Frameworks	◇ P
16	Caribbean (16 SIDS and CTU states)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	Regional Cell Broadcast-Based EWS for CARICOM– AMS RI 01 Resilient Infrastructure	◇ P
17	Caribbean (CARICOM and CTU states)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	Harmonized AI Governance for Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Transformation- AMS 03 Innovative Ecosystems	◇ P
18	Caribbean (21 CTU states; initial focus: Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	CARISAT Project- Regional Sovereign Satellite Connectivity- AMS RI 01 Resilient Infrastructure	◇ P
19	Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent; scalable to all CTU SIDS)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	Smart Seas Project– AMS RI 01 Resilient Infrastructure	☑ BP

20	Global (focus on Americas, Africa, Asia, Pacific, Arab, CIS)	Fundación Cibervoluntarios (Spain)	<u>Global Alliance of Local Organizations for Community Digital Empowerment</u> – AMS RI 02 Digital Inclusion	◇ P
21	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	CONATEL Venezuela	<u>Estrategia Nacional de Despliegue de Fibra Óptica</u> – AMS RI 01- Resilient Infrastructure	☑ BP
22	35 countries across the Americas and the Caribbean	ICANN	<u>Strengthening Digital Resilience and Bridging the Digital Divide through Capacity Building</u> – ICANN – AMS RI 02 Digital Inclusion	☑ BP
23	Central America, Mexico and Dominican Republic (9 countries)	COMTELCA	<u>Strategic Plan for Regional Digital Transformation</u> - AMS RI 01, 02, 04, 05 Resilient Infrastructure, Digital Inclusion, Regulatory Framework, Cyber Resilient	◇ P
24	Caribbean and Central America (30+ markets)	CANTO	<u>The Future of Inclusive Digital Innovation in the Caribbean and Central America</u> – AMS RI 03 Innovative Ecosystems	◇ P
25	Colombia	ANE Colombia	Innovative Spectrum Management Mechanisms to Enable Meaningful Connectivity in Colombia	◇ P

4. Appointment of the Chair of the Regional Development Forum for Americas

The Commissioner and Director of the Communications Regulation Commission of Colombia (CRC), Mr. Felipe Díaz, was appointed Chair of the ITU Regional Development Forum for the Americas by Mr. Bruno Ramos, ITU Regional Director for the Americas.

5. Opening Segment

The opening ceremony was led by the following authorities,

- **Mr Felipe Diaz**, Commissioner and Executive Director, Communications Regulation Commission of Colombia
- **Mr Oscar Leon**, Secretary General, CITEL
- **H.E. Ms Gloria Patricia Perdomo**, Vice Minister of ICT of Colombia
- **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

Captions of all interventions will be made available on the [RDF website](#).

6. Roundtable One: State of Digital Development and Trends – Challenges and Opportunities

Roundtable One focused on the state of digital development and trends in the Americas, with particular attention to the challenges and opportunities shaping the region's digital transformation.

The session was moderated and set in context by Mr Bruno Ramos, Regional Director of the ITU Regional Office for the Americas. The discussion brought together government representatives, regulators, regional organizations and industry stakeholders to consider emerging trends, priorities and challenges across the Americas digital ecosystem.

The panellists included:

- **Mr Javier Gutierrez**, Communications Commissioner, CRC, Colombia
- **Ms Angeles Ayala**, Executive Secretary, COMTELCA
- **H.E. Mr Andrés Ehrler**, Minister of Tourism, Honduras
- **Mr Dean Molina**, Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Belize
- **Mr Alkin Saucedo**, National Director of Telecommunications of ASEP, Panama
- **Mr Sergio Sotomayor**, General Director, National Agency of Spectrum (ANE), Colombia

The session provided an overview of the main digital development trends across the Americas, highlighting progress in connectivity, infrastructure deployment, digital policy and regulatory modernization, while also recognizing persistent challenges related to affordability, digital skills, meaningful connectivity and inclusion.

Speakers emphasized that, while the region has made important advances in expanding connectivity, further efforts are needed to ensure that digital transformation translates into concrete social and economic benefits for all people, including those in rural, remote and underserved communities.

A special emphasis was given to the following:

- The importance of advancing universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity as a foundation for inclusive and sustainable digital development.
- The need to address remaining connectivity and usage gaps, particularly in underserved areas and among vulnerable populations.
- The importance of strengthening regulatory and institutional capacity to respond to technological change.
- The role of regional cooperation and public-private collaboration in accelerating digital transformation.
- The need to ensure that digital infrastructure, services and policies are aligned with people's needs and national development priorities.
- The importance of investment, innovation, and enabling policy environments to support network expansion and digital inclusion.
- The relevance of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, in shaping future digital development priorities in the region.

Summary:

The first roundtable of the ITU Regional Development Forum for the Americas provided a strategic space to examine the state of digital development across the region and to reflect on the conditions required to make connectivity truly meaningful. The session reaffirmed that expanding coverage remains essential, but that connectivity must also be affordable, secure, resilient, inclusive, and capable of generating tangible opportunities for people, communities, and economies. Participants highlighted the progress achieved in broadband expansion, mobile adoption, digital services, and emerging technologies, while also recognizing that persistent gaps remain between urban and rural areas, connected territories and excluded and unconnected communities, and among different social groups.

The discussion emphasized that digital transformation cannot be reduced to infrastructure deployment alone. Panellists underlined the importance of modern and flexible regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity, spectrum management, digital skills, cybersecurity, user protection, affordability, and sustainable investment models. Particular attention was given to the need to strengthen community-based and locally adapted solutions, support smaller and regional operators, promote infrastructure sharing, and ensure that public policy frameworks can respond to fast-moving technological change. The role of regulation was presented not only as a mechanism for oversight, but as an enabling instrument for innovation, competition, trust, and long-term development.

Emerging technologies were also discussed as both opportunities and challenges for the Americas. Artificial intelligence, satellite connectivity, private networks, spectrum, and digital public services were identified as areas with strong potential to accelerate development, especially in remote, rural, and underserved territories. At the same time, participants stressed that these technologies may create new forms of exclusion if countries do not invest in digital literacy, human capacity, critical thinking, and

institutional readiness. The session therefore placed people at the centre of digital development, with particular attention to rural communities, Indigenous peoples, women, older persons, vulnerable populations and productive sectors such as tourism, agriculture, education, and health.

The roundtable concluded with a shared understanding that the implementation of the Baku Action Plan and the ITU Regional Initiatives for the Americas must move from commitments to practical impact. ITU projects and partnerships in areas such as resilient infrastructure, digital inclusion, regulatory innovation, cybersecurity, e-waste management, school connectivity, and capacity building were recognized as important tools to support Member States in this transition. The session reinforced the value of regional cooperation, evidence-based regulation and multistakeholder partnerships, and confirmed that meaningful connectivity should be understood as a foundation for social inclusion, economic opportunity, institutional strengthening, and sustainable digital transformation across the Americas.

At the end of this session, the Collaboration Protocol was announced between the ITU and COMTELCA.

Captions of the session will be made available on the [RDF website](#).

7. Roundtable Two: Building upon the Outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) in the Americas Region

Roundtable Two focused on building upon the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) in the Americas region.

The session was moderated and set in context by Mr Miguel Alcaine, ITU Representative for Central America. It provided an opportunity to discuss how the outcomes of WTDC-25 can be translated into concrete regional and national actions in support of digital development across the Americas.

The panellists included:

- **Mr Nicolás Silva Cortés**, Deputy Director National Agency of Spectrum Colombia
- **Mr Luis Soto**, Coordinator National Plan of Connectivity of Guatemala
- **Mr Cesar Caceres**, Commissioner, National Commission of Telecommunication, Honduras (CONATEL)
- **Mr Edwin Castillo**, Deputy National Director of Telecommunication, ASEP, Panama
- **H.E. Mr Dominic Smith**, Minister of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence of Trinidad and Tobago
- **Ms Ledenika Mendez**, Commissioner of the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (CRT) of Mexico

The discussion highlighted the importance of aligning global commitments with regional priorities and national implementation pathways. Speakers emphasized that the WTDC-25 outcomes provide an important framework for advancing universal and meaningful connectivity,

strengthening institutional capacity, supporting digital skills, and promoting inclusive digital transformation.

Participants also underlined the importance of cooperation among governments, regulators, development banks, regional organizations and the private sector to ensure that digital development efforts deliver measurable impact at the country level.

A special emphasis was given to the following:

- The need to translate WTDC-25 outcomes into practical and impact-oriented actions in the Americas.
- The importance of strengthening national connectivity plans and aligning them with regional priorities.
- The role of spectrum management, infrastructure investment, and regulatory cooperation in accelerating connectivity.
- The need to support countries with different levels of digital maturity through targeted technical assistance.
- The importance of digital transformation as a driver of public service delivery, innovation, and economic development.
- The relevance of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies for public administration and national digital strategies.
- The importance of partnerships with regional development institutions, including CAF, to support sustainable digital development.

Summary:

The panel began by outlining the Baku Action Plan's integration with the Sustainable Development Goals and the ITU's strategic plan. The Development Sector of ITU (ITU-D) operates through Study Commissions and the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), which acts as the Secretariat. The BDT priorities established by the WTDC-25 were listed: Affordable connectivity, Digital transformation, Enabling policy and regulatory environment, Resource mobilization and international cooperation and Inclusive, safe and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development.

Country Experiences and Initiatives

Colombia: Spectrum Democratization and Flexibility

Colombia's National Spectrum Agency focuses on democratizing access to spectrum and making its use more flexible across sectors. The shift is from rigid service-based spectrum allocation to viewing spectrum as a strategic national resource. Challenges include creating flexible access schemes while ensuring spectrum is used for its intended purposes.

