¡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.

Digital Summit Latam 2027

in



The third edition of our Flagship event, the "Digital Latam Summit" returns on 24-26 February 2027 to bring together Madrid the key players of public-private dialogue to lay the foundations of Transatlantic connectivity and project Latin America's voice in the global digital economy.

Under the motto "The Digital Society we want innovation, competitiveness, trust and inclusion", the Summit is consolidating itself as the annual reference forum for the digital ecosystem, with leaders from government, regulators, investors, companies, academia, and civil society.Over three days, it will offer keynote addresses, panels, workshops, and networking opportunities aimed at fostering strategic alliances with regional and global impact.

You can find more information like the speakers confirmed and much more here: Digital Summit Latam 2027. Registration will open soon and if you are interested in sponsoring and or supporting the event you can contact Maria Rocio Vargas on maria.rocio@cc-latