DECLARATION OF MONTEVIDEO

"For the construction of a regional approach on the governance of Artificial Intelligence and its impacts on our society"

In Montevideo, Oriental Republic of Uruguay, the Ministers and High-Level Authorities representing the countries gathered at the Second Ministerial and High-Level Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean, on October 3rd and 4th, 2024.

REAFFIRMING the region's commitment to the development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based on the promotion, respect for and protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms, rule of law and democracy, focused on the human being, well-being and dignity of people, fostering innovation and ensuring inclusive and sustainable technological progress.

RECOGNIZING the milestone constituted by the first Ministerial and High-Level Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile, on October 23rd and 24th, 2023 with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and CAF -development bank of Latin America and the Caribbean- and its declaration, which laid the foundations towards the process of building an ethical AI with a special regional focus.

APPRECIATING the contributions and efforts of initiatives led by the different countries of the region, international organizations and by other international and domestic actors that have contributed to the regional debate on AI governance, and **REAFFIRMING** the importance of consolidating collective instances that include multiple stakeholders, encouraging cooperation and ongoing dialogue among them to ensure the interoperability of the various instruments, with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts.

EMPHASIZING the power of each country to establish its policies according to its interests, national priorities and circumstances, and internal regulations and international commitments, without ignoring the importance of regional and global governance, based on the impacts of AI in all areas, including ethics, safety and equity; promoting international cooperation to maximize the benefits and mitigate the risks associated with the development and use of AI, particularly in the enjoyment of human rights.

REAFFIRMING that AI governance must take into account the special features that characterize the region -including their socio-economic and cultural contexts-, in relation to the opportunities, as well as the current and potential risks and adverse impacts arising

from AI technologies, at all stages of their life cycle, as well as the need to promote digital inclusion and equity in access to such technologies.

RECOGNIZING that the construction of this regional approach requires an effective coordination and consolidation of spaces for political and technical discussion that will make it possible to reach consensus and **HIGHLIGHTING** in this process the importance of the Working Group created as a result of the Ministerial and High-Level Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile.

EMPHASIZING the contribution of UNESCO and CAF to this regional process in line with the UNESCO Recommendation on the ethics of AI, the accompaniment of the Working Group, and the technical support provided to countries for the development and implementation of national AI policies.

HIGHLIGHTING the usefulness of the UNESCO Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) to understand and diagnose the situation and degree of progress of countries in the region in the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on the ethics of AI and the interest to proceed in all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to reach a regional diagnosis.

EMPHASIZING the usefulness of CAF's Practical Guide "Design of public policies on artificial intelligence. Development of enablers for their implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean", by providing methodological frameworks for the participatory design of AI public policies and for strengthening the enablers for their implementation, with a focus on our region.

UNDERLINING the importance of having a common and actionable Roadmap, built by our countries that takes into account regional objectives and priorities, as an instrument to strengthen the digital sovereignty of our region and its development.

UNDERTAKING THE COMMITMENT to continue working to address the priority challenges contemplated in the Roadmap, which are guidelines to the development and effective implementation of public policies on AI in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Therefore, **RESOLVE:**

To approve the Roadmap agreed at this Summit, its prioritized areas and associated initiatives as an instrument to strengthen regional technical and political dialogues relating to governance and to the development of capacities for the use of AI in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the technical support and contribution of UNESCO and CAF in our region, among others.

To include in the approved Roadmap the following prioritized areas: Governance and Regulation; Talent and future of work; Protection of vulnerable groups; Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change; and Infrastructure. Each of them has associated products and specific activities that seek to implement AI ethically.

To consolidate the creation of the Working Group on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean as a space for permanent dialogue and periodic meetings, with a regional approach, entrusting it with the preparation of the terms of reference for its operation and the coordination of the necessary actions for the implementation of the approved Roadmap, as well as formulating proposals for subsequent reviews.

To establish the Ministerial and High-Level Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean as an annual meeting to analyze and discuss on the development of regional policies on AI, and to follow up on the implementation of the approved Roadmap and its reviews.

To acknowledge the work of the national focal points in contributing to the creation of the first Roadmap and continue with the commitment to advance in the regional process and in the implementation of the prioritized areas, ensuring coordination and convergence, where appropriate, with other regional initiatives such as the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC) and the e-Government Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (Red Gealc), thus contributing to the strengthening of regional dialogue in this area.

To thank UNESCO and CAF for their support and collaboration in the construction and permanence of this regional process, and their offer to continue supporting the work of the Working Group, as technical secretary, within the framework of its commitment to provide technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the approved Roadmap and the actions that are defined in subsequent reviews.

To thank the Government of the Republic of Chile for its leadership role in the Working Group established in Santiago, Chile, thus far, and to entrust the Oriental Republic of

Uruguay with the continuation of its work and the determination of the procedural aspects necessary to ensure adequate progress of the initiatives provided for in the Roadmap.

To thank the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and especially the Agency for Electronic Government and the Information and Knowledge Society (AGESIC) of the Presidency of the Republic, UNESCO and CAF for the organization of this Summit.

*This declaration and its corresponding roadmap were approved at the closed session of the Second Ministerial and High-Level Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean held on October 4, 2024, in Montevideo, Uruguay, with the presence of representatives from the following countries: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.