Guatemala: Reducing the Digital Gap through Education and Health

Guatemala has prioritized reducing the digital divide, especially in education, where 30,000 out of 37,000 educational centers lack digital connectivity. The government is implementing a plan extending to 2032 to connect schools, train teachers, and integrate technology in health and public security sectors. Institutional agreements with ministries are key, though bottlenecks and sustainability remain challenges.

Honduras: Legal Framework and Coordinated Connectivity Efforts

Honduras is updating its Telecommunications legal framework with ITU's support to address telecommunications sector management and reduce the digital gap. The country faces challenges in coordination among stakeholders and ensuring sustainable connectivity projects. Recent authorizations aim to introduce 5G spectrum and integrate municipalities lacking connectivity, focusing on education, health, and tourism sectors.

Panama: Spectrum Allocation and Strategic Alliances

Panama has allocated over 490 MHz in key bands (2.5 GHz and 3.5 GHz) to enable 5G network expansion, including in rural areas. The country has modified laws to allow operators to share spectrum and retransmit signals via low Earth orbit satellites, facilitating coverage in underserved regions. Panama also emphasizes regulatory improvements and strategic alliances with ITU and CITEC, hosting regional institutions like COMTELCA and expecting to host the ITU office for Central America very soon.

Trinidad and Tobago: Digital Evolution and AI Integration

Trinidad and Tobago transformed its Ministry to focus on public administration and AI. It initiated AI training programs for public servants in partnership with organizations like OpenAI. It introduced the use of Gravity AI for their public servants, achieving a 75% productivity increase. The country emphasizes inclusive digital public infrastructure and addresses challenges such as cybersecurity threats, legislative bottlenecks, and cultural adoption barriers.

Mexico: Institutional Changes and Indigenous Inclusion

With a recent change in the law, Mexico established the Digital Transformation and Telecommunications Agency (ATDT), at the Ministerial level, and the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (CRT). The new law and the recent creation of both entities have enabled synchronicity between public policy and regulatory agendas.

Mexico has launched policies on digital transformation, cybersecurity, and AI, including programs targeting social spectrum concessions for Indigenous populations. Efforts include reducing regulatory paperwork, engaging stakeholders in dialogues, and aligning strategies with long-term development plans.

Common Themes and Challenges

Spectrum Management and Regulatory Reform

Multiple countries highlighted the importance of flexible, modernized spectrum management to support new technologies like 5G. Shared spectrum usage, simplified registration, and competitive pricing are key goals. Legal reforms are necessary to overcome outdated laws that hinder technological progress and infrastructure deployment.

Coordination Among Stakeholders

Effective communication and collaboration among government entities, private sector, and communities are essential. Honduras particularly noted the challenge of overlapping competences and lack of dialogue, which can fragment efforts to reduce the digital divide.

Digital Inclusion and Education

Bridging the digital gap requires not only infrastructure but also training and education. Guatemala and Mexico focus on connectivity in schools and Indigenous communities, addressing language and literacy barriers.

Cybersecurity and Ethical AI Use

Emerging technologies bring risks such as deepfakes and fraud. Trinidad and Tobago established committees to manage cybersecurity challenges and promote ethical AI use, supported by multilateral organizations including the UN and ITU. Trinidad and Tobago also emphasized cultural factors affecting technology adoption.

Data Utilization and Governance

Efficient use of data across sectors is a challenge. Colombia stressed the need to leverage user and sectoral data dynamically to inform spectrum demand and service provision, enhancing governance and decision-making.

Closing Remarks

The panel concluded by emphasizing the centrality of individuals and communities in all initiatives. Successful digital transformation depends on aligning regulations, strategies, and stakeholder efforts around user needs. Continuous self-assessment and openness to improvement are encouraged to advance connectivity, cybersecurity, and technological innovation across the region.

Captions of the session will be made available on the [RDF website](#).

8. Roundtable Three: Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for the Americas

Roundtable Three focused on the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for the Americas.

The session was moderated and set in context by Mr Sergio Scarabino, ITU Representative for South America, and included a presentation on the implementation of the Regional Initiatives. It brought together regional and subregional organizations, development partners, and institutional stakeholders to discuss progress, priorities, and opportunities for cooperation.

The panellists included:

- **Mr Oscar Leon**, Secretary General of CITELE
- **Mr Rodney Taylor**, Secretary General of CTU
- **Ms Angeles Ayala**, Executive Secretary of COMTELECA
- **Ms Julissa Cruz**, Director of Digital Infrastructure, Latin America Development Bank (CAF)
- **Mr Christian Oflaherty**, Vice-president, ISOC
- **Mr Mark Reynolds**, Board of Directors Member of CANTO

The session highlighted the importance of the ITU Regional Initiatives as a practical framework for addressing shared priorities across the Americas, including digital inclusion, infrastructure development, enabling policy and regulatory environments, cybersecurity, innovation and capacity building.

Participants emphasized that regional and subregional cooperation remains essential to ensure that the implementation of the Regional Initiatives reflects the diversity of needs across the Americas, including the Caribbean, Central America, South America and other subregions.

A special emphasis was given to the following:

- The role of the ITU Regional Initiatives in guiding regional digital development priorities.
- The importance of coordination with regional and subregional organizations, including CITELE, CTU and COMTELECA.
- The need to strengthen cooperation with development partners and financial institutions to support implementation.
- The relevance of digital infrastructure, digital inclusion, and capacity building for sustainable digital transformation.
- The importance of ensuring that regional initiatives respond to the needs of Member States and produce concrete results.
- The value of partnerships with civil society, technical community actors, and industry stakeholders.
- The need to promote regional synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.

Summary:

The session focused on how the ITU Regional Initiatives for the Americas can move from strategic priorities to concrete implementation. Sergio Scarabino opened by framing the discussion around the five Regional

Initiatives. He emphasized that the goal was not only to exchange information, but to promote matchmaking among governments, regional organizations, operators, development banks, and other partners, so that ideas could become tangible projects with measurable results.

Panellists then presented the priorities and contributions of their respective organizations. Oscar Leon highlighted work across all five Regional Initiatives, including practical implementation guidelines, community networks, training, AI-supported regulatory reviews, cybersecurity, regulatory sandboxes, and modernization of regulatory frameworks. Rodney Taylor emphasized the Caribbean's vulnerability to hurricanes and climate-related disasters, calling for resilient infrastructure, early warning systems, emergency communications, cyber resilience, and practical support for vulnerable communities such as small-scale fishers. Ángeles Ayala presented COMTELCA's new Strategic Plan, aligned with ITU priorities and regional digital agendas, with emphasis on meaningful connectivity, digital literacy, resilient telecommunications infrastructure, spectrum management, digital transformation, and regulatory improvement.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of financing, technical cooperation, and multistakeholder partnerships. Julissa Cruz underlined CAF's role in structuring and financing sustainable digital infrastructure, including submarine cables, satellite systems, last-mile networks, data centres, cybersecurity, public digital infrastructure, AI, interoperability, and digital skills. Christian O'Flaherty described the Internet Society's work to keep the Internet open, secure, reliable, and globally connected, including support for community networks, interconnection, Internet traffic exchange points, fibre infrastructure standards, safe Internet use, policymaker training, and cyber-resilience measurement tools. Mark Reynolds presented CANTO's role as a convening platform for operators, regulators, governments, civil society, and other stakeholders, highlighting work on digital sovereignty, light-touch regulation, AI and human capital, youth innovation, and stronger partnerships with Latin America, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and Africa.

The Q&A and closing discussion identified several cross-cutting obstacles: insufficient trust, communication, and engagement; limited understanding of how the Internet operates; funding gaps; weak or outdated public policy and regulation; insufficient regional cooperation; and the mismatch between perceived and actual implementation barriers. Participants stressed that cooperation must become more practical and results-oriented, especially in areas such as shared infrastructure, cybersecurity, satellite systems, early warning systems, spectrum management, and digital inclusion. The exchanges also reinforced the value of involving development banks, international organizations, regulators, operators, technical communities, and other UN agencies in coordinated efforts that connect digital infrastructure with social, economic, and community needs.

In conclusion, the session underscored that the Regional Initiatives should be understood not as abstract policy categories, but as a practical framework for coordinated action across the Americas. The central message was that meaningful connectivity requires more than networks: it depends on resilient infrastructure, enabling regulation, sustainable financing, digital skills, cybersecurity, regional cooperation, and strong partnerships that place people and communities at the centre. The panel closed

with a clear call to use ITU and the regional organizations represented in the session as implementation partners, and to transform dialogue into concrete collaborations capable of delivering measurable development impact.

Captions of the session will be made available on the [RDF website](#).

9. Roundtable Four: P2C Matchmaking/ Regional Initiative contributions

Roundtable Four continued with the presentation of countries' contributions to the implementation of ITU's Regional Initiatives for the Americas. The session was preceded by a presentation on Smart Villages by Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director of the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Summary of the Presentation by the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Director

Smart Villages and Smart Islands (SVSI) Initiative in Asia-Pacific

The Asia-Pacific Regional Director delivered a presentation on the Smart Villages and Smart Islands initiative, highlighting how the model has been adapted and implemented across several countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Regional Director recalled the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, particularly the focus on universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future, as well as the relevance of regional priorities addressing SIDS, LLDCs and LDCs.

The presentation emphasized that, despite Asia-Pacific representing around half of the world's population, many communities remain unconnected or underconnected. Key challenges include limited broadband access, affordability, lack of digital skills, and insufficient access to relevant digital services. In response, the Smart Villages and Smart Islands initiative provides a practical, community-based approach to expand connectivity, strengthen digital inclusion, and enable access to services such as e-health, e-education, e-agriculture, and e-commerce.

