

¡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 Age of Innocence Issue***



Let's start with Spain announcing an [age limit \(above 16\) to access social media](#) during Dubai's [World Government Summit 2026](#). Following [Australia](#)- the first country to implement a social media ban for under 16- a broader movement toward stricter age verification and stronger regulation of digital platforms is building-up. UK is considering a similar move while [France](#) and Denmark have announced upcoming plans. In Latin America, **Brazil** has enacted the [Digital Statute for Children and Adolescents](#) (ECA Digital - Law No. 15,211/2025), a comprehensive framework signed in September 2025 to enhance online safety for minors, taking effect in March 2026. The law imposes strict obligations on platforms, including bans on behavioral advertising, mandatory age verification, and restrictions on loot boxes in game. The issue of age access to social media has become a proxy for a larger debate about the role of the state in managing technological change, balancing innovation with social stability, and redefining digital citizenship. This conversation is set to sparkle the debate at the [Latam Digital Summit 2026 in Madrid](#).

The recent [meeting between Donald Trump](#) and [Colombian President Gustavo Petro](#) captured a deeper shift unfolding across Latin America. Leaders who once defined themselves through ideological opposition are increasingly embracing pragmatic engagement driven by economic pressures, security concerns, and changing voter expectations. Over the past two weeks, developments from Chile to Costa Rica and Argentina reveal a region more flexible toward a transactional form of governance shaped by global uncertainty.

[José Antonio Kast](#), [preparing](#) to assume the presidency in Chile, reveals the composition of his incoming cabinet. His appointment of economist [Jorge Quiroz as finance minister](#) is widely read as a reassurance to markets that fiscal discipline and investment-friendly policies will remain central. [Claudio Alvarado's](#) selection as interior minister emphasizes political management and institutional order at a moment when public security remains a major concern, while the choice of businessman [Francisco Pérez Mackenna](#) as **foreign minister** suggests that economic diplomacy and investor outreach will shape Chile's external strategy. Chile's direction is being closely watched regionally, as the country has long functioned as a political and economic reference point for Latin America.

In **Costa Rica**, [Laura Fernández's](#) victory reflects a broader regional pattern in which voters prioritize security, efficiency, and institutional reform over traditional ideological divides. Her campaign emphasized order and economic management, echoing voter sentiment across Latin America where rising crime and uneven economic recovery are reshaping political agendas.

Finally, Latin America looks at [Kevin Warsh's appointment](#) as the next chair of the [U.S. Federal Reserve](#) with some concerns about monetary policy independence and spillover effects on regional economies. While explicit official statements from Latin American governments have been limited so far, analysts, policymakers, and business leaders in the region have focused on whether Warsh will maintain the Fed's autonomy or align more closely with White House preferences. Economists and financial market participants in countries such as Mexico, Brazil, Chile, and Argentina – where exchange rates, capital flows, and borrowing costs are strongly influenced by U.S. monetary policy – have emphasized that any perception of reduced Fed independence could increase volatility in emerging markets. Regional business groups and investors have therefore reacted with “wait-and-see” caution, monitoring Senate confirmation prospects and early signals about Warsh's policy priorities, reflecting Latin America's longstanding sensitivity to shifts in U.S. monetary leadership and interest-rate cycles

**CCLATAM Editorial Board**

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**La Charla**



*This week Karim Lesina talks to [Julissa Cruz](#), Executive Director Dominican Institute of Telecommunications (Indotel). She shares her perspective on the priorities shaping Latin America's digital transformation and the role of collaboration in accelerating progress across the region. From spectrum strategy and public-private partnerships to digital skills, cybersecurity, and the future of next-generation networks, she highlights how regulators and industry leaders can work together to build more resilient, competitive, and socially inclusive digital ecosystems across Latin America.*

**[Digital Summit LATAM](#) brings together policymakers, regulators, and industry leaders from across regions. From your perspective, why is this type of cross-regional dialogue particularly important for Latin America's digital transformation at this moment?**

The current global context requires Latin America to confront the significant challenges involved in accelerating the digitalization of its productive processes, and with it, to seize opportunities in terms of attracting investment and fostering economic and social growth. Digital Summit LATAM is a forum for discussion and reflection where all actors within the digital ecosystem participate, enabling the exchange of diverse perspectives, highlighting key challenges, and identifying roadmaps to accelerate digital transformation in our region.

Now more than ever, Latin America must align its efforts to define a regional strategy aimed at expanding and improving connectivity infrastructure, promoting innovation,

democratizing the adoption of new technologies, developing a specialized workforce, and ensuring inclusion.

