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Digital Summit LATAM 2026: A Shared Success for the Digital Future of the Americas



Nadia Calviño, President European Investment Bank address to the Digital Summit Latam 2026 [watch Here](#)

A week has already passed since the [Digital Summit LATAM 2026](#), held on 26–27 February in Madrid at the iconic Palacio de Linares, and the feedback from participants has been unanimous: the second edition of the summit was a great success. Organized by the [Center for Latin America Convergence \(CCLATAM\)](#) and the [DPL Group](#), the event

brought together policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, investors and experts from across Latin America, Europe and beyond to discuss the future of connectivity, artificial intelligence, digital regulation and infrastructure investment.

We are deeply grateful to all the speakers and participants who made this dialogue possible, including **Christian Asinelli**, Corporate Vice President of Strategic Programming at [CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean](#); **Óscar López**, Minister for Digital Transformation and Public Administration of Spain; **Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, Secretary-General of the [International Telecommunication Union](#); **Ajit Pai**, President and CEO of [CTIA](#); **Roberto Kury**, Minister of Telecommunications and the Information Society of Ecuador; **Alejandro Sánchez**, Secretary of the Presidency of Uruguay; **Roberto Nobile**, CEO of [Telecom Argentina](#); **Marcelo Benítez**, CEO of [Millicom](#); **Balan Nair**, CEO of [Liberty Latin America](#); **Laura Fernández**, Chief Operating Officer at Radius Global Infrastructure; **Juan Santiago**, CEO of [Santex](#); **Plamen Russev**, Executive Chairman of the [Webit Foundation](#); **Antonio López-Istúriz White**, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the EU–Mexico Delegation; **Brando Benifei**, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the EU–US Delegation and Chair of the EU AI Act negotiations; and **Bocar Ba**, CEO of the [Samena Telecommunications Council](#), whose insights helped shape a rich and forward-looking conversation on the digital future of the Americas.



Manuel Tovar Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica address to the Digital Summit Latam 2026
Watch [Here](#)

We also want to thank our strategic partner [CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean](#) and [Infobae](#) and [CERTAL](#), as well as the many sponsors whose support made the summit possible, including [Ookla](#), [Mundo Pacífico](#), [DiDi](#), [Ericsson](#), [SBA Communications](#), [Apple](#), [AP Wireless](#), [Radius Global Infrastructure](#), [Intel](#), [Liberty](#)

[Latin America](#), [Tangerine Electronics](#), [PIT Chile](#), [Hughes](#), [Twilio](#), [SES Satellites](#), [AWS](#), [NTechnology](#), [Indra](#), [ALAI](#), [LACNIC](#), [Amdocs](#) and [HIVE](#).

Thank you all for helping build this unique platform for transatlantic digital dialogue. We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone again for the third edition of the **Digital Summit LATAM on 25–26 February 2027**.

The Shield of the Americas: Washington’s Return to Hemispheric Geopolitics



The summit held on March 7 in Miami may prove to be one of the most consequential geopolitical moments in the Western Hemisphere in recent years. At his Doral resort in Florida, U.S. President Donald Trump announced the creation of the “Shield of the Americas,” a military coalition with Latin American partners aimed at confronting drug cartels and transnational criminal networks that have increasingly destabilized the region.

Standing alongside leaders from Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the president-elect of Chile, Trump signed a proclamation establishing the initiative. Additional Caribbean countries—including Jamaica, the Bahamas, Barbados,

Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Grenada—also participated in the broader discussions surrounding the initiative.

Trump's message to the assembled leaders was direct. The Americas, he argued, possess enormous economic and strategic potential, but that potential will remain constrained as long as transnational criminal networks maintain their grip on large parts of the region. "We must smash the grip of the cartels and criminal gangs," he told the gathering, urging governments to rely more heavily on their militaries and deepen cooperation with Washington to dismantle organized crime.

The Shield of the Americas is intended to go beyond traditional law-enforcement cooperation. Trump openly encouraged countries to allow greater U.S. military involvement within their borders, offering intelligence support, joint operations and expanded security assistance. "The only way to defeat these enemies is by unleashing the power of our militaries," he said, adding that while some governments might hesitate, the United States stands ready to assist whenever partners request help.

The summit took place against a striking geopolitical backdrop. At the time of the meeting, the United States was engaged in a major military confrontation with Iran, already the most significant American intervention since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yet even amid tensions in the Middle East, Washington used the Miami gathering to signal that Latin America remains central to its strategic priorities.

Recent events reinforce that message. Since returning to office in 2025, the administration has intensified security operations in the hemisphere. In January, U.S. forces carried out a dramatic operation in Caracas that resulted in the capture of Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro. American forces have also conducted operations targeting narco-trafficking networks in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific, including joint action with Ecuadorian authorities.