The Regional Director explained that the initiative is grounded in a whole-of-government approach and supported by common ICT building blocks for digital government and digital services. She also highlighted the importance of learning from previous community network models by using needs assessments, accessibility guidance, and sustainability tools.

A central element of the presentation was the initiative's focus on sustainability. The Director referred to six key dimensions: environmental, organizational, policy, financial, sociocultural and operational sustainability. She noted that challenges in any of these areas may affect long-term access and limit the impact of connectivity initiatives.

Between 2020 and 2025, the initiative trained more than 7,000 community members across Asia-Pacific in digital literacy and digital skills, particularly in remote and underserved villages. Activities include youth training, online safety, digital inclusion, and access to essential digital services. The Director also presented impact stories from beneficiary communities, illustrating the positive results achieved on the ground.

The presentation further underlined that Smart Villages and Smart Islands is not a stand-alone initiative, but rather creates synergies with other ITU priorities, including capacity development, digital inclusion, child online protection, Girls in ICT Day, GovStack, policy and regulation, and Early Warnings for All. The Asia-Pacific Regional Director also highlighted the role of partnerships with governments, UN agencies, development partners, donors, industry and academia.

Looking ahead, the second phase of the initiative will expand to 14 countries and focus on sustainability and business plans, stronger governance, expanded services, and the scaling and replication of the model. The Director noted the support of the Government of Australia and upcoming collaboration with partners including Japan and the Islamic Development Bank.

In conclusion, the presentation showed Smart Villages and Smart Islands as an integrated and partnership-driven model to address last-mile connectivity challenges and promote meaningful digital inclusion in remote and underserved communities.

The session was moderated by Ms Angeles Ayala, Executive Secretary of COMTELCA, who introduced the contributions by Member States.

The panellists included:

- **Ms Maria José Franco**, Advisor International Telecommunication Policies DINATEL MIEM, Uruguay;
- **Mr Matteo Banti**, Head of Cooperation of European Union Delegation for Costa Rica, Panama, and Central America
- **Mr Daniel Araujo**, Chief of Cabinet ANATEL Brazil
- **Ms Christa Medford**, Universal Service Fund Administrator, NTRC Grenada
- **Ms Leidy Guillen Cordero**, Public Policy Manager MICITT Costa Rica
- **Manuel Reyes Valdez**, Chief of Spectrum SIT Guatemala

A special emphasis was given to the following:

- The importance of matching national priorities with regional cooperation opportunities.
- The value of Member State contributions in advancing the implementation of ITU Regional Initiatives.
- The need to identify practical areas for collaboration and resource mobilization.
- The role of regulators, ministries, development partners, and universal service funds in advancing digital inclusion.
- The importance of ensuring that contributions are connected to measurable outcomes and regional impact.
- The need to maintain a flexible approach, recognizing that the panel may evolve according to contributions received.

Summary:

Roundtable Four focused on the contributions of Member States and partners to the fulfilment of ITU's Regional Initiatives in the Americas, with particular attention to Partner2Connect, meaningful connectivity, digital inclusion, cybersecurity, regulatory innovation and sustainable partnerships.

The session was moderated by Ms Angeles Ayala, Executive Secretary of COMTELCA, who opened the discussion by highlighting the importance of Partner2Connect as a platform to mobilize commitments, resources and partnerships to help bridge digital divides. She emphasized the need for concrete actions, capacity-building efforts, and funding mechanisms that respond to a specific country and regional needs.

Ms Maria José Franco, Advisor for International Telecommunication Policies at DINATEL/MIEM, Uruguay, presented Uruguay's experience in combining infrastructure development with public policies that promote the meaningful use of technologies. She highlighted the country's strong public investment in connectivity, broad mobile coverage, and initiatives such as educational digital transformation and programmes targeting vulnerable populations. She also stressed that infrastructure alone is not sufficient, noting the need to strengthen quality of service, cybersecurity skills, digital literacy for older adults, and online protection for children.

Mr Daniel Araujo, Chief of Cabinet at ANATEL, Brazil, emphasized the importance of planning and identifying where investments are most needed. He referred to Brazil's Strategic Plan for Telecommunication Networks as a tool to map infrastructure gaps and guide investments. He also highlighted innovative funding mechanisms, including the conversion of spectrum auction obligations and fines into connectivity investments, particularly for underserved municipalities and last-mile infrastructure.

Mr Matteo Banti, Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation for Costa Rica, Panama and Central America, presented the European Union's investment priorities under the Global Gateway strategy. He emphasized the role of the private sector and development banks in supporting transformative digital projects. He also referred to key areas of EU cooperation in the region, including the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, regulatory sandboxes, 5G and broadband, cybersecurity, digital resilience, submarine cable connectivity, research networks and the use of satellite-based solutions for disaster management and environmental monitoring.

Ms Leidy Guillen Cordero, Public Policy Manager at MICITT, Costa Rica, shared Costa Rica's experience in developing public policies for meaningful connectivity through its National Telecommunications Plan. She explained that the plan was developed through a participatory process involving the private sector, academia, civil society, and communities across the country. She highlighted three main areas of work: meaningful connectivity, spectrum management, and digital skills. She also referred to initiatives funded through the National Telecommunications Fund, including connectivity in prioritized districts, free Internet access for schools, support to vulnerable families, cybersecurity measures and the development of a human-centred artificial intelligence strategy, including work on an AI regulatory sandbox.

Ms Christa Medford, Universal Service Fund Administrator at NTRC Grenada, presented Grenada's experience in using the Universal Service Fund to advance universal and meaningful connectivity. She explained that the Fund supports connectivity in unserved and underserved areas, including schools,

hospitals, maritime areas, and vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and older persons. She highlighted projects such as public Wi-Fi access, wireless mesh networks in schools, smart classrooms, and public safety communication systems. She also underlined the importance of a multistakeholder approach, sustainability planning, maintenance support, and regulatory updates to keep Universal Service Funds aligned with current digital inclusion needs.

Mr Manuel Reyes Valdez, Chief of Spectrum at SIT Guatemala, addressed the importance of coordination across the three ITU Sectors, particularly in relation to spectrum management, standardization and regulatory frameworks. He highlighted Guatemala's work on regulatory sandbox initiatives and the need to adapt the general telecommunications law to enable innovation and support connectivity in remote areas. He also referred to the importance of using digital transformation to support rural communities, including through initiatives linked to agriculture and local economic development.

In closing, the moderator emphasized that the interventions demonstrated how countries and partners are developing concrete actions that contribute to Partner2Connect and the ITU Regional Initiatives. The discussion highlighted the importance of people-centred meaningful connectivity, cybersecurity, rural coverage, Universal Service Funds, regulatory innovation, emergency communications and stronger collaboration across governments, regulators, the private sector, development partners and international organizations.

Overall, Roundtable Four showed that the Americas region has significant experience, tools and partnerships that can be mobilized to accelerate inclusive digital transformation. The session also reinforced the importance of matching country needs with stakeholder interests to generate new pledges, strengthen cooperation, and deliver concrete impact for communities across the region.

Captions of the session will be made available on the [RDF website](#)

10. Roundtable Five: P2C Matching the countries and regional needs with the stakeholders' interests to support digital development across the Americas

Roundtable Five focused on matching country and regional needs with stakeholder interests to support digital development across the Americas, with particular emphasis on skills development, meaningful connectivity and strategic partnerships.

The session opened with a presentation on Partner2Connect by Mr Paul Demba, Project Manager at ITU BDT.

Summary:

Mr. Demba introduced the P2C Action Framework and its four main focus areas: access, adoption, value creation, and acceleration. He explained that access focuses on affordable, resilient and trustworthy connectivity for all, including last-mile and low-income areas; adoption emphasizes digital skills and the safe, inclusive and meaningful use of digital technologies; value creation supports digital transformation through innovation, entrepreneurship, SMEs, trade, jobs, and enabling policy and regulatory frameworks;

and acceleration promotes innovative financing models and sustainable investment.

He also provided an update on Partner2Connect pledges at the global and regional levels, noting that the initiative had mobilized more than 1,000 pledges from over 500 entities. He stressed that the value of Partner2Connect lies not only in mobilizing commitments, but also in tracking progress, facilitating matchmaking, and turning pledges into concrete impact for communities. He highlighted that, in the Americas, strong interest has been identified in areas such as digital skills, digital inclusion, connectivity, and digital infrastructure.

In addition, Mr Demba referred to the Partner2Connect matchmaking process as a mechanism to bring together the demand side, represented by countries and communities with specific needs, and the supply side, represented by partners offering resources, expertise, technology or funding. He also shared examples of how pledges can generate practical results, including initiatives to connect schools in remote and rural areas, demonstrating how partnerships can translate into direct benefits for students, teachers, and communities.

Roundtable Five *focused on aligning country and regional needs with stakeholder interests to advance digital development across the Americas. The session provided a platform to foster collaboration and strategic partnerships, with particular emphasis on skills development and broader regional digital priorities.*

The session was moderated and set in context by Mr Cleveland Thomas, ITU Representative for the Caribbean.

The panellists included:

- **Mr German Dario Arias**, Senior Director Regulation and Government SBA
- **Mr Cesar Diaz**, Telecommunications Affairs Lead of LACNIC
- **Ms Viviana Vanegas**, Global Gateway, European Union
- **Ms Cristina Cardenas**, Director of Government Affairs, Coursera/Udemy
- **Mr Antonio Pulido**, Head of Social Advocacy and Public Policy, Fundación Cibervoluntarios

A special emphasis was given to the following:

- *The importance of strategic partnerships to support skills development across the Americas.*
- *The need to match concrete country needs with stakeholder expertise, tools and resources.*
- *The role of digital skills, capacity building, and training platforms in supporting meaningful connectivity.*
- *The importance of regional cooperation to scale successful initiatives and avoid fragmented efforts.*
- *The value of engaging technical community organizations, private sector actors, and civil*

society in digital development.

