



*¡Bienvenidas y bienvenidos to El CC, CCLATAM's newsletter!. Every other week you'll find the main events shaking up Latin America, from Ushuaia in the south to Los Algodones in the north. Sign up [here](#) to stay updated on the region. Get [in touch](#) with us, we may feature an excerpt of your response in the next newsletter.*

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## The Latam Way: Reflections from Madrid to Barcelona



Twelve days after the [Digital Summit Latam](#) in Madrid and nine days since our discussions in Barcelona, the conversations sparked at the summit continue to resonate. Attendees in Madrid praised the event's intimate connections, engaging debates, and thought-provoking insights—many of which carried over into Barcelona, where industry leaders, regulators, and academia built upon these ideas.

Now, these discussions are expanding even further, shaping dialogues in Miami, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, São Paulo, Guatemala, and many other cities across the region. We were also pleased to see that the themes we explored in both Madrid and Barcelona were at the center of discussions at [Mobile World Congress 2025](#), reinforcing their relevance and impact. What began in Madrid is now fueling a broader movement, driving critical conversations on the future of digital transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## A Unique Opportunity for Latin America

The summit underscored a powerful truth: Latin America and the Caribbean have a unique opportunity to shape their own vision and identity in the digital economy.

The convergence of regulatory challenges, technological advancements, and investment strategies presents a moment for the region to carve out a path that reflects its specific needs and aspirations. Central to this effort is the ability to craft regulatory frameworks that are not only innovative but also deeply aligned with local contexts.

Take, for example, Costa Rica's forward-thinking approach to digital transformation or the increasing role of satellite technology. Both highlight the urgent need for regulatory adaptability to drive growth and inclusivity. By fostering an environment that encourages collaboration between operators, regulators, and industry players, Latin America can leverage its diverse technological landscape to bridge the digital divide, expand access, and accelerate connectivity across the region.

## A Future Built on Collaboration and Innovation

A strong theme emerging from the summit was the power of partnerships—extending beyond telecom operators to include the entire digital ecosystem, from policymakers and technology providers to startups and academia. The future of Latin America's digital market will depend on collective efforts to navigate shared challenges, exchange best practices, and avoid pitfalls seen in other markets. This collaborative approach ensures that policies and strategies are tailored to regional realities, fostering solutions that drive long-term, sustainable growth.

Additionally, the heightened focus on cybersecurity and data privacy signals a strong commitment to building a secure and trustworthy digital ecosystem—an essential foundation for a thriving digital economy. As governments, businesses, and industry leaders tackle these complex issues, they have the opportunity to develop regulatory frameworks that not only protect consumers but also instill confidence in digital services, unlocking new opportunities for innovation and investment.

The key takeaway from the Digital Summit Latam is that Latin America is poised to shape its own digital future. By prioritizing local needs, fostering regulatory adaptability, and strengthening cross-sector collaboration, the region can build a competitive, inclusive, and forward-looking digital landscape—one that empowers businesses, expands connectivity, and drives sustainable growth on the global stage.

This incredible journey would not have been possible without the generous support of our **co-organizers—CAF, DPL Group, USTTI, and the Duke Sanford Cyber Policy Program**—whose dedication helped shape this impactful dialogue. We are also deeply grateful to our **sponsors, including OOKLA, Ericsson, Huawei, Hughes, American Tower, Tangerine Electronic, Didi, Uber, SilentforBusiness, Liberty Latin America, Twilio, and**

**Coursera**, for their invaluable contributions. Lastly, a special thank you to our media partners, DPL News and Infobae, for amplifying these crucial conversations. Your support has been instrumental in driving forward the discussions that will shape the future of the digital ecosystem in Latin America.

**The journey continues—see you next year in Madrid at the end of February 2026.**

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### **Latin America's Digital Future Takes Center Stage at MWC 2025**

We kicked off MWC 2025 in our own way—by blending cutting-edge technology with history in a truly iconic setting, the *Capellas de Sant Àngels* in Barcelona. Against this historic backdrop, we hosted a powerful panel discussion on the opportunities for growth driven by the digital transformation of Latin America's creative industries.

Our distinguished panelists—María Luisa Hayem, Minister of Economy of El Salvador; Alejandra Claros Borda, Secretary-General of CAF; Olek Loewenstein, President of Sports Content at TelevisaUnivision; and Enrique Vargas, Coordinator of the Ibero-American Cultural Space—shared valuable insights, with CCLATAM President Piero Bonadeo moderating the discussion.

