



PANAMA STATEMENT

We, representatives of governments and regulatory authorities; telecommunication associations and companies, innovators and executive from the private world; experts from the academic world; representatives of international entities and the technical Internet community; gathered in the city of Panama, from the 23rd to the 26th of July 2013, during the 1st Regional Telecommunications Congress, high level meeting associated to the XXIII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, where the challenges of the region for closing the digital gap before 2020 were analyzed.

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of the event as an arena for the integral and effective exchange between multi-sector agents where experiences and knowledge in favor of the development of the ICTs in the region were shared and debated .

APPRECIATING the possibility of creating opportunities for cooperation in the long term among different organizations to generate consensus and agreements on the mechanisms necessary to promote a widespread growth of the ICT and to put them to the service of the social, political and economic development of the region.

UNDERSTANDING that only through a joint effort among public and private multi-sector agents will it be possible to coordinate initiatives and advance towards the goal of closing the digital gap before 2020.

CONSIDERING the event as an instance preparatory for the Ibero-American Summit of Presidents and Heads of State, for the telecommunications sector, to be carried out in October 2013 in Panama.

REMINING the contribution the ICTs can do to improve the quality of life, provision of education, health and security services, as well as their impact on the social and productive transformation, generation of employment, creation of local added value and competitiveness.

RECOGNIZING that it is important to facilitate the appropriate environments for the necessary investment on deploying infrastructure and incorporating the technological advancements required for closing the digital gap.

UNDERSTANDING that facilitation and cost reduction in the deployment of infrastructure may generate a significant impact on the prices of services, contributing to the widespread of connectivity, reaching wider sectors and in better conditions.

CONSIDERING the goals expressed in the Action Plan on the Latin American and Caribbean Information and Knowledge Society (eLAC2015), and the 2013-2015 Work Plan approved by the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Ministerial Latin American and Caribbean Information and Knowledge Society carried out in Montevideo, from the 3rd to the 5th of April 2013.

CONSIDERING the goals established for 2015 by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development established by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) with regards to universalization, connectivity and accessibility of broadband.



REMEMBERING the commitment of the countries of the region with regards to the application of the results of the World Summit on the Information Society (CMSI+10).

WE AGREED:

PROMOTING public and private multi-sector Ibero-American spaces to coordinate the different initiatives that are being developed in the region and that pursue the achievement of a converging goal, such as closing the digital gap for 2020, coordinating efforts by governments, regulators, regional and international entities, private sector, civil society, organizations of the technical Internet community, among others.

PROMOTING, through the multi-sector spaces provided, joint work lines by country which allow identifying the conditions required for carrying out the investments necessary to achieve the goal of closing the digital gap by 2020.

PROMOTING the construction of a digital ecosystem that will allow taking advantage of the opportunities provided by ICTs to improve quality of life and advance in more equality, promote research, technological development and innovation.

REAFFIRMING the importance of mobile broadband for closing the digital gap and the need of coordinating appropriate management policies, availability and efficient use of the spectrum, in accordance with the traffic demands foreseen for next years.

MAKING efforts in pursuance of promoting universal access, with equal opportunities for every one.

PROPOSING initiatives to promote a reduction in costs of the investment in infrastructure for high speed broadband, being it understood that this is the only way to achieve a reduction in the price of the services, which favors access thereto and, consequently, facilitates a reduction in the digital gap.

REAFFIRMING the principles expressed at the World Summit of the Information Society through the Tunisia Agenda, especially those referred to the validity of the so-called Multi Stakeholder Model of Internet Governance.

PROMOTING a debate around the necessary modernization within the regulation sphere that takes considers the new challenges, particularly, those connected to convergence.

FOSTERING the debate on sustainability of continuous Internet development to respond to the increase in traffic users will demand.

FOSTERING a climate of trust among ICT users with regards to the security of information and networks, authentication, privacy and consumers protection.

ASSESSING and actively following up progress made towards the reduction of the digital gap, working in conjunction on how to face challenges.

PROVIDING
different
associations of
entities,



1er CONGRESO REGIONAL DE TELECOMUNICACIONES
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support to the
regulators,
regulatory
regional entities

and institutions involved in promoting access, adopting and using broadband services to contribute to reduce the digital gap while the economic growth and social inclusion are promoted.

HIGHLIGHTING the importance of the 1st Regional Telecommunications Congress as an instance for forging long term alliances among different organizations and reaffirming the importance of propitiating the continuity thereof with annual encounters that offer spaces to all stakeholders of the sector with a cooperative spirit to jointly face the common challenges the sector faces today and those it will face tomorrow.

SUPPORTING the celebration of the next edition of the Regional Telecommunications Congress, planned for 2014.

THANKING the local authorities of Panama for their hospitality and outstanding work in organizing this 1st Regional Telecommunications Congress.