- *The need to ensure that matchmaking leads to practical cooperation and measurable outcomes.*
- *The importance of inclusive approaches that support citizens' participation in the digital economy and society.*

Summary:

The roundtable was moderated by Mr Cleveland Thomas, ITU Representative for the Caribbean, who framed the discussion as a practical dialogue on bridging the digital divide, with a strong focus on digital skills. He recalled the progress achieved in the Americas, including increased Internet penetration and recent Partner2Connect matchmaking efforts in the region, while stressing that further action is needed to transform pledges into results.

Mr German Dario Arias, Senior Director for Regulation and Government at SBA, emphasized the importance of telecommunications infrastructure, particularly towers, as an essential part of the connectivity value chain. He highlighted the need for enabling regulatory frameworks and shared principles for infrastructure deployment, aimed at helping policymakers accelerate meaningful connectivity while balancing the needs of operators, cities, and communities.

Mr Cesar Diaz, Telecommunications Affairs Lead at LACNIC, underlined that connectivity is not only about infrastructure, but also about capacity-building and technical knowledge. He presented LACNIC's work in Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen technical capacities, support public policy development and promote a stable, secure and open Internet. He also stressed the importance of training trainers and building cybersecurity-related skills.

Mr Alberto Menguini, Head of Cooperation of the European Union in Colombia, highlighted the role of cooperation as a key enabler of digital development. He referred to the European Union's contribution to telecommunications investment in Colombia and emphasized the need for sustainable investment strategies, stronger public-private collaboration and coordination among sectors. The intervention also pointed to the Global Gateway approach as a framework to support digital inclusion, connectivity, and broader digital transformation.

Ms Cristina Cardenas, Director of Government Affairs at Coursera/Udemy, presented online learning platforms as key tools for developing digital skills on a scale. She highlighted the growing demand for artificial intelligence-related training in Latin America and the importance of connecting training opportunities with employability, private sector engagement, and follow-up mechanisms. She also noted that Coursera/Udemy can support pilot initiatives through licenses and partnerships designed to generate real impact beyond course completion.

Mr Antonio Pulido, Head of Social Advocacy and Public Policy at Fundación Cibervoluntarios, shared the Foundation's experience in digital skills training through volunteer-based models. He highlighted its work with vulnerable groups, rural communities, children and young people, as well as initiatives focused on

cybersecurity, employability, STEM vocations, and critical thinking. He emphasized the need to measure impact not only by the number of people trained, but also by the transformation achieved in people's lives and communities.

The discussion also addressed the main competencies needed to ensure that the Americas do not fall behind in the digital transformation process. Panellists referred to artificial intelligence, basic digital literacy, soft skills, entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, critical thinking, safe Internet use and technical capacities as priority areas. They also stressed the need to reach vulnerable groups, including rural populations, older persons, young people, women and underserved communities.

In conclusion, Roundtable Five demonstrated the value of Partner2Connect as a mechanism to connect needs with concrete offers of support. The session highlighted that digital development in the Americas requires not only connectivity, but also skills, trust, sustainable investment, enabling regulation, cooperation and strong partnerships across governments, the private sector, technical communities, civil society, academia and development partners.

Caption of the session will be made available on the [RDF website](#)

11. Roundtable Six: AMS5 – Governance and Enabling Regulatory Frameworks for Sustainable Digital Transformation

Roundtable Six focused on AMS5: Governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable digital transformation.

The session was moderated and set in context by Ms Claudia Bustamante Commissioner, Communication Regulation Commission of Colombia

The panellists included:

- **Ms Mariana Gomez**, Executive Director of OMR (Regulatory Improvement Organization of El Salvador).
- **Mr Juan José Pimiento**, Director Emerging Technologies of SENACYT, Panama
- **Mr Dustin Santos**, Director of Regulation CONATEL, Honduras
- **Mr Jose Gutierrez Salazar**, Senior Director of Legal and Regulatory, Liberty
- **Ms Mercedes Aramendia**, Executive Director, Dig.ia-lac

The discussion addressed the importance of governance and enabling regulatory frameworks in supporting sustainable digital transformation. Participants considered how regulatory modernization, institutional coordination, and forward-looking policy approaches can help countries respond to technological change, promote innovation, and protect public interest.

A special emphasis was given to the following:

- The need for agile and enabling regulatory frameworks that support innovation and investment.
- The importance of regulatory improvement and simplification to respond to rapidly evolving technologies.
- The role of regulators and policymakers in creating trusted digital environments.
- The importance of regional cooperation and exchange of good practices on digital regulation.
- The need to align regulatory frameworks with broader digital transformation and sustainable development objectives.
- The relevance of public-private dialogue in shaping effective and future-oriented regulation.
- The importance of strengthening institutional capacity to implement regulatory reforms.

Summary:

The moderator highlighted the importance of creating trust in countries to attract investment, promote development, close digital gaps, and enable meaningful connectivity. She also recalled ITU tools that measure progress in regulatory development and digital transformation, noting that countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are at different stages of regulatory maturity, while facing common challenges.

Ms Mariana Gomez, Executive Director of OMR, El Salvador, emphasized that regulatory frameworks should not become obstacles to investment or innovation. She stressed that regulation should generate more benefits than costs for service providers, citizens, and public administrations. Drawing on El Salvador's experience, she referred to the country's Digital Agenda, administrative procedure reforms and regulatory improvement law as instruments to simplify procedures, improve competitiveness, and support digital transformation. She also highlighted the importance of adapting regulatory frameworks to areas such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, and data protection.

Mr Juan José Pimiento, Director of Emerging Technologies at SENACYT, Panama, addressed the role of science, technology and innovation institutions in supporting regulatory development. He explained that emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity tools, and quantum technologies often require experimentation before regulation. In this regard, he emphasized the importance of regulatory sandboxes, pilot projects, and evidence-based approaches that allow countries to understand how technologies work before establishing permanent rules. He also noted that premature regulation may limit innovation.

Mr Dustin Santos, Director of Regulation at CONATEL, Honduras, presented the Honduran experience in updating its legal and regulatory framework. He explained that Honduras is seeking to move from a restrictive regulatory model towards a more enabling approach, based on cooperation with the private sector and other stakeholders. He highlighted the importance of legal certainty, investment incentives, infrastructure deployment, competition, and meaningful connectivity. He also referred to the development

of a new law intended to provide a long-term framework for the next 20 to 30 years, including elements related to innovation sandboxes and pilot projects.

Mr Jose Gutierrez Salazar, Senior Director of Legal and Regulatory at Liberty, provided the perspective of the private sector. He emphasized that authorities and operators share the common objective of connecting more people, faster and at lower cost. To achieve this, he stressed the need for legal certainty, predictable rules, and regulatory frameworks based on principles rather than specific technologies. He noted that many existing rules were created when the Internet was still emerging and need to be updated to reflect today's digital ecosystem, which includes telecommunications operators, satellite providers, online content providers, artificial intelligence and other emerging players.

Ms Mercedes Aramendia, Executive Director of Dig.ia-lac, highlighted the importance of understanding how digital infrastructure and the Internet ecosystem work before designing regulation. She described the digital ecosystem as open, interdependent, and structured in layers, noting that different layers should not necessarily be regulated in the same way. She emphasized that regulation should be seen not only as a mechanism of control, but also as an enabling tool for competitiveness, innovation, and development. She also called for the participation of all relevant stakeholders in regulatory discussions, including infrastructure providers, digital platforms, civil society, and other actors in the digital ecosystem.

The discussion also addressed the role of collaboration in enabling investment, innovation, and social development. Panellists highlighted the importance of regulatory empathy, meaning the capacity to understand the realities, constraints, and investment needs of different stakeholders. They also discussed the value of regulatory sandboxes, while noting that such mechanisms should not become additional bureaucratic barriers. Instead, they should have clear objectives, timelines, and pathways to incorporate lessons learned into broader regulatory frameworks.

Overall, the roundtable underlined that sustainable digital transformation requires regulatory frameworks that are flexible, evidence-based, collaborative, and future-oriented. Participants agreed that countries need to modernize regulation, simplify procedures, strengthen institutional capacity, promote public-private dialogue and align regulatory reforms with broader goals of digital inclusion, innovation, competitiveness and sustainable development.

In conclusion, Roundtable Six showed that governance and enabling regulatory frameworks are essential to create trust, attract investment and support meaningful connectivity in the Americas. The session reinforced the need for regulation that protects the public interest while enabling innovation, reducing unnecessary barriers, and supporting the digital transformation of economies and societies.

Captions of the session will be made available on the [RDF website](#)

12. Launching Regulatory Experimentation Pilot

The Special Session on Regulatory Experimentation Pilots presented the pilot proposals developed under the project implemented by ITU with the support of the European Union for Central America and the

Dominican Republic. The session also marked the launch of the publication **“Designing Regulatory Experimentation: A Practical Guide for the Public Sector”**, aimed at supporting policymakers and regulators in designing and implementing regulatory experimentation mechanisms.

The session opened with remarks by Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, who emphasized that the initiative reflects ITU’s commitment to moving from dialogue to action and impact. He recalled that the project was launched to strengthen regulatory and institutional frameworks for digital transformation and regional ICT integration in Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama.

Dr Zavazava highlighted that, in its first phase, the project supported ten workshops and trained more than 400 professionals across the seven beneficiary countries. These activities helped build regional capacity on regulatory experimentation, including regulatory sandboxes and other innovation-oriented approaches.

