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Draft Political Commitment for the Ninth Summit of the Americas Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation

We, the Heads of State and of Government of the Americas,

AFFIRMING the essential role of dynamic and resilient digital ecosystems in supporting vibrant digital economies, enhancing preparedness and response for future health and climate events, promoting inclusion for all peoples, promoting and protecting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, increasing competitiveness and investment, and improving the provision of public services;

EMPHASIZING that the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic revealed the extent of the digital divide and underscored the importance of access to the Internet, digital literacy, and the utilization security of digital tools, particularly among vulnerable and historically marginalized communities;

RECOGNIZING the need for greater regional cooperation, including with the private sector, civil society, and other social actors, in the development of policies shaping digital ecosystems in order to increase regional growth and competitiveness, and the responsible and ethical use of technology;

Hereby commit:

1. To facilitate affordable, universal broadband access to the Internet for all peoples of the Americas by 2030;
2. To expand digital government transformation and improve the digital literacy and cybersecurity capacity of citizens, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders;
3. To strengthen cooperation on digital trade, including commitments to facilitate cross-border data flows, while protecting privacy;
4. To expand opportunities for businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, to participate in e-commerce and utilize digital technologies and logistics services to improve their operations;
5. To encourage the acceptance of digital payments and broader digital financial services and to digitize payment of public sector fees and charges for greater transparency;

6. To advance the use of digital tools and platforms to expand equity and inclusion, and reduce the digital divide, including through increased and inclusive use of and access to e-governance, e-commerce, financial, health, education, civic participation, and cultural preservation technologies;
7. To promote respect for human rights on the Internet and in the dissemination and use of emerging and digital technologies;
8. To leverage digital tools in preparing for and rapidly responding to health, climate, environmental, and other acute crisis events;
9. To promote transparency and accountability in the use of digital technology, including the responsible and ethical use of trustworthy artificial intelligence, while protecting privacy and human rights;
10. To support the development of open, interoperable, secure, and reliable communication network architectures and regulatory policies that expand connectivity, promote competition, and drive innovation;
11. To prevent the shutting down, blocking, or throttling of Internet, telecommunication, or social media platforms;
12. To collaborate on the development and implementation of interoperable, standards-based policies for cybersecurity and consumer protection, including safeguards to prevent and address cybercrime;
13. To develop and begin to implement a regional digital agenda for transformation in the Americas based on these shared commitments by 2023; and
14. To instruct ministers and appropriate authorities, with support from members of the Joint Summit Working Group, to support the process of defining and implementing the agenda via the Summit of the Americas process and the Summit Implementation Review Group.