**Over recent years, the Dominican Republic has advanced an ambitious digital agenda. How do you assess the region's progress overall, and where do you see the biggest remaining gaps in Latin America's digital transformation?**

**The Dominican Republic** has made very solid progress and today stands out as a positive example in the region. There has been a strong and sustained rollout of digital infrastructure, **particularly in fiber optic networks**, expanded mobile broadband coverage, and targeted projects to connect rural and underserved areas. I believe that the progress made in expanding connectivity infrastructure has been a fundamental pillar of the results we can showcase today in the Dominican Republic.

At the same time, we have developed the **most ambitious plan for digital skills development in the population**—at a basic level to close access and capability gaps; at an intermediate level to ensure employability through stronger digital competencies; and at an advanced level to cultivate a specialized workforce in emerging technologies that enables digital entrepreneurship, innovation, and increased investment in this industry.

I also believe it is important to highlight that the Dominican Republic has robust national strategies that define action plans I consider essential for achieving digital transformation. These include the national strategies for cybersecurity, innovation, artificial intelligence, and the national strategy for attracting investment in the semiconductor industry.

Although we face the same challenges across Latin America, each country has its own context. Countries in the region should design long-term plans and strategies in collaboration with all actors in the digital ecosystem, academia, and civil society—strategies that are resilient to political changes and that clearly outline investment projects, funding sources, as well as mechanisms to ensure sustainability. Having a roadmap is essential to accelerate digital transformation in our countries.

**Public policy is often described as an enabler—or a bottleneck—for digital progress. What role should regulators play today to accelerate connectivity, innovation, and adoption while preserving competition and inclusion?**

**Regulators must foster an environment that encourages competition and innovation.**

This includes creating transparent policies, addressing infrastructure gaps, and ensuring fair market conditions, while also prioritizing affordable access and digital inclusion.

Public policy today is central to digital progress. Regulators should act as facilitators, not barriers, by providing clear, predictable, and technology-neutral rules that give investors' confidence while keeping markets competitive. This means simplifying permits, lowering deployment costs, and updating regulatory frameworks to reflect new technologies and business models while safeguarding the public interest.

At the same time, regulators must actively address connectivity gaps through smart incentives, universal service mechanisms, and spectrum policies that promote both coverage and quality. Equally important is ensuring affordability and inclusion, so that competition delivers real benefits to consumers and supports widespread adoption, especially among underserved communities. In the case of the Dominican Republic, we promote investment by modernizing our regulatory process, through innovation sandboxes, creating incentives either in spectrum auctions or with direct State funding to enable operators to deploy infrastructure in underserved areas.

**Spectrum policy and next-generation networks are high on the Digital Summit LATAM agenda. How should regulators balance investment incentives, affordability, and long-term national digital objectives in the transition to 5G and beyond?**

Having next generation digital infrastructure must be a priority for every government, as it is the foundation of digital transformation. It is essential for countries to make spectrum available to the market under conditions that ensure the **rapid deployment of 5G**. It is imperative to set aside the revenue driven approach traditionally taken by governments and instead establish incentives and facilitative measures that enable the swift rollout of next generation networks.

Considering these elements is crucial when designing spectrum access policies, particularly those implemented through auctions. It is also important to understand that different bands serve different purposes, so they should require different incentives and policies.

**One recurring theme at Digital Summit LATAM is collaboration between the public and private sectors. From your experience at INDOTEL, what models of public-private cooperation have proven most effective in expanding digital infrastructure and services?**

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have been essential in driving digital infrastructure expansion in the Dominican Republic, [INDOTEL](#) has been at the forefront of these efforts. A key example is the ***Program for the Expansion of Broadband Access (PEA)***, which has been supported by a loan from the [Inter-American Development Bank \(IDB\)](#). This initiative focuses on deploying fiber-optic networks in underserved rural areas, where private investment might be less viable due to lower population density.

Additionally, INDOTEL has worked with the IDB on a *Digital Inclusion Program* aimed at expanding access to ICT services and digital skills training in rural and marginalized communities. These projects have proven effective in bridging the digital divide and increasing access to the tools necessary for socio-economic development.

These efforts are a great example of how public-private cooperation, backed by international financing, can accelerate digital infrastructure development, ensuring that the benefits of digital transformation reach all corners of the country.

**Infrastructure alone is not enough—adoption and affordability remain key challenges. How can policy frameworks better address the social dimension of digital transformation, particularly for vulnerable and underserved communities?**

Digitalization strategies must be comprehensive, with concrete actions aimed at ensuring investment in infrastructure, the digitalization of productive sectors, and the development of **digital skills across all levels of the population**. They should also include the digitalization of public services, the establishment of demand-side subsidies for vulnerable populations—including support to improve access to devices—the creation of enabling legal frameworks for investment and innovation, the implementation of cybersecurity policies, and the adoption of emerging technologies.