He also noted that 11 pilot project proposals had been received, addressing areas such as quality of service, rural and underserved connectivity, emerging network models, digital innovation, and artificial intelligence governance. These pilots are expected to support learning by doing stakeholder engagement and evidence-based regulatory decision-making.

The session also launched the practical guide on regulatory experimentation, which provides a decision-oriented framework to help public institutions select appropriate experimentation tools, assess risks and consider institutional capacities. The guide reaffirms ITU’s support to Member States in developing governance frameworks that foster innovation, protect users, and support sustainable digital transformation.

Remarks on behalf of the European Union were delivered by Mr Matteo Banti, who highlighted the strong cooperation between the European Union and ITU. He emphasized that pilot projects share a common vision of placing technology at the service of people, strengthening institutions, and promoting inclusive and safer digital development.

Mr Banti referred to examples of pilots in Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador, covering topics such as fraud prevention, Internet quality measurement, rural connectivity, 5G, mobile network quality, administrative simplification, low-power devices and artificial intelligence governance.

In conclusion, the session highlighted regulatory experimentation as a practical tool to support innovation, institutional learning, and evidence-based decision-making. The launch of the pilot portfolio and the practical guide marked the beginning of a new implementation phase focused on cooperation, regional learning, and more adaptive regulatory frameworks.

Roundtable 1 included:

- **Mr Luis Scheker**, Regulation Director, INDOTEL, Dominican Republic

- **Mr Leo Van Troi Mercedes**, Director of Institutional Relations OGIC Dominican Republic
- **Mr Alkin Saucedo**, Telecommunication Director of ASEP, Panama
- **Mr Juan José Pimiento**, Emerging Technologies Director, SENACYT, Panama
- **Mr Carlos Victor Hugo Alvarado**, Advisor, Superintendency of Telecommunications (SIT), Guatemala
- **Mr Cesar Caceres**, Commissioner of CONATEL, Honduras

Summary:

Roundtable 1 presented the first group of regulatory experimentation pilot projects developed within the framework of the ITU project supported by the European Union. The session was moderated by Mr Carlos Lugo Silva, who highlighted the importance of moving from capacity-building to implementation, in line with BDT's focus on impact. He noted that the project had trained more than 400 professionals across seven countries and was now entering a "learning by doing" phase through concrete pilot initiatives.

Mr Luis Scheker, Regulation Director at INDOTEL, Dominican Republic, presented a regulatory sandbox focused on improving the measurement of mobile Internet quality. He explained that the project seeks to review existing quality-of-service standards, introduce innovative measurement tools such as crowdsourcing, empower users, increase transparency, and reduce confrontation between regulators and operators.

Mr Leo Van Troi Mercedes, Director of Institutional Relations at OGIC, Dominican Republic, presented the country's sovereign artificial intelligence initiative. He explained that the project will use the government's AI platform, Plattia, within a regulatory sandbox to generate evidence for the development of an AI regulatory framework. The initiative aims to support the interaction between AI tools and digital public infrastructure, while contributing to the future development of AI-related legislation in the Dominican Republic.

Mr Alkin Saucedo, Telecommunications Director at ASEP, Panama, presented a pilot project to develop a technology-based tool for measuring mobile Internet quality. The initiative seeks to move beyond traditional field testing by using crowdsourcing and real-time user data to support decision-making, improve transparency, strengthen cooperation with operators, and prepare a proposal for an updated legal framework.

Mr Juan José Pimiento, Emerging Technologies Director at SENACYT, Panama, presented Panama's work on artificial intelligence governance. He explained that the initiative is linked to the development of a national AI strategy and a proposed legal framework for AI governance. The project seeks to design practical guidelines for AI regulatory sandboxes, allowing Panama to regulate based on evidence and replicate the approach for other critical and emerging technologies.

Mr Carlos Victor Hugo Alvarado, Advisor at the Superintendency of Telecommunications of Guatemala, presented a pilot focused on rural connectivity. He highlighted the challenges posed by the country's geography, municipal structures, and investment barriers. The initiative will explore how technologies such

as low-earth-orbit satellite solutions can help connect rural and underserved communities, while generating evidence to support future legal and regulatory reforms.

Mr Cesar Caceres, Commissioner of CONATEL, Honduras, presented a regulatory sandbox focused on mobile virtual network operators and competition. He explained that Honduras is preparing a new telecommunications legal framework and assessing how regulatory experimentation can help identify whether new market models, including virtual operators, can promote competition, improve affordability and support more efficient use of spectrum.

In conclusion, Roundtable 1 demonstrated how regulatory experimentation can help countries move from theoretical discussions to practical testing and evidence-based policymaking. The pilots presented addressed key priorities such as mobile Internet quality, artificial intelligence governance, rural connectivity, competition, and spectrum use. The session also reinforced the value of regional cooperation, as lessons learned from each pilot can support broader regulatory modernization across Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Roundtable 2:

Was moderated by Mr Willy Carvajal, Regional Officer, European Union Delegation, Costa Rica, and included:

- **Mr Abraham Teck**, Director of Regulation at PUC, Belize
- **Ms Deryahn Munoz**, Representative, SUTEL Costa Rica
- **Mr Alvaro Calderon**, Chief of Engineering and Management of Spectrum, SIGET, El Salvador
- **Ms Mariana Gomez**, Executive Director OMR, El Salvador
- **H.E. Mr Andrés Ehrler**, Minister of Tourism, Honduras

The session highlighted regulatory experimentation as a practical tool to support innovation, test new approaches, and strengthen regulatory capacity in response to emerging digital transformation challenges. It also provided an opportunity to present country-level proposals and promote regional cooperation under the project framework.

A special emphasis was given to the following:

- The role of regulatory experimentation in enabling innovation while managing risks.
- The importance of pilot projects to test practical solutions in real regulatory environments.
- The value of regional cooperation among Central American countries and the Dominican Republic.
- The contribution of the European Union-supported project to strengthen regulatory capacity.
- The need to promote knowledge exchange and replication of successful approaches across the region.

- The importance of involving regulators, innovation agencies, and policymakers in the design and implementation of pilots.

Summary:

This session presented the second group of regulatory experimentation pilot projects developed within the framework of the ITU project supported by the European Union. The session was moderated by Mr Willy Carvajal, Regional Officer of the European Union Delegation in Costa Rica, who introduced the projects from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras.

Mr Abraham Teck, from the Public Utilities Commission of Belize, presented a pilot focused on 5G deployment to support connectivity in underserved areas. He explained that the project aims to assess technical, regulatory, and consumer-related aspects of 5G implementation, with particular attention to end-user experience, spectrum assignments, and the impact on existing legislation. The initiative is expected to generate evidence for future regulatory decisions and provide a useful methodology for small states facing similar connectivity challenges.

Ms Deryahn Muñoz, from SUTEL Costa Rica, presented a project developed through an open consultation process with the sector. She explained that Costa Rica invited stakeholders to propose initiatives, which helped strengthen engagement with operators and other actors. The selected pilot focuses on the use of network APIs to allow operators to participate more actively in the digital ecosystem, particularly in areas related to fraud prevention, safer digital transactions, and cooperation with sectors such as finance.

Mr Álvaro Calderón, from SIGET El Salvador, presented a pilot to digitalize and automate the certification procedure for low-power devices, including Bluetooth equipment and mobile terminals. He explained that the project responds to the need for more efficient, transparent, and legally certain procedures. The initiative seeks to reduce costs, improve user experience, and generate lessons that can later be applied to other procedures, including frequency assignment processes.

Ms Mariana Gomez, from OMR El Salvador, presented a pilot focused on regulatory improvement and procedure cost analysis. She explained that the project seeks to test a methodology to measure the administrative costs of procedures from both the user and public administration perspectives. The pilot will incorporate technology and artificial intelligence into El Salvador's integrated regulatory improvement platform, with the aim of identifying bottlenecks, reducing administrative burdens, and expanding the model across public administration.

Mr Andrés Ehrler, Minister of Tourism of Honduras, presented a pilot linking connectivity and digital transformation with the tourism sector. He emphasized that tourism corridors and rural destinations need connectivity to enable sales, digital payments, communication, data management, and access to broader markets. He highlighted the importance of coordination with regulators, public-private collaboration, and investment to ensure that digital tools generate concrete benefits for local tourism actors and communities.

In conclusion, Roundtable 2 showed the diversity of regulatory experimentation pilots being developed across the region. The projects addressed 5G deployment, network APIs, device certification, administrative simplification, artificial intelligence, connectivity, and tourism. The session reinforced the importance of using regulatory experimentation to generate evidence, improve procedures, foster innovation and support more inclusive digital transformation in Central America and the wider Americas region.

Captions of the session will be made available on the [RDF website](#)

13. RDF meeting summary

The final conclusions of the Forum were presented by the Chairman of the meeting, Mr. Felipe Diaz, whose presentation can be found at the following link [RDF MEETING SUMMARY BY CHAIRMAN](#)

14. Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony took place on 17 June 2026 and included remarks by:

- **Mr Felipe Diaz**, Commissioner Director of CRC and Chairman of RDF
- **Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

Report on the Closing Session of the Regional Development Forum for the Americas

The closing session of the Regional Development Forum for the Americas was delivered by Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau. He began by expressing appreciation to the Government of Colombia, the Communications Regulation Commission of Colombia, the city of Cartagena, and all participants for their hospitality, contributions and engagement throughout the Forum.

Dr Zavazava emphasized the importance of a human-centred approach to digital transformation, recalling that technology is not an end in itself, but a tool to improve people's lives. He highlighted that connectivity must support essential services, social inclusion, resilience, education, health, finance, climate action, and broader sustainable development.

The Director noted that the Forum took place as ITU marks 161 years of existence, at a time when digital transformation is more urgent than ever to help accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda. He underlined that the theme of the Forum — universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future — was reflected across the discussions.