All agreed on the urgent need for integrated ecosystems to support the creative sectors, emphasizing that such frameworks foster collaboration, drive innovation, and enhance economic growth. They highlighted the creative industries as powerful engines of socio-economic development, noting that strategic investments in these fields can generate employment and stimulate broader prosperity.

Moreover, the discussion underscored Latin America's potential to expand its global influence through its creative industries. Panelists explored strategies to harness digital advancements, increase international market reach, and position the region as a leader in the evolving digital and cultural economy.



Throughout MWC 2025, we ignited meaningful conversations on Latin America's digital market priorities, reinforcing the region's growing significance on the global stage.

While U.S. trade policy set the broader stage for discussions, Latin America took center stage—if only briefly—particularly with Telecom Argentina's acquisition of Telefónica's operations in the country. In his remarks, Telecom Argentina CEO Roberto Nobile emphasized the deal's transformative potential, highlighting how it will drive greater investment in digital infrastructure, expand connectivity, and enhance service quality for millions of users. He underscored the company's commitment to innovation and a more integrated telecom ecosystem, positioning Argentina as a leader in the region's digital evolution.

At the Latam Digital Summit [OOKLA](#)'s Senior Director, Lourenco Lanfranchi, who emphasized the importance of data-driven insights in understanding user perception and adapting networks accordingly. The digital divide—both in terms of connectivity and digital literacy—remains a top priority for the region.

Regulation was a recurring theme, with Gabriela Lago, Senior Director for Regulatory Affairs at [Hughes](#), stressing that regulatory frameworks must evolve to meet stakeholder needs as we heard in Madrid. She also highlighted the ITU's role as a crucial platform for dialogue and policy harmonization.





We heard about the need for regulatory frameworks that enable operators to make investment commitments in exchange for spectrum allocation. John Winter, Senior Vice President and Legal Director of [Liberty Latin America](#), highlighted Costa Rica's model of directing spectrum value toward rural infrastructure and the importance of partnerships between operators to meet deployment needs. Winter also raised concerns about market structures in Latin America, especially with Telefónica's exit from the region. He suggested that a limited number of competitors may suffice and that outdated regulations could hinder growth.



We also explored Latin America's digital ecosystem and market priorities with Curtis Swager, [Twilio](#)'s Global Head of Government Relations and Public Policy, reaffirming the region's vast opportunities for innovation and growth. Twilio provides customers engagement solutions for leading brands in Latam.




### A Stronger Spirit of Partnership

As MWC 2025 drew to a close under Barcelona's sunny skies, one thing was clear—collaboration is key to unlocking Latin America's digital future. We extend our gratitude to our partners at DPL Group, [USTTI](#), [Duke University's Cybersecurity Leadership Program](#), and [CAF Development Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) for their continued support. A special thanks to the business leaders, regulators, and policymakers who shared their insights during these vital discussions, including [Monica Aspe](#), [AT&T Mexico](#) CEO, [Marcelo Benitez](#) [Millicom](#) CEO, [Roberto Nobile](#) [Telecom Argentina](#) CEO and many more.


MWC 2025 may have come to an end, but the momentum for Latin America's digital transformation is just beginning. We look forward to continuing these conversations and shaping the region's digital future—together.


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### Elsewhere in LATAM

 President Trump has enacted orders that broaden the range of products excluded from newly imposed tariffs on Canada and Mexico. This marks the second time in as many days that he has reduced these import taxes, which have caused anxiety for businesses and financial markets. On Wednesday, he announced a temporary reprieve for automotive manufacturers from the 25% import tariffs, just one day after they were implemented. [Mexican President Sheinbaum](#) expressed her appreciation for this decision, while Canada's finance minister mentioned that Canada would postpone its anticipated retaliatory tariffs on US goods. [Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau](#) revealed he had a "vivid" discussion with Trump regarding tariffs, during which

Trump reportedly used strong language. Trudeau also noted that a trade conflict between the two nations is likely to persist, despite some short-term relief measures.

 The Trump administration has enacted stricter oil sanctions on Venezuela, limiting resources for President Maduro's government, according to opposition leader María Corina Machado. This week, the U.S. revoked a license allowing Chevron to operate in Venezuela, requiring the company to halt its activities within a month, which account for about 25% of the country's crude output. Trump stated that Maduro had not met essential electoral conditions. Machado noted that the funds from Chevron's oil revenues were used for state repression rather than public welfare. [Ecoanalítica](#) estimates that Chevron's operations provided around \$4.5 billion to Maduro's government last year, and without this revenue, Venezuela's economic growth is projected to drop from 3.2% to 2%.