**Latin America's geography and demographics require flexible solutions. How do you see the role of fiber, wireless, satellite, and innovative last-mile technologies evolving under supportive regulatory frameworks?**

Fiber, wireless, and satellite technologies each play a role in providing reliable connectivity across diverse geographies. Regulators must ensure flexible policy that accommodate these varying technologies, fostering innovation to reach remote areas with cost-effective solutions.

To address Latin America's diverse connectivity needs, regulators must create flexible frameworks that enable the effective use of multiple technologies—fiber, wireless, satellite, and last-mile solutions. The key is to allow these **technologies to complement**

**each other**, based on regional needs. Regulators should streamline spectrum allocation, facilitate infrastructure sharing, and promote innovation in cost-effective solutions, particularly in remote areas. By fostering collaboration between public and private sectors, regulators can ensure sustainable, affordable connectivity that reaches underserved communities and supports long-term digital growth.

**As digitalization deepens, issues such as cybersecurity, digital skills, and trust are becoming central. What responsibilities should regulators assume in safeguarding digital ecosystems while encouraging innovation?**

Regulators play a critical role in ensuring that digital ecosystems are both secure and innovative. They must establish clear and enforceable frameworks for cybersecurity, data privacy, and consumer protection, ensuring that businesses adhere to standards that protect users. This includes requiring strong encryption, transparent data handling practices, and clear user consent mechanisms.

Simultaneously, regulators must support digital skills development to ensure citizens can navigate the digital world safely and effectively, especially in vulnerable communities. A balanced approach is essential—while fostering innovation and new technologies, regulators must ensure that security protocols evolve with emerging threats, maintaining user trust and protecting the integrity of the digital space. Only by creating a secure and well-regulated environment can regulators encourage sustainable growth while safeguarding public confidence.

**From a regional perspective, how can Latin American regulators learn from each other—and from Europe and other regions—to accelerate convergence toward more resilient and inclusive digital markets?**

This is a global market, and it requires collaboration among countries, regions, and continents to share best practices and understand the different approaches to addressing the challenges of the digital world. Forums such as the Digital Summit LATAM foster these types of interactions, which greatly benefit public policy make.

Latin American regulators can benefit greatly from sharing experiences within the region and learning from more mature markets like Europe. Collaborating on standards, regulatory frameworks, and market integration will accelerate the development of resilient and inclusive digital markets.

**Looking ahead beyond Digital Summit LATAM 2026, what do you see as the top policy priorities that will determine whether digital transformation truly translates into sustainable growth and social inclusion across Latin America?**

Looking beyond Digital Summit LATAM 2026, policies will need to focus on furthering digital inclusion and ensuring that the benefits of digital transformation reach all segments of society. This means, not only expanding broadband access but ensuring it's affordable and reliable, especially in underserved areas. Equally important is creating inclusive digital ecosystems where innovation thrives, but not at the cost of leaving behind marginalized communities.

Policies must prioritize digital education and reskilling, equipping people with the necessary skills to thrive in an increasingly digital world. The regulatory environment must continue to evolve to keep pace with technological advancements while safeguarding competition and privacy. Addressing the digital divide will require long-term, cross-sector collaboration, from governments to the private sector and international organizations.

**The success of digital transformation will depend on measuring its impact on society, ensuring that economic growth is inclusive and sustainable,** and that the digital revolution genuinely improves lives, reduces inequalities, and enhances opportunities for all.

Basically, areas such as infrastructure investment, innovation, digital skills development, the digitalization of public services, cybersecurity, emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, the digitalization of productive sectors, and the affordability of digital services will remain at the center of the policy dialogue in the years ahead.

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### ***Elsewhere in LATAM***

 Brazil's stock exchange index, [Ibovespa](#) surged nearly 2% on Tuesday to breach 187,000 points for the first time in history, hitting an intraday peak of 187,333. The benchmark is now up over 15% in the past four weeks.

 Finance [Minister Edgar Amador](#) presented a 5.6 trillion peso (\$323.4 billion) public-private investment plan covering 2026–2030, targeting eight strategic sectors: energy, trains, highways, ports, healthcare, water, education, and airports.

 Marco Lavagna's resignation as [INDEC](#) chief on Monday continues to have repercussions, as [Economy Minister Luis Caputo](#) confirmed that the new inflation methodology, originally scheduled for February 10, has been indefinitely postponed. According to analyst reports, January **inflation calculated under the new system would have reached around 3.0%**, higher than the government's expected 2.5%, largely because updated weighting gives greater importance to services and utilities that have risen sharply during Milei's tariff normalization. Pedro Lines, a deputy with ties to the Macri-era economic team, will take over leadership, though critics point out he had previously been tasked with halting the methodology change.