He also highlighted the importance of partnerships, particularly through the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, as a key mechanism to transform commitments into tangible projects that respond to national and regional priorities. He noted that the matchmaking discussions held in Cartagena helped connect financial commitments, technical expertise, and country needs.

Dr Zavazava identified key regional priorities discussed during the Forum, including bridging the digital divide, strengthening digital skills, improving affordability, promoting regulatory innovation, fostering investment, building cybersecurity and trust, and protecting children online. He stressed the importance of reaching women, youth, Indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, vulnerable groups and small island developing States.

The closing remarks also reinforced that the Forum should be seen not only as a space for dialogue, but as a launchpad for concrete action. Dr Zavazava called for the commitments, partnerships and initiatives discussed during the Forum to be operationalized and translated into real impact for communities across the Americas.

In conclusion, the closing session reaffirmed ITU's commitment to supporting Member States in advancing inclusive and sustainable digital development. The Forum closed with a call to continue working together to ensure that no one and no place are left behind.

Caption of the session will be made available on the [RDF website](#)

[Annexes](#)

Annex 1: Final Agenda of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas

Annex 2: List of Contributions Submitted to the ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas

Annex 1: Final Agenda of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas

**ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas
(RDF-AMS) 2026**

Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future

**16-17 June 2026
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia**

Meeting organized by the International Telecommunication Union in cooperation with and hosted by the Communications Regulation Commission of Colombia.

RDF-AMS 2026 is held back-to-back with the ITU Regional Workshop on Regulatory Innovation and Sandbox.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1

Tuesday, 16 June 2026

8:00 – 9:00

Registration

9:00 – 10:00

OPENING CEREMONY

- **Mr Felipe Diaz**, Commissioner and Executive Director at Communications Regulation Commission (CRC)
- **Mr Oscar Leon**, Secretary General of CITEL
- **H.E. Ms Patricia Perdomo**, Vice Minister of ICT of Colombia
- **Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

Appointment of the Chair of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas: Mr Felipe Diaz, Commissioner and Director of CRC

10:00 – 10:45	Official Photo Networking Coffee
10:45- 11:45	ROUNDTABLE ONE: State of Digital Development and Trends – Challenges, opportunities, and ITU projects and Initiatives Setting the stage and Moderation: Mr. Bruno Ramos, Regional Director of the ITU Regional Office for Americas ▪ Mr Javier Gutierrez, Communications Commissioner, CRC, Colombia` ▪ Ms Angeles Ayala, Executive Secretary COMTELCA ▪ H.E. Mr Andrés Ehrler, Minister of Tourism, Honduras ▪ Mr Dean Molina, Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Belize ▪ Mr Alkin Saucedo, National Director of Telecommunications of ASEP, Panama ▪ Mr Sergio Sotomayor, General Director National Agency of Spectrum ANE, Colombia
11:45- 12:00	Special Announcement: Collaboration Protocol ITU-COMTELCA
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch

ROUNDTABLE TWO: Building upon the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) in Americas Region

Setting the stage and Moderation: Mr Miguel Alcaine, ITU Representative for Central America

14:00- 15:30

- **Mr Nicolás Silva Cortés**, Deputy Director National Agency of Spectrum, Colombia
- **Mr Luis Soto**, Coordinator National Plan of Connectivity of Guatemala
- **Mr Cesar Caceres**, Commissioner, National Commission of Telecommunication, Honduras (CONATEL)
- **Mr Edwin Castillo**, Deputy National Director of Telecommunication, ASEP, Panama
- **H.E. Mr Dominic Smith**, Minister of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence of Trinidad and Tobago
- **Ms Ledenika Mendez**, Commissioner of the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (CRT) of Mexico

15:30- 16:00

Networking Coffee

16:00-17:15

ROUNDTABLE THREE: Roundtable on the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives (RIs) for the Americas

Moderation and setting the context: Mr Sergio Scarabino, ITU Representative for South America

Presentation on the implementation of RIs

- **Mr Oscar Leon**, Secretary General of CITELE
- **Mr Rodney Taylor**, Secretary General of CTU
- **Ms Angeles Ayala**, Executive Secretary of COMTELCA
- **Ms Julissa Cruz**, Director of Digital Infrastructure / Latin America Development Bank CAF
- **Mr Christian Oflaherty**, Vice-president, ISOC
- **Mr Mark Reynolds**, Board of Directors Member of CANTO

8:00 – 20:00

Cocktail offered by Government of Colombia

Note: The program will be updated as additional contributions and confirmations are received.

DAY 2

Wednesday 17 June 2026

ROUNDTABLE FOUR: P2C Matchmaking/ Regional Initiative contributions

This round table will continue the presentation of the countries' contributions to the fulfilment of the ITU's regional initiatives in the Americas.

Presentation: Smart Villages. By Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director ITU Asia Pacific

Moderation: Ms Angeles Ayala, Executive Secretary COMTELCA, introducing the contributions by Member States.

8:30- 9:30

- **Ms Maria José Franco**, Advisor International Telecommunication Policies DINATEL MIEM, Uruguay;
- **Mr Matteo Banti**, Head of Cooperation of European Union Delegation for Costa Rica, Panama, and Central America
- **Mr Daniel Araujo**, Chief of Cabinet ANATEL, Brazil
- **Ms Christa Medford**, Universal Service Fund Administrator, NTRC Grenada
- **Ms Leidy Guillen Cordero**, Public Policy Manager MICITT Costa Rica
- **Manuel Reyes Valdez**, Chief of Spectrum SIT Guatemala

9:30- 10:30

ROUNDTABLE FIVE: P2C Matching the countries and regional needs with the stakeholders' interests to support digital development across the Americas

This roundtable will serve as a dynamic platform to facilitate meaningful collaboration and strategic partnerships aimed at skills development

across the Americas Region.

Presentation: **Partner2Connect**, by **Paul Demba**, Project Manager BDT, ITU

Moderation and setting the context: **Mr Cleveland Thomas**, ITU Representative for the Caribbean

- **Mr German Dario Arias**, Senior Director Regulation and Government SBA
- **Mr Cesar Diaz**, Telecommunications Affairs Lead of LACNIC
- **Ms Viviana Vanegas**, Global Gateway, European Union
- **Ms Cristina Cardenas**, Director of Government Affairs, Coursera/Udemy
- **Mr Antonio Pulido**, Head of Social Advocacy and Public Policy, Fundación Cibervoluntarios

10:30- 11:00

Networking Coffee

ROUNDTABLE SIX: Governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable digital transformation

Moderation and setting the context: **Ms Claudia Bustamante** Commissioner, Communication Regulation Commission of Colombia

11:00 – 12:00

- **Ms Mariana Gomez**, Executive Director of OMR (Regulatory Improvement Organization of El Salvador).
- **Mr Juan José Pimiento**, Director Emerging Technologies of SENACYT, Panama
- **Mr Dustin Santos**, Director of Regulation CONATEL, Honduras
- **Mr Jose Gutierrez Salazar**, Senior Director of Legal and Regulatory, Liberty
- **Ms Mercedes Aramendia**, Executive Director, Dig.ia-lac

12:00- 14:00

Lunch

Special Session: Regulatory Experimentation Pilots:

This interactive and dynamic session will present the proposals for the Regulatory Experimentation Pilot Project in Central America and the Dominican Republic within the framework of the Project implemented by the ITU and supported by the European Union (5 minutes per intervention). During this session the document: “Designing Regulatory Experimentation: A Practical Guide for the Public Sector” will be presented

Opening remarks: Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

Remarks European Union: Mr Matteo Banti, Head of Cooperation, European Union for Panama, Costa Rica and Central America

Moderation: Carlos Lugo Silva, ITU Regional Office for Americas

Roundtable 1:

14:00 – 15:30

- **Mr Luis Scheker**, Regulation Director, INDOTEL, Dominican Republic
- **Mr Leo Van Troi Mercedes**, Director of Institutional Relations OGTIC Dominican Republic
- **Mr Alkin Saucedo**, Telecommunication Director of ASEP, Panama
- **Mr Juan José Pimiento**, Emerging Technologies Director, SENACYT, Panama
- **Mr Carlos Victor Hugo Alvarado**, Advisor, Superintendency of Telecommunications (SIT), Guatemala
- **Mr Cesar Caceres**, Commissioner of CONATEL, Honduras

Roundtable 2: Moderator, Willy Carvajal, Regional Officer European Union Delegation, Costa Rica

- **Mr Abraham Teck**, Director of Regulation at PUC, Belize
- **Ms Deryahn Munoz**, Representative, SUTEL Costa Rica
- **Mr Alvaro Calderon**, Chief of Engineering and Management of Spectrum, SIGET, El Salvador
- **Ms Mariana Gomez**, Executive Director OMR, El Salvador

- **H.E. Mr Andrés Ehrler**, Minister of Tourism, Honduras

RDF MEETING SUMMARY

15:30 – 15:45

Mr Felipe Diaz, Commissioner Director CRC (as Chairman of RDF)

CLOSING CEREMONY

15:30 – 16:00

- **Mr. Felipe Diaz**, Commissioner and Director of CRC (Chairman of RDF)
- **Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau

Video RDF

Annex 2: List of Contributions Submitted to the ITU Regional Development Forum for Americas

International Telecommunication Union | ITU

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM FOR THE AMERICAS | RDF-AMS 2026

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia | 16–17 June 2026

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Total contributions: 25 | ☒ Best Practice: 9 |  Pledge: 11 |  Ongoing: 5