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has confirmed that additional resources will be directed to United States Southern Command, the military command responsible for overseeing U.S. operations across most of Latin America and the Caribbean. While Washington says it prefers to act in partnership with regional governments, officials have also made clear that the United States is prepared to act independently if necessary to defend its national security interests.

At the same time, the Miami summit highlighted the political divisions shaping the region. Mexico, Brazil and Colombia—three of the hemisphere's most influential countries—were not invited to the gathering.


Beyond the fight against organized crime, the initiative reflects a broader geopolitical calculation. As China's economic presence across Latin America continues to expand through infrastructure investment, trade and technology partnerships, Washington appears determined to reassert strategic leadership in its own hemisphere.


In that sense, the Shield of the Americas resembles a modern reinterpretation of the Monroe Doctrine—not a return to nineteenth-century power politics, but an updated effort to reaffirm that stability and strategic alignment in the Americas remain central to U.S. national security.


Whether the initiative will evolve into a durable regional architecture remains uncertain. Without the participation of key regional powers, the coalition risks reinforcing the political fragmentation already visible across the hemisphere.


But one conclusion is unavoidable: with the Shield of the Americas, Washington has signaled that the Western Hemisphere is once again moving to the center of global geopolitics. For Latin America and the Caribbean, the real question now is not whether this new strategic era has begun—but how each nation will choose to navigate it.


Elsewhere in Latam

 Colombia went to the polls yesterday. Around **41 million citizens** are eligible to vote as **parliamentary elections** and **presidential primaries** take place simultaneously. Voters will elect 286 lawmakers to Congress — 183 in the House of Representatives and 103 in the Senate — shaping the political balance ahead of the presidential race later this year. After today's parliamentary election in Colombia, the presidential election is scheduled to take place on May 31. A run-off vote takes place on June 21 if no candidate received more than 50% of the vote in the first round.


 [Chile](#) is preparing for a political transition as conservative president-elect José **Antonio Kast** takes office on **11 March**, a shift closely watched by investors because it may bring more pro-business policies and regulatory changes in sectors such as mining, energy and infrastructure. However, Kast will govern without a congressional majority, which could complicate the passage of economic reforms.


 Peru is facing its worst energy crisis in two decades after a [rupture in a major gas pipeline disrupted supply](#). The government announced it will release fuel reserves to stabilize the domestic market and protect industry and households while repairs are underway. The crisis adds uncertainty to the country's energy and mining sectors.

 Brazilian coffee has been in focus this week as researchers expanded the [world's largest urban coffee plantation in São Paulo](#) with about 1,500 new trees to test varieties resistant to pests, disease and drought, reflecting the sector's growing concern about climate change and sustainability. At the same time, farmers are expanding production of robusta ([canephora](#)) coffee into new regions as high prices and changing climate conditions shift cultivation patterns across the country.

 Mexico is preparing for the review of the [USMCA](#) trade agreement, with U.S. and Mexican negotiators expected to begin talks in mid-March. The review—built into the

North American trade pact—will examine how the agreement is functioning and could open debates over supply chains, industrial policy and market access between the United States, Mexico and Canada.

 Brazilian business and politics were marked by investment news as the government reiterated plans to mobilize roughly **250 billion reais (\$48 billion)** in sustainable investment during President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s term, part of a broader push to attract private capital for energy-transition projects and climate-related infrastructure. The initiative is linked to the government’s [Brazil Climate Investment Platform](#) (Plataforma Brasil de Investimentos Climáticos), presented by the Ministry of Finance as a mechanism to channel public and private funding toward the country’s ecological transformation, as detailed on the official Brazilian government website of the Ministry of Finance.

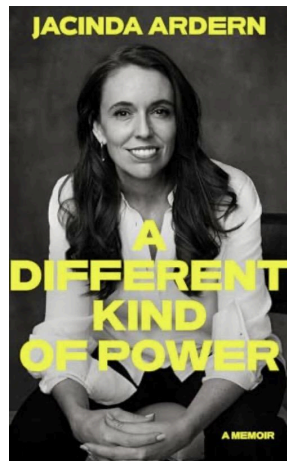
 Ecuador is hosting the [2026 CONMEBOL U-20](#) Copa Libertadores in Quito from 7 to 22 March, with youth clubs from across South America competing for the continental title.

La Cita

“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.”

[*Ruth Bader Ginsburg \(U.S. Supreme Court Justice\)*](#)

La Lectura



A Different Kind of Power. [Jacinda Arden](#), Former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern argues that empathy and kindness are not weaknesses in leadership but strategic strengths. Her approach to crises—from terrorism to pandemics—shows how emotional intelligence can coexist with decisive political action.



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