 [BlackRock](#) has announced a \$22.8 billion deal to purchase two major ports on the Panama Canal from Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison, responding to concerns about Chinese influence over the key waterway. The acquisition includes a 90% stake in the port operations and subsidiaries managing 43 ports worldwide. This decision follows pressure from President Trump, who has claimed that "[China is running the Panama Canal](#)" and called for reduced Chinese presence. Trump's administration urged Panama to address these concerns, prompting CK Hutchison to expedite the sale. BlackRock's CEO, Larry Fink, sought support from Trump administration officials to ensure the acquisition proceeded. This deal highlights the geopolitical significance of the Panama Canal and the shifting dynamics in global infrastructure investments.

 USA Senate passed legislation to support the Summit of the Americas. Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper alongside U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy (R-La.) celebrated the final passage of their Summit of the Americas Act to strengthen U.S. diplomatic leadership in the Western Hemisphere. The Summit of the Americas convenes heads of state to bolster ties and promote regional partnerships, since 1994. Bennet and Cassidy are also the lead sponsors of the [Americas Act](#), a bipartisan and bicameral bill to drive shared economic prosperity, strengthen democracy in our hemisphere, counter the influence of China and Russia, and address some of the causes of migration. The Financial Times [Editorial Board](#), former U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) Commander General [Laura Richardson](#), Dominican Republic President [Luis Abinader](#), Uruguayan President [Luis Lacalle](#), and Costa Rican Trade Minister [Manuel Tovar](#) have all endorsed the bill.

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## La Cita

*"As technology evolves faster than ever, successful digital transformation depends on women and girls being at the forefront of change,"*



*Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General International Telecommunications Union*

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## La Foto



February 27 marks the beginning of a promising partnership between CCLATAM and [CAF Development Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean](#). The MoU establishes a framework for collaboration in key areas, including policy research, innovation, business development, and cultural promotion.

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## EL Evento

Cybersecurity is a critical priority, especially for protecting critical infrastructure, yet the global workforce shortage persists, with Latin America among the hardest hit—notably in Brazil and Mexico. A key challenge is the underrepresentation of women, who make up only 25% of the cybersecurity workforce globally. Addressing this is not just about diversity—it's a business imperative that can enhance cyber resilience and unlock untapped talent. At the LatAm Digital Summit, [Duke University Cybersecurity Leadership Programme](#) and CCLATAM convened 30 leaders from the private sector, government, and academia to explore these challenges, contributing insights to Duke's upcoming study, ***Bridging the Gender Gap in Cybersecurity: Addressing Barriers and Expanding Workforce Participation in Latin America***. This research, supported by the Global Cybersecurity Forum (GCF), expands on a 2022 global study and focuses on financial barriers, language accessibility, workplace biases, and the effectiveness of corporate diversity initiatives.



This initiative aligns with the Women Empowerment in Cybersecurity (WEC) Initiative, launched under Saudi Arabia's PM, Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, which seeks to strengthen cyber resilience by increasing women's participation in the field. Duke's [David Hoffman](#) and GCF's Alaa M. Alfaadhel emphasized the need for evidence-based strategies to close the gender gap and address the 2.8 million global cybersecurity workforce shortage. Research findings will soon be released, offering practical solutions for governments, businesses, and academia. Stay tuned—bridging the gender gap isn't just about inclusion, it's a necessity for the future of cybersecurity



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La Lectura



In ***Abundance***, [Ezra Klein](#) and [Derek Thompson](#) make a compelling case for a radical shift in American politics—away from a mindset of scarcity and toward one of bold, ambitious building. They argue that today’s crises—housing shortages, stagnating scientific progress, and a lack of clean-energy infrastructure—stem not from inevitable limitations but from political and regulatory inertia. With sharp analysis, they trace how past policies designed to safeguard fairness have now become barriers to progress, stalling urban development, scientific breakthroughs, and economic dynamism. Rather than assigning blame to traditional partisan villains, Klein and Thompson challenge both liberals and conservatives to rethink their assumptions: liberals must acknowledge government’s inefficiencies, while conservatives must recognize its essential role in fostering growth. Thought-provoking and deeply relevant, *Abundance* lays out a roadmap for a new political order—one that prioritizes building over bureaucracy and innovation over stagnation. This lens is particularly relevant for Latin American governments as they navigate their economic and political relationships with the U.S., offering insights into the challenges of overregulation, the need for investment in critical infrastructure, and the broader implications of America’s policy shifts on trade, migration, and innovation in the region. At a time when populist scarcity narratives dominate global politics, this book is a timely call for optimism, pragmatism, and action.



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