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XIII Annual Assembly of the Network of e-Government
of Latin America and the Caribbean, Red GEALC

Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, September 30th, 2019

BUENOS AIRES COMMITMENT

THE DIRECTORS OF DIGITAL GOVERNMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, gathered in the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on September 30th and October 1st, 2019, on the occasion of the Thirteenth Inter-American Meeting of the Network of e-Government of Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC) (GEALC Network, in English), recognized by the OAS General Assembly as the Inter-American Network on Digital Government:

HIGHLIGHTING that the Forty-Ninth General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in its Resolution AG/RES. 2931 (XLIX-O/19) recognized the Network of e-Government of Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC) as the Inter-American Network on Digital Government, open to the participation of all OAS member states; instructing the General Secretariat to promote the coordination of activities, projects, and programs in relation to the Network and to encourage best digital government practices for and among member states that so request, with a view to horizontally furthering the digital transformation of governments;

RECALLING Red GEALC's Ministerial Declarations in Montevideo in 2009, San Jose in 2012, Cartagena in 2014, Santiago in 2016 and Panama City in 2018;

ALSO RECALLING the commitment made by the heads of State and Government of the Americas at the VIII Summit of the Americas in April 2018, with special emphasis on promoting and strengthening the implementation of national and/or subnational policies and plans on digital government and open data, among others; as well as using new technologies that will foster digital government in order to strengthen institutions of member countries, promoting transparency, accountability, as well as improving services for citizens and/or companies by delivering valuable interactions between States and society.

HIGHLIGHTING the results adopted at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Boards of Governors of the IDB and ICC in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador, and in particular the approval of the updated institutional strategy, into force from the year 2020 to the year 2023, with a view to anticipating the needs of its member countries and benefit from the new economic, technological and social trends which underscores the adoption of new technologies, and particularly of innovation in the public sector.

BEARING IN MIND the commitments undertaken at the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2020) adopted within the framework of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Information Society of Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena, April 18th to 20th, 2018);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Twenty-Fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (Mexico, 2014) reaffirmed the role of Red GEALC as a collaboration and promotion space to boost e-government in the region, as it was acknowledged in the Declaration of Panama City at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Ibero-American Network of Ministers of the Presidency or Equivalent, approved on April 2013.

RECOGNIZING the relevance countries have given to Digital Government as reflected in the work carried out for the consolidation and momentum of the regional Digital Agendas as part of the regional integration mechanisms such as the Pacific Alliance, MERCOSUR, the Andean Community, the Central American Integration System (SICA) and CARICOM;

HIGHLIGHTING ALSO the Network Work Groups positive impact that, with the active participation of officials of the countries in the region, have achieved, among others, a space that enables dialogue and exchange aiming at implementing e-signature and cross-border digital services, the implementation of government open data actions and Digital Government measuring mechanisms, good practice and knowledge exchanges on innovation in the public sector, progress regarding the study of emerging technologies application models at the government, and public software exchanges among member countries.

AND CONVINCED of the crucial role of said Work Groups in boosting the joint action among member countries for the consolidation of their respective State modernization and Digital Government strategies;

RECOGNIZING the crucial role the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Republic of Korea through the latter, have had in strengthening Red GEALC as a mechanism of regional exchange;

AWARE that a modern, innovative, proactive, and citizen oriented public sector driven by the citizens, based on data, digital and open by design, requires strengthening the integral Digital Government strategies leading to bring the State near the citizen, strengthen democratic governor ability, equity, and allow the development of a digital economy in our region;

HIGHLIGHTING the efforts carried out by member countries to consolidate Red GEALC as a dialogue, cooperation and driving mechanism for Digital Government in the Americas.

THEREFORE, WE, THE DIRECTORS OF DIGITAL GOVERNMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, HEREBY AGREE:

1. TO RENEW our commitment to continue strengthening the role of Red GEALC as a space for technical cooperation, exchange of experiences and good practices, and training among the countries of the American region;
2. TO REQUEST the Executive Committee to carry out the necessary actions to promote the participation of all OAS member states in the Network of e-Government of Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC), recognized as the Inter-American Network on Digital Government;
3. TO APPROVE the Annual Report submitted by the Network's Executive Committee on the execution of the three first quarters of the 2019 Work Plan and instruct the Executive Committee to control and approve the remaining quarter during its last meeting of the year.
4. TO APPROVE the 2020 Work Plan of Red GEALC submitted by the Executive Committee.

