



Third meeting of the
**Conference on Science, Innovation
and Information and
Communications Technologies** of the
**Economic Commission for
Latin America and the Caribbean**

Virtual meeting, 13–15 December 2021

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BUENOS AIRES DECLARATION



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The member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the third meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, meeting virtually, from 13 to 15 December 2021,

Considering that, in resolution 672(XXXIV), adopted at its thirty-fourth session, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean approved the establishment of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the same resolution, the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies must elect an Executive Committee consisting of a chair and six members, and that one of the functions of the Executive Committee is to prepare a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities in support of policies on science, innovation and information and communications technologies to be submitted to the member countries of the Conference for adoption,

Bearing in mind also that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as technical secretariat of the Conference, is responsible for making available to the Conference the facilities and documents that have been approved by the Committee,

Recalling that, at its meeting held on 2 July 2020, the Executive Committee adopted the proposal entitled “Propuesta de cooperación regional en ciencia, innovación y TIC: respuesta a la crisis de la pandemia del COVID-19 desde la ciencia, la tecnología y la innovación”, resulting from the discussion at the briefing of ministers and high-level authorities of ministries and governing bodies of science, technology and innovation on 7 May 2020, where it was agreed that the plan of action for 2020 would focus on the following specific areas of work: (i) coordinating research and development efforts in the countries of the region; (ii) narrowing gaps in access to and use of critical platforms for social inclusion and (iii) strengthening the health industry at the national and regional levels,

Reaffirming the importance for the development of the economy and society of science, innovation and new technologies, which have become fundamental tools for the transformation of productive structures, the rational use of natural resources, health care, food, education and other social needs,

Reaffirming also that it is crucial to strengthen the institutional framework for science, technology and innovation, not only by providing the necessary financial resources, but also by creating capacities for the design, implementation, administration, monitoring and evaluation of policies, along with better linkages with countries’ development strategies, taking into account, in particular, their contribution to national strategic challenges,

Recognizing the need to create the necessary conditions for a transformative recovery, which requires the alignment of changes in productive structures with the strengthening of capacities in the field of science, technology and innovation,

Concerned that, although in several countries of the region progress has been made in building a more robust institutional framework for science, technology and innovation with the creation of specific ministries or the strengthening of specialized institutions in this area, science, technology and innovation still do not have an active role in economic, productive and social development policies, and this is reflected in limited technical change and low productivity,

Expressing appreciation for the leadership exercised by the Government of Costa Rica during its chairship of the Conference and its role in the follow-up of the biennial programme of regional and

international cooperation activities for 2017–2018 on science, innovation and information and communications technologies and the plan of action for 2020,

Expressing appreciation also to the Government of Argentina for its outstanding work in hosting the third meeting of the Conference,

Agree to:

1. *Adopt* the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2022–2023 on science, innovation and information and communications technologies, annexed to the present Declaration;

2. *Organize*, through the technical secretariat of the Conference and in conjunction with the Chair of the Conference, at least one meeting of the Executive Committee per year, the main objective of which will be to follow up on the activities agreed in the biennial programme of activities, and to define other activities or initiatives that support the implementation of the programme and the achievement of the strategic objectives;

3. *Hold* meetings of the Conference every two years, with the fourth meeting of the Conference to be held in the second half of 2023 at a date and place to be determined;

4. *Identify and strengthen*, through the technical secretariat of the Conference, spaces for international cooperation with countries and organizations, with the aim of generating and strengthening synergies to facilitate dialogue and experience-sharing to support research and development, innovation and the strengthening of productive capacities, among others.

**BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ACTIVITIES FOR 2022–2023 ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES**

1. In light of the current complex situation, the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2022–2023 on science, innovation and information and communications technologies proposes a joint effort to improve the positioning of science, technology and innovation policies with a view to fostering dynamic sectors that lay the foundations for more sustainable and inclusive development in the countries of the region.
2. To this end, the biennial programme of activities of the Conference is based on three strategic objectives:
 - (i) Strengthen public institutions to support the development of science, technology and innovation.
 - (ii) Improve the linkage of science, technology and innovation policies with the region's strategic challenges.
 - (iii) Foster regional and international cooperation in science, technology and innovation.
3. In order to advance in the achievement of the strategic objectives outlined, a series of activities are proposed, including:
 - (i) Conduct training programmes in science, technology and innovation policies, including the design of a training programme tailored to the specific needs of institutions and entities in charge of science, technology and innovation policies, with the goal of conducting two training workshops, preferably one in each year of the biennial programme.
 - (ii) Examine national and international experiences and practices that identify critical factors of innovation systems for the design of science, technology and innovation instruments and policies in the countries of the region to ensure the desired scope.
 - (iii) Encourage the monitoring of policies and instruments through the development of a repository of science, technology and innovation policies and instruments and the compilation of statistics (based on innovation surveys and other official sources), taking into account that access to this background information will facilitate the exchange of information and support the design and monitoring of science, technology and innovation policies.
 - (iv) Strengthen the link between the development of science, technology and innovation and productive development, with emphasis on strategic sectors for the development of the region, including sectors linked to self-sufficiency in health care, digital technologies, the energy transition and sustainable production.
 - (v) Facilitate and promote spaces for dialogue between government authorities, universities, specialized research centres and the productive sector in order to identify concrete actions that support the development of science, technology and innovation, along with knowledge-sharing in strategic areas and disciplines to enhance the development of human capital in the region and its applicability in the productive sphere.

- (vi) Create new areas for the sharing of experiences that foster science, technology and innovation for more sustainable mobility in a region where more than 80% of the population lives in urban areas. The aim of this line of action is to evaluate the contributions of science, technology and innovation policies to the deployment of renewed urban public transport systems, based on energy efficiency, the reduction of environmental pollution and the improvement of citizens' quality of life.
- (vii) Mainstream the gender perspective in policies and initiatives linked to the development of science, technology and innovation. This line of action will be linked to those mentioned above and will respond to the interest expressed by countries in the need to incorporate the gender dimension into the design and administration of science, technology and innovation policies.

4. The biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2022–2023 on science, innovation and information and communications technologies focus heavily on the exchange of information and good practices as a mechanism for the achievement of the strategic objectives. The implementation of the plan will include political and technical meetings, substantive studies and technical assistance activities.