 Chile, Brazil, and Mexico **formally registered [Michelle Bachelet's](#) candidacy for UN Secretary-General**, with President Lula stating on X that after eight decades it is time for the organization to finally be led by a woman. President-elect José Antonio Kast, who takes office in March, has remained silent on the matter, declining to endorse or oppose Bachelet and saying from Viña del Mar that the issue will not be resolved immediately. Other candidates in the race include Argentina's [Rafael Grossi](#), backed by Javier Milei, and Costa Rica's [Rebeca Grynspan](#), while Barbados Prime Minister [Mia Mottley](#) is reportedly considering entering the contest..

 [Goldman Sachs Research](#) expects Latin America's largest economies to grow about 1.9% in 2026, with Brazil slowing, Mexico recovering, and Argentina improving, while **regional inflation** is projected around **4.3%** as interest rates decline in Brazil, Mexico, and Chile. Venezuela's economy has sharply contracted over the past decade, shrinking from roughly \$373 billion in 2012 to about \$83 billion by 2025, now comparable to Uruguay's size and far smaller than Chile's. Meanwhile, Andean countries – especially Peru – are expected to lead growth, supported by higher commodity prices such as gold and copper along with relatively strong macroeconomic policies.

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**La Cita**

***“Childhood is the homeland of the human being.”***

[Nobel Laureate Gabriela Mistral, Chilean Poet, Educator and Diplomat](#)

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## El Grafico



As of 2024–2025, fertility rates in Latin America and the Caribbean have fallen below the "replacement level" (2.1 births per woman) and now closely mirror the low rates seen in Europe, while remaining higher than the record lows in East Asia but lower than parts of Central and South Asia. Regional Comparison (2024–2025 Estimates) Region Average Fertility Rate (Births per Woman) Status Relative to Replacement (2.1) Latin America & Caribbean-1.8 Below Replacement (since 2014) Europe-1.4 Well Below Replacement (since 1975) Asia (Overall)-1.88 Below Replacement (since 2019).

## La Foto



Several Latin American nations are competing at the [Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics](#), reflecting the region's growing presence in winter sports despite limited traditional infrastructure. **Brazil** is drawing particular attention with alpine skier [Lucas Pinheiro Braathen](#) – lol – [who recently made history with World Cup podium finishes and a landmark victory](#) that positioned him as a potential medal contender and one of the first South Americans with real podium prospects at the Games. **Mexico** fields a small but experienced delegation led by figure skater [Donovan Carrillo](#) and veteran alpine skier [Sarah Schleper](#), alongside athletes like [Regina Martínez](#) and [Allan Corona](#). **Argentina** is represented by athletes such as cross-country skier [Franco Dal Farra](#) and alpine skier [Francesca Baruzzi](#), while **Chile's** team includes alpine skiers [Henrik von Appen](#) and [Noelle Barahona](#), continuing the country's strong skiing tradition. **Venezuela** is also represented, with alpine skier [Nicolás Claveau-Laviolette](#). **Bolivia** sent cross-country skier [Timo Juhani Grönlund](#), and **Colombia** has a small delegation, including cross-country skier [Fredrik Gerardo Fodstad](#) and skeleton athlete [Laura Vargas](#)

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## El Evento

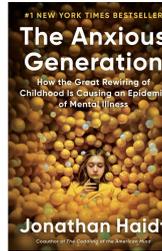


## [Check out Videos, the latest agenda and list of participants](#)

*After the incredible success of the 2025 edition, we are thrilled to announce that the 2nd edition of the [Digital Summit LATAM](#) will take place once again in Madrid — at the iconic [Casa de América](#) — on 26 and 27 February 2026. This new edition will be even bigger and bolder counting on world-class speakers from Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States; new strategic partnerships and sponsor; cutting-edge discussions on AI, connectivity, regulation, inclusion, and digital transformation. Together with our partners [DPL News](#), we will continue building the platform where Latin America meets the world — including Europe, the Middle East, and beyond — to shape the future of our digital society.*

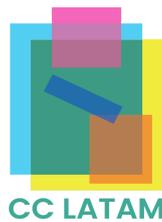
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## La Lectura



*The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness (2024)* is a nonfiction book by social psychologist [Jonathan Haidt](#). It examines the sharp rise in anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues among adolescents since the early 2010s, arguing that the shift from a “play-based” to a “phone-based” childhood is the primary cause.

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