I. CONTRIBUTION CATALOG

BP = Best Practice | P = Pledge | OG = Ongoing

No.	Country	Organization	Title	Type
1	Colombia	MinTIC Colombia	Spectrum Allocation in Colombia – AMS RI 01 – Resilient Infrastructure	 P
2	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Non Terrestrial Networks by CRC – AMS RI 01- Resilient Infrastructure	 OG
3	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Access to Content Delivery Networks CRC – AMS RI 01- Resilient Infrastructure	 OG
4	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Regulatory Framework for Cross-Sector Infrastructure Sharing – AMS RI 05 – Regulatory Frameworks	 OG
5	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Code of Good Practices- Removing Infrastructure Deployment Barriers -AMS RI 05- Regulatory Frameworks	☒ BP
6	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Regulatory Improvement Policy – AMS RI 05- Regulatory	 OG

			Frameworks	
7	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Measures to Mitigate Cyber Fraud – AMS RI 04- Cyber-Resilience	☑ BP
8	Colombia	CRC Colombia	Child and Adolescent Protection – AMS RI 02- Digital Inclusion	⚙ OG
9	Colombia	TIGO Colombia	ConTIGO Digital + AI Sandbox- AI Pilot in Customer Service – TIGO – AMS RI 05 Regulatory Frameworks	☑ BP
10	Jamaica	Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR)	National Inventory and Mapping of Telecommunication and Broadcasting Infrastructure - AMS RI 01 – Resilient Infrastructure	◇ P
11	Dominican Republic	INDOTEL	Modelo de Conectividad Asequible – AMS RI 01 – Resilient Infrastructure	☑ BP
12	Dominican Republic	INDOTEL	Digital Public Infrastructure – AMS RI 01- Resilient Infrastructure	☑ BP
13	Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama	SBA Communications	Decalogue of Best Practices for Telecommunications and Infrastructure Deployment - SBA Communications- AMS RI 05 Regulatory Frameworks	☑ BP
14	Caribbean (21 CTU member states)	Caribbean Telecommunications	CARIB Connect+ Institutional Capacity for Caribbean ICT Policy Harmonization - AMS RI	◇ P

		Union (CTU)	05 Regulatory Frameworks	
15	Caribbean (15+ CARICOM states)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	<u>Regional Regulatory Body for Electronic Communications</u> – AMS RI 05 Regulatory Frameworks	◇ P
16	Caribbean (16 SIDS and CTU states)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	<u>Regional Cell Broadcast-Based EWS for CARICOM</u> – AMS RI 01 Resilient Infrastructure	◇ P
17	Caribbean (CARICOM and CTU states)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	<u>Harmonized AI Governance for Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Transformation</u> - AMS 03 Innovative Ecosystems	◇ P
18	Caribbean (21 CTU states; initial focus: Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	<u>CARISAT Project- Regional Sovereign Satellite Connectivity</u> - AMS RI 01 Resilient Infrastructure	◇ P
19	Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent; scalable to all CTU SIDS)	Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)	<u>Smart Seas Project</u> – AMS RI 01 Resilient Infrastructure	☑ BP
20	Global (focus on Americas, Africa, Asia, Pacific, Arab, CIS)	Fundación Cibervoluntarios (Spain)	<u>Global Alliance of Local Organizations for Community Digital Empowerment</u> – AMS RI 02 Digital Inclusion	◇ P
21	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	CONATEL Venezuela	<u>Estrategia Nacional de Despliegue de Fibra Óptica</u> – AMS RI 01- Resilient Infrastructure	☑ BP
22	35 countries across the Americas and the	ICANN	<u>Strengthening Digital Resilience and Bridging the</u>	☑ BP

	Caribbean		<u>Digital Divide through Capacity Building</u> – ICANN – AMS RI 02 Digital Inclusion	
23	Central America, Mexico and Dominican Republic (9 countries)	COMTELCA	<u>Strategic Plan for Regional Digital Transformation</u> - AMS RI 01, 02, 04, 05 Resilient Infrastructure, Digital Inclusion, Regulatory Framework, Cyber Resilient	◇ P
24	Caribbean and Central America (30+ markets)	CANTO	<u>The Future of Inclusive Digital Innovation in the Caribbean and Central America</u> – AMS RI 03 Innovative Ecosystems	◇ P
25	Colombia	ANE Colombia	Innovative Spectrum Management Mechanisms to Enable Meaningful Connectivity in Colombia	◇ P

II. INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION SUMMARIES

No. / Organization / Country	Summary	Beneficiaries
1. MinTIC Colombia <i>Colombia</i>  2026  Pledge	900 MHz Spectrum Assignment for Regional ISPs and Community Networks Colombia's Ministry of ICT plans to conduct a 900 MHz spectrum assignment process exclusively for regional Internet Service Providers and community networks. Regulatory flexibility under ANE Resolution 000028 of 2026 will enable exclusive-use licenses in a band with excellent propagation characteristics, lowering deployment costs in rural and remote areas to close the territorial digital divide.	Rural and remote communities in Colombia.

2. CRC Colombia <i>Colombia</i> 🕒 2026–2027 🌀 Ongoing	Prospective Analysis of Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN) The CRC launched an exploratory study on Non-Terrestrial Networks as a connectivity solution for areas with deployment barriers, including sandbox pilots with the ANE to develop an enabling regulatory framework that protects consumers and ensures competition.	Rural and remote areas without terrestrial connectivity in Colombia.
3. CRC Colombia <i>Colombia</i> 🕒 2027 🌀 Ongoing	Regulatory Project on Access to Content Delivery Networks (CDN) and Data Centers The CRC analyzes access to CDNs and data centers as critical pillars of the digital ecosystem, assessing whether these components should be included in network access mandates and designated as critical national infrastructure, with direct impact on service quality and market competition.	Telecoms operators, digital platforms, and end users in Colombia.
4. CRC Colombia <i>Colombia</i> 🕒 2026–2027 🌀 Ongoing	Regulatory Framework for Cross-Sector Infrastructure Sharing This project facilitates efficient ICT network deployment by leveraging existing non-ICT infrastructure (electricity, roads, transport). In two phases, it evaluates fiber optic use in road corridors and establishes minimum sharing conditions with tariff methodologies and technical standards, expected to reduce deployment barriers and expand coverage.	Rural and low-density areas in Colombia; operators and users.
5. CRC Colombia <i>Colombia</i> 🕒 2026–2027 ✅ Best Practice	Strategy for Removing Infrastructure Deployment Barriers and Code of Good Practices The CRC supports local authorities in identifying and removing regulatory barriers to ICT infrastructure deployment. Its core tool is the Code of Good Practices for Infrastructure Deployment, guiding municipalities in updating urban planning regulations. The initiative is positioned as a	Colombian municipalities; potentially replicable across the region.

	potential regional benchmark.	
6. CRC Colombia <i>Colombia</i> 🕒 2026–2027 🌀 Ongoing	Update of the CRC Regulatory Improvement Policy The CRC updates its 2022 Regulatory Improvement Policy to incorporate AI tools in Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIA), strengthen the 'SimpleMente CRC' stakeholder engagement channel, and promote multi-sector public consultations, aiming for greater agility, transparency, and evidence-based decision-making.	Operators, users, academia, and civil society in Colombia's ICT sector.
7. CRC Colombia <i>Colombia</i> 🕒 2026 ✅ Best Practice	Measures to Mitigate Cyber Fraud through Mobile Services A participatory regulatory project to prevent and mitigate cyber fraud (smishing, vishing, spoofing, SIM-farm) through mobile networks, exploring measures in four areas: SMS, voice, citizen education, and numbering regime review. Shared as a model for evidence-based, participatory regulation that strengthens cyber resilience and user trust.	Mobile service users in Colombia; potential benchmark for regional regulators.
8. CRC Colombia <i>Colombia</i> 🕒 2026–2027 🌀 Ongoing	Study on Child and Adolescent Protection Mechanisms in Audiovisual Media The CRC will conduct a diagnostic study on protection mechanisms for minors in television and audiovisual services in Colombia, reviewing self-regulatory measures, inventorying operator actions, developing protection indicators, and supporting parental mediation and media literacy strategies in compliance with Law 2489 of 2025.	Children and adolescents using audiovisual media in Colombia.
9. TIGO Colombia <i>Colombia</i> 🕒 2026–2027	ConTIGO Digital + AI Sandbox – AI Pilot in Customer Service The only project selected in the CRC's 2025 regulatory sandbox call. Evaluates replacing traditional IVR menus with a conversational AI	TIGO customer service users; regulators seeking to modernize service standards.

 Best Practice	solution, generating evidence on key indicators (navigation time, first-contact resolution, user effort) through public-private collaboration between operator and regulator to support regulatory modernization.	
10. Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) <i>Jamaica</i> 🕒 2026–2027 📌 Pledge	National Inventory and Mapping of Telecommunications and Broadcasting Infrastructure Jamaica, highly exposed to hurricanes (Beryl 2024 and Melissa 2025), proposes creating a centralized geo-referenced database of critical communications assets. The project will inventory infrastructure, power systems, and backup assets; map coverage; assess vulnerabilities; and develop a collaborative web platform for emergency agencies, regulators, and operators, supporting Jamaica's National Emergency Telecommunications Plan (NETP).	Jamaican population; emergency agencies, regulators, and operators.
11. INDOTEL <i>Dominican Republic</i> 🕒 2026–2027  Best Practice	Demand-Side Subsidies and Digital Skills Development: Affordable and Inclusive Connectivity Model (IDB Project) IDB-INDOTEL integrated model: fiber optic connectivity at US\$4.90/month deployed in 170 previously unserved localities (285,000 inhabitants, 90,000 households, 623 public institutions), combined with 'Soy Digital' (100,000 adults) and 'Talento Digital' (30,000 people in cybersecurity, AI, digital marketing). With over 13,000 subscriptions and a churn rate below 1.3%, the model is presented as replicable for the region.	285,000 inhabitants in 170 localities in the DR; adults lacking digital skills; the region as a replicable model.
12. INDOTEL <i>Dominican Republic</i> 🕒 2026–2029	Building a National Digital Trust Ecosystem: Regulatory Modernization and Public Digital Infrastructure for Regional Integration INDOTEL leads the creation of a digital trust ecosystem including: legal framework modernization (automated contracts with the	Citizens and businesses in DR; signatory countries of cross-border agreements.

