Policy Recommendations to Shape Innovation in the Americas

Digital transformation in the Americas continues to yield opportunities and challenges. The pandemic has exacerbated inequality in the region, underscoring the need for policies that address the digital divide and promote inclusive economic development. Ahead of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, the **Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)** and the **Asociación Latinoaméricana de Internet (ALAI)**, in line with our contributions through different mechanisms, have developed the following set of policy commitments that policymakers should seek to uphold in order to foster a more resilient, dynamic, and inclusive digital ecosystem across the region:

1. **To facilitate affordable universal broadband internet access for all peoples of the Americas as soon as possible.**

2. **To promote financial inclusion by advancing the adoption of digital payments and broader digital financial services and to digitize payment of public sector fees and charges for greater transparency.**

3. **To expand government and private sector digital transformation, including cybersecurity capabilities.**

4. **To advance the use of digital tools to expand inclusion and empower citizens and civil society with additional capabilities, including digital literacy and digital safety, with a special focus on the digital safety of all vulnerable groups.**

5. **To eliminate the structural barriers to equality and economic opportunity for small and medium-sized enterprises and ensure an inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, by creating public-private partnerships focused on the development and promotion of e-commerce.**

6. **To promote an open dialogue among all stakeholders on the responsible development and use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, while protecting human rights.**

7. **To adopt digital technologies to allow an effective accountability for anti-corruption efforts in government procurement and contracting of services and public works.**

8. **To leverage digital tools to prepare and respond to crisis, such as public health calamity and environmental catastrophe.**

9. **To prevent the shutting down, blocking, or throttling of internet, telecommunication, or digital platforms.**

10. **To implement good regulatory practices, including through support for and reliance on consensus-based, industry-driven, internationally recognized voluntary standards; transparent and evidence-based rulemaking; the rule of law and due process.**

11. **To work with all stakeholders to avoid digital authoritarianism, protectionism, and efforts to undermine and interfere with digital access and accessibility.**

12. **To strengthen cooperation on digital trade, including through commitments and mechanisms to facilitate safe and secure cross-border data flows, removal of tariffs and other trade barriers that impact information and communications technology products and services, and the initiation of senior-level discussions on better regional and sub-regional agreements on digital trade for the Americas, based on commitments in this document.**

13. **To increase access to technology and innovation by taking steps to facilitate secure and resilient supply chains for information and communications technology (ICT) goods.**

14. **To ensure harmonization of 6GHz band for unlicensed use in the Americas.**

15. **To expand opportunities for businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, to participate in e-commerce and utilize digital technologies, digital financial services and logistics services to improve their operations, including by reaching agreement on a region-wide customs facilitation and digitization agreement.**

16. **To support and collaborate on the development of open, interoperable, secure, and reliable communication network architectures and regulatory policies that expand connectivity, promote competition, and drive innovation.**

17. **To cooperate on the development and implementation of interoperable, standards-based policies for cybersecurity, including best practices to prevent and address cybercrime.**

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