5. TO APPROVE the constitution of Red GEALC's Executive Committee that will undertake its activities during the period 2020, composed by:
Mercosur: **Argentina** and **Uruguay**.
Andean Community plus Chile: **Chile** and **Colombia**.
Central America plus Panama and Mexico: **Costa Rica** and **Panama**.
the Caribbean: **Belize** and **Dominican Republic**.
6. TO APPROVE the Work Groups for the period 2020 calling members of the Network to participate in the Work Groups and designate their corresponding representatives:
 - a. Cross-border digital services
 - b. Government innovation
 - c. Emerging technologies
 - d. Open data
 - e. Public software
 - f. Measuring
 - g. Communication
7. TO WELCOME the Government of **Costa Rica** as Red GEALC President-elect for the period 2020, and request its support to continue working towards the consolidation of the Network as an Inter-American mechanism of exchange, cooperation and training on Digital Government;
8. TO INSTRUCT the Presidency of the Network to coordinate efforts with eLAC2020 Directory Board in order to inform on the progress regarding the fulfilment of the objectives in the action areas "Digital Government" and "Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development" of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean;
9. TO ENCOURAGE international and multilateral organizations such as IDB, OECD, OAS, UN, and others to continue supporting and recognizing Red GEALC as a regional driving mechanism for Digital Government and, at the same time, to promote the development of regional programs and projects for the digital modernization and transformation of governments;
10. TO SUPPORT the development of the Program for the strengthening of cross-border electronic transactions that Red GEALC carries out with the funding of the Initiative for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods (RPG) from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB);
11. TO RECOGNIZE the work of the Organization of American States as Technical Secretariat and of the Inter-American Development Bank for the technical and financial support provided to Red GEALC and to once again request them to double their collaboration towards the execution of the Work Plan approved for 2020 during this Meeting;
12. TO EXTEND THE RECOGNITION to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its constant support and valuable contribution Red GEALC's activities;
13. TO WELCOME the Governments of Spain, United States of America and Estonia for their input during this XIII Annual Meeting of Red GEALC and their contribution to the development of the Digital Government in the region;
14. TO THANK the Governments of Chile and Brazil for having hosted the regional workshops on digital signature within the framework of the Program for the

strengthening of cross-border electronic transactions, carried out by Red GEALC;

15. TO THANK the Government of Ecuador for having hosted the Open Data GobCamp and the 2019 regional conferences ABRELATAM and CONDATOS; as well as the Government of Panama for its offer to host the Eighth edition of them in 2020;
16. To specially THANK the Authority of Government Innovation of Panama for the support offered to the Government of the Bahamas for the installation and use of the Natural Disaster Management Software SINMA-LAT as part of Red GEALC's horizontal cooperation mechanisms;
17. EXPRESS our solidarity with people of the Bahamas over the destruction and devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian;
18. TO CONGRATULATE AND UNDERSCORE the leadership of the Government of the Dominican Republic, particularly of Eng. Armando Garcia, General Director of the Presidential Office of Information and Communication Technologies (OPTIC) for his work as President of Red GEALC during the 2019 term, as well as the work done by the executive committee during said period, composed by the representatives of the Bahamas, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay, Uruguay, IDB and OAS;
19. TO THANK the People and the Government of Argentina, particularly the Modernization in Government Secretariat for optimally carrying out this XIII Annual Meeting of Red GEALC and for the warm welcome given to its participants;
20. TO RENEW the gratitude to the Government of Peru for its offer to host the VI Meeting of Ministers of Digital Government and the XIV Annual Meeting of Red GEALC in 2020.

(Approved in plenary session on September 30th, 2019)

Signatory delegations: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.