Annual Meeting of the Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean, Red GEALC

Santo Domingo, November 30, 2017

COMMITMENT OF SANTO DOMINGO

THE HIGH AUTHORITIES ON ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, have gathered in the city of Santo Domingo (the Dominican Republic) on November 29th and 30th, 2017, on the occasion of the Eleventh Meeting of the Network of e-Government Leaders of Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC),

BEARING IN MIND that the Resolution AG/RES.2905 (XLVII-O/17) adopted by the 47th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) underscores the role of Red GEALC and its contribution to dialogue, cooperation, and e-government promotion, and reaffirms the importance of digital technologies as one of the most transformative factors of our times, given their impact on effective public service, democratization of public services, open government and citizen empowerment,

RECALLING that the mandates arising from the 24th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government held in 2015 and the 5th Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean held in 2015, acknowledge Red GEALC as a space for collaboration and promotion of e-government in the region,

STRESSING that during the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2017, Red GEALC was recognized as a “Champion” in the WSIS Prizes, as an outstanding international and regional cooperation initiative that leverages the power of digital technologies to accelerate socioeconomic development,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the relevance countries have given digital government as a key component of the digital agendas adopted by regional integration mechanisms such as the Pacific Alliance and Mercosur, as was stated in the Declaration of Cali of June, 2017 and the Mendoza Communiqué of July, 2017, respectively,

WELCOMING the development of the Digital Government Ministers Forum of Korea and Central America, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on July, 2017, for the purpose of promoting administrative innovation and capacity-building in the public administration sector,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the principles o “digital-by-default, inclusiveness and accessibility”, “once only”, “trustworthiness and security”, “openness and transparency” and
“interoperability by default”, the countries of the European Union have set for themselves as a guide for their vision of digital government by 2022, approved in the Tallinn Declaration of the Ministerial eGovernment Conference, held in Estonia in October, 2017.

AWARE of the essential support provided by the Inter-American Development Bank and, through the Bank, the Republic of Korea, in the creation and consolidation of Red GEALC as a strong mechanism for political dialogue and technical cooperation for the digital transformation of the governments of the region, and the conduction of its activities,

UNDERSCORING the positive impact of the working groups of the Network which, with the active involvement of officials from the countries of the region, have managed to evolve Latin American versions of three public software programs with the support of the IDB Regional Public Goods (RPGs) Programme, consolidate the work on open data in the framework of the regional conference Condatos and the Latin American Open Data Initiative (ILDA), generate their own set of indicators for measuring digital government in the region, and create a new platform for communication of the Network and for the dissemination of the advances made by countries in the different topics connected to digital government;

WE DECLARE

OUR COMMITMENT to turning the principles laid out in the aforementioned international declarations and the practices outlined in international forums into specific actions, gearing the efforts of Red GEALC toward technical cooperation, training and the exchange of experiences among the countries of the region, and other regions of the world;

OUR FIRM DETERMINATION to reinforce the collaborative work through the Network, in order to anticipate the challenges of digital progress and meet the expectations and needs of the people, boosting confidence in public institutions with greater transparency and openness, improving the response capacity and the delivery of public services, and contributing to making citizens the engine of public policy, in order to build an inclusive and sustainable future for everyone;

OUR CONVICTION that working in groups fosters and enhances the joint efforts of the countries in the design and implementation of digital policies, both in the search for inputs such as in generating innovative cross-cutting tools, including the use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, the language of machines, blockchain, internet of things, among others;

THEREFORE, WE RESOLVE TO

APPROVE the annual report submitted by the Executive Committee of the Network on the Execution of the 2017 Work Plan, as well as the Work Plan of Red GEALC for 2018, as set forth in Annexes 1 and 2 of this Declaration.

APPROVE as well the continuity of the public software, open data, measuring and communication working groups, and the creation of the innovation in public sector and emerging technologies groups, calling on international organizations to continue working in synergy with countries in the advancement of these issues and all issues related to the innovative use of digital technologies in public administration, through Red GEALC.
APPROVE also the composition of the Executive Committee of Red GEALC which will begin working for the 2018 period, and will be comprised as established in Annex 3 of this Declaration by: Ecuador and Peru (Andean Area), Bahamas and Guyana (Caribbean Area), Argentina and Paraguay (Mercosur Area), and El Salvador and Panama (Middle America Area) and chaired by Panama.

RECOGNIZE for one more year the Organization of American States as the Technical Secretariat of the Network and the Inter-American Development Bank for its technical and financial support of Red GEALC, and ask for them to once again intensify their collaboration in the execution of the work plan of the Network and continue to support the organization of the annual meetings for the analysis of the regional initiatives and the establishment of priority areas in these fields. To extend that recognition to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its invaluable support of the activities of Red GEALC.

THANK the people and Government of the Dominican Republic, especially the Presidential Office of Information and Communications Technologies (OPTIC) for the excellent organization of the Eleventh Annual Meeting of Red GEALC.

THANK the governments of Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela for hosting during 2017 activities of the working groups of Red GEALC. And, also thank the Government of Argentina for offering to host the CONDATOS VI to be held in 2018.

RENEW our thanks to the Government of Panama for its offer to host the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Electronic Government and the Twelfth Annual Meeting of Red GEALC in 2018, and urge the highest-ranking officials of the member countries of Red GEALC to attend, as this will be a precious opportunity to review the main advances and impacts of Digital Government, and reflect on the vision for the future, in the 15th anniversary of the creation of the Network.

THANK the government of Argentina for its offer to host the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of Red GEALC in 2019, and to the Government of Perú for its offer to host the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Electronic Government and the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of Red GEALC in 2020,

EXPRESS ITS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT to and congratulate the Government of the United Mexican States, especially Ms. Yolanda Martínez, Head of the Digital Government Unit, for her outstanding work as President of Red GEALC, and also to the Executive Committee of Red GEALC for the 2017 period, comprised of representatives from Argentina, Chile, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, the IDB and the OAS.

CONGRATULATE the Government of Panama as the President-elect of Red GEALC for 2018, requesting its support in disseminating, with the collaboration of the Technical Secretariat, the results of this meeting in the different instances of regional cooperation on this area.

(Approved at the first plenary session, held on November 30, 2017)

Signatory Delegations:
Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.