 Best Practice	World Bank, digital certificates for notarial functions), implementation of a Trust Service Status List (TSL) under ETSI EN 319 612 standard, Cross-Border Digital Signature Recognition Agreements with Uruguay, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Ecuador, and a Regional Digital Identity Broker with Red GEALC. Presented as a replicable best practice for the region.	
13. SBA Communications <i>Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama</i>  2026–2027  Best Practice	Decalogue of Best Practices for Telecommunications Infrastructure Deployment SBA Communications proposes adoption of a Decalogue of Best Practices as a guiding framework for public policy and regulatory regime design in Central America. The decalogue articulates ten principles across three pillars: (1) recognizing connectivity as strategic infrastructure, (2) efficiency, infrastructure sharing, and environmental sustainability, and (3) legal certainty, permit simplification, and fee rationality. It calls on decision-makers to adopt these principles as a state-level priority.	Populations lacking connectivity in 6 Central American countries.
14. Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) <i>Caribbean (21 CTU member states)</i>  2027–2029  Pledge	CARIB-Connect+: Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Caribbean ICT Policy Harmonization The CTU proposes strengthening its institutional capacity through four pillars: (1) modernization of internal governance systems, (2) development of harmonized policy frameworks in spectrum, broadband, digital transformation, and cybersecurity, (3) strengthening national implementation capacities, and (4) digital collaborative platforms for data-driven decision-making, aiming to reduce regulatory fragmentation and accelerate universal connectivity.	21 CTU member states and associated territories.
15. Caribbean Telecommunications	Establishment of the Caribbean Regional Regulatory Body (CRRB) for Electronic	All CARICOM member states and associate

Union (CTU) <i>Caribbean (15+ CARICOM states)</i> 🕒 2026–2028 📌 Pledge	Communications The CTU is advancing the establishment of the CRRB for electronic communications to support member states with harmonized regulatory frameworks, technical standards, spectrum coordination, regional positions for international negotiations, and collaborative approaches to cybersecurity, digital inclusion, AI, satellites, and infrastructure, creating a more predictable, investment-friendly regulatory environment.	members.
16. Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) <i>Caribbean (16 SIDS and CTU states)</i> 🕒 2027–2029 📌 Pledge	Regional Cell Broadcast-Based Early Warning System for CARICOM Member States The CTU is advancing implementation of a Cell Broadcast-based Emergency Alert System (EAS) aligned with the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) for Caribbean Small Island Developing States, supporting the UN Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative and seeking to extend an already-implemented sub-regional project to other Caribbean SIDS.	Populations of 16+ SIDS in hurricane and natural disaster risk zones.
17. Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) <i>Caribbean (CARICOM and CTU states)</i> 🕒 2026–2029 📌 Pledge	Harmonized AI Governance for Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Transformation – Caribbean AI Task Force (CAITF) The CTU, through its Caribbean AI Task Force (CAITF), proposes developing a harmonized regional AI governance framework addressing regulatory fragmentation, data sovereignty, skills gaps, and the risk of being global 'standards-takers'. Five action areas include: AI policy and governance, data infrastructure, AI industry innovation, human capacity, and multi-stakeholder engagement, aligned with WTDC-25 (Baku) Resolutions 91 and 89.	CARICOM and CTU member states; citizens and businesses exposed to AI impacts.
18. Caribbean Telecommunications	CARISAT: Regional Sovereign Satellite Connectivity for Caribbean Resilience, Inclusion, and Digital	21 Caribbean small island states and their

Union (CTU) <i>Caribbean (21 CTU states; initial focus: Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago)</i> 🕒 2026–2029 📌 Pledge	Transformation The CTU proposes the CARISAT project for a coordinated regional approach to satellite communications (LEO, MEO, GEO) addressing persistent Caribbean challenges: dispersed geography, small market size, hurricane vulnerability, and lack of continuity of critical services in disasters. The project will proceed in phases: regional assessment, resource mobilization, and coordinated satellite deployments across participating member states.	rural, coastal, and hard-to-reach populations.
19. Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) <i>Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent; scalable to all CTU SIDS)</i> 🕒 2026–2029 ✅ Best Practice	Smart Seas: Resilient and Inclusive Connectivity for Caribbean Small-Scale Fishers and Coastal Communities Building on the Smart Seas Project (Phase I completed June 2026 in Trinidad and Tobago), the CTU proposes continuing and expanding the program in Phases 1.5 and 2. Phase I demonstrated that the digital divide in SIDS does not end at the shoreline. Subsequent phases expand regulatory support, VHF-DSC/GMDSS training, maritime early warning systems, and AI integration in the fisheries value chain.	Small-scale fishers and coastal communities in the Caribbean; scalable to all CTU SIDS member states.
20. Fundación Cibervoluntarios (Spain) <i>Global (focus on Americas, Africa, Asia, Pacific, Arab, CIS)</i> 🕒 2026–2029 📌 Pledge	Cibervoluntarios Network: Global Alliance of Local Organizations for Community Digital Empowerment Fundación Cibervoluntarios, a Spanish NGO founded in 2001, proposes consolidating the Cibervoluntarios Network in 25 countries by 2030, aiming to reach over one million beneficiaries in digitally vulnerable situations (elderly, people with disabilities, migrants, low-income individuals, unemployed, youth). Currently operating with over 4,500 cyber-volunteers and 7,000 partner organizations in Spain, reaching 280,000 people in	Over 1 million digitally vulnerable people across 25 countries by 2030.

	2025.	
21. CONATEL Venezuela <i>Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela</i> 🕒 2026–2029 ✅ Best Practice	National Fiber Optic Deployment Strategy and Digital Sovereignty 2025–2031 CONATEL presents the 2025–2031 roadmap for massive FTTH fiber optic expansion, targeting 140,000 km and 4 million new subscribers, focused on technological sovereignty through domestic input production and strengthening the national IXP. 2023–2025 results: 223,289 km FTTH/GPON deployed (243% of target) and 2,015,021 new subscribers connected (112% of target). Venezuela invites Member States to explore technical cooperation via Partner2Connect.	4 million new subscribers in Venezuela; potential technical cooperation partners across the region.
22. ICANN <i>35 countries across the Americas and the Caribbean</i> 🕒 2026–2029 ✅ Best Practice	Strengthening Digital Resilience and Bridging the Digital Divide through Capacity Building ICANN presents its capacity-development activities in the Americas, aligned with its 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, focused on DNS technical resilience, multilingualism, and digital inclusion. Initiatives include: DNS/DNSSEC/routing security training and KINDNS, the 'ICANN Near You' initiative (5 country visits/year), Universal Acceptance Day events, the UA Curriculum Program 2026 for universities, and Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN programs for young leaders.	Governments, ccTLDs, ISPs, academia, and civil society in 35 countries across the Americas.
23. COMTELCA <i>Central America, Mexico and Dominican Republic (9 countries)</i> 🕒 2026–2029 📌 Pledge	COMTELCA 2026–2029 Strategic Plan for Regional Digital Transformation COMTELCA presents its 2026–2029 Strategic Plan across five pillars: (1) meaningful connectivity and digital inclusion, (2) resilient digital infrastructure, (3) enabling public policies for digital transformation, (4) efficient spectrum management and optimization, and (5) modern and agile regulatory frameworks, including the ITU-EU Regulatory Innovation Ad Hoc Group. COMTELCA	Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

	reaffirms its role as a regional coordination platform to avoid duplication of initiatives.	
24. CANTO <i>Caribbean and Central America (30+ markets)</i> 🕒 2027–2029 📌 Pledge	Inclusive Tech: The Future of Inclusive Digital Innovation in the Caribbean and Central America CANTO presents its strategic evolution from a telecoms trade body to a regional digital transformation catalyst, under the vision 'from Telco to Techno'. The strategy is built on four pillars: (1) AI readiness and adoption (governance, network optimization, global partnerships), (2) cybersecurity and cyber resilience, (3) sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure (green networks, energy efficiency), and (4) digital economic empowerment through e-commerce, digital identity, and cross-border payments. CANTO advocates for Stage 5 regulation: agile, technology-neutral, and converged.	Operators, regulators, governments, SMEs, and citizens across 30+ Caribbean and Central American markets.
25. ANE Colombia Colombia 🕒 2026–2027 📌 Pledge	Innovative Spectrum Management Mechanisms to Enable Meaningful Connectivity in Colombia The National Spectrum Agency of Colombia (ANE), in coordination with MinTIC, has developed innovative regulatory and technical mechanisms to expand meaningful connectivity in rural and remote areas through efficient, flexible spectrum management. In the 900 MHz band, ANE is shifting from national allocation schemes to local permits tied to technically defined areas, enabling tailored connectivity solutions where traditional models fall short, including differentiated schemes for regional ISPs and organized community networks. On the satellite side, MinTIC Resolution 376 of 2022 replaced the previous PROCASA registry with a modernized permit regime based on earth station type and technical parameters, enabling Earth Stations in Motion (ESIM), reducing regulatory costs, and facilitating entry of new actors in rural and remote areas. Together, these actions align with the WTDC-25 Baku Action Plan	Rural and remote communities in Colombia; countries in the Americas facing similar connectivity challenges.

	commitments on universal, affordable, and meaningful connectivity, and offer a replicable model for regional cooperation.	
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