

Press Release



Telefónica and CAF –banco de desarrollo de América Latina–reaffirm their strategic collaboration to promote digitalisation in the región

- With a term until 2022, this alliance aims to serve as a catalyst and driver of post-COVID opportunities, opening it up to other institutions and governments.
- The initiatives to be developed will be cross-cutting and aligned with the goals defined in the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Madrid, 15 June 2021. Telefónica and CAF –banco de desarrollo de América Latina– renew their strategic collaboration agreement for the development of initiatives to accelerate digitalisation in the region through effective cooperation to advance towards a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable society by promoting transformative, cross-cutting measures that contribute to achieving milestones on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined in the 2030 Agenda.

The alliance, which runs until 2022, aims to serve as a catalyst in this post-COVID scenario where everything has accelerated and transformed, opening it up to other entities and governments, enabling the creation of public-private consortiums to promote an economic and social recovery that leaves no one behind and benefits from the opportunities and advantages offered by the new digital society.

For José Antonio García Belaunde, CAF's representative in Europe, continuing to join forces with a strategic partner such as Telefónica is of the utmost importance for the digital transformation of Latin America. "After the serious health, economic and social crisis that the region has experienced with the pandemic, it is more necessary than ever to promote programmes, projects and initiatives that contribute to closing the existing digital divide and promote more connected and developed societies," said García Belaunde.

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Trinidad Jiménez, Global Director of Public Affairs and Strategy, said: "The 2030 Agenda recognises the essential role of organisations in achieving the goals and it is everyone's responsibility to accelerate them significantly. For this reason, the alliance between Telefonica and CAF is an example of public-private collaboration that is key to promoting, driving and developing the digital transformation of the region".

Transformative projects

Telefónica and CAF joined forces in 2017 and as a result of this first stage, actions have been developed in three areas: connectivity; digital transformation; education and training.

Internet for All

Under the premise that open markets and global trade continue to be the best model for bringing prosperity to all and that globalisation and digitalisation should benefit more people everywhere, regardless of where they live or are located, "Internet for All" is framed. This project, with the participation of CAF, Telefónica, IDB Invest, and Facebook, aims to reach more than 6 million Peruvians in rural locations on the coast, highlands and jungle of the country with 4G mobile broadband coverage. IpT was launched commercially in May 2019 and in two years of operation has managed to improve the quality of life of more than two million Peruvians in 12,000 communities in 23 of Peru's 24 departments through the benefits and opportunities of connectivity by providing access to telemedicine, digital education and borderless business development. Likewise, 4G IpT coverage reached more than 18,000 educational institutions in 2020, facilitating tele-education programmes led by the Peruvian Ministry of Education in response to the isolation generated by Covid-19.

Digital transformation for productivity

After the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, regaining the path of economic growth will critically depend on the capacity of economies to increase their productivity and for the different sectoral chains to adapt to new operating schemes characterised by low contact. For this reason, in 2020, CAF, with the support of Telefónica, launched the "Regional strategy for the digital transformation of the productive sectors" with a practical application to the digitalisation of the agro-industrial chain of the ICA Valley in Peru. This strategy promotes the use of digital infrastructures and technologies in production processes, as well as contributing to overcoming productivity traps in the region. The development of digital transformation roadmaps for production chains was also approved for Ecuador and the digitalisation model will be developed throughout 2021.

Capacity building for digital policies

And because digitisation by itself is not enough, the third axis of collaboration is considered fundamental, because people are the ones who are able to drive the changes forward, and therefore it is vital to address inequalities by investing in the training of digital skills and competences as well as sharing the new knowledge generated. During

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this stage, and of all the initiatives carried out, more than 87,000 people have enrolled in courses and events on the digital agenda, the use of data and artificial intelligence. In this regard, the development of a comprehensive knowledge and training agenda for authorities and regulators in the region should be highlighted with the development of the IBEI-ECLAC-CAF Summer School, which is supported by the Telefónica Chair. This initiative addresses the challenges of digital transformation and innovation in Latin America and aims to present and deepen a series of topics related to digitisation and its impact on closing the digital divide, employment, the digitisation of production through Big Data, artificial intelligence and blockchain, as well as the regulation of innovation from a comparative perspective of Europe and Latin America. 150 digital policymakers from 16 Latin American countries have participated in this initiative.

About CAF

CAF -banco de desarrollo de América Latina- has the mission to promote sustainable development and regional integration through the financing of public and private sector projects, the provision of technical cooperation and other specialised services. Established in 1970 and currently made up of 19 countries - 17 from Latin America and the Caribbean, together with Spain and Portugal - and 13 private banks, it is one of the main sources of multilateral financing and an important generator of knowledge for the region. More information at www.caf.com

About Telefónica

Telefónica is one of the world's leading telecommunications service providers. The company offers fixed and mobile connectivity services, as well as a wide range of digital services for individuals and businesses. It is present in Europe and Latin America, where it has more than 345 million customers.

Telefónica is a fully private company whose shares are listed on the Continuous Market of the Spanish stock exchanges and on the New York and Lima stock exchanges.



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