

Montevideo-Uruguay, February 10th, 2023

Ref: ALAI's Remarks on the United Nations Global Digital Compact

Madam Chair:

My name is Raúl Echeberría, and I am the Executive Director of the Latin American Internet Association, ALAI, the digital private sector regional organization from LATAM.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak in this important forum. This is a very relevant call from UN to discuss how we develop new ways to cooperate globally to have a better global society.

ALAI is strongly committed to bringing the voice of the Digital private sector of Latin America to this global debate.

We will submit longer comments to your consideration, but I'll focus my intervention today on 5 quick comments:

- 1) We think all the debates should be based on how technologies and digital development can improve the lives of people around the world. It's important of course to discuss what things should be regulated and what are the challenges that new technologies impose on global society, but always putting the main focus on how the evolution of technologies can help human, social, and economic development for everybody, especially vulnerable people and for developing countries.
- 2) We expect that this process could help support the strengthening of the Multistakeholder model. Every day we see more and more proof of how the expertise, knowledge, and perspectives of all stakeholders are needed to efficiently develop sound policies to take the best advantages of new technologies for achieving our development objectives and to improve the exercise of human rights for everybody in the world.
- 3) Technology evolves very fast and we need to be more efficient in developing policies to accompany this evolution for the benefit of humankind. To be more efficient, we need to be innovative in the ways we develop policies. Therefore, new instruments are needed: we have to recognize that regulation is one but not the only instrument, we have to rely on our ability to build trust among different stakeholders, to develop good practices and recommendations in a Multistakeholder manner, to develop volunteer standards, and any other new instruments we can create. Regulation is not the only option; we have to think outside of the box.

- 4) Regulation of new technologies should recognize the roles and responsibilities of all actors including, of course, governments, and not only focusing in the responsibilities of technology companies.
- 5) Misleading information in the digital sphere is usually a consequence of the deterioration of public debate. It's impossible to get significant achievements without working among all stakeholders in the improvement of the public debate.

We, in ALAI, look forward to continuing to cooperate in bringing the Latin American community on board to this important global debate and we commit our permanent contributions toward obtaining results that reflect the interest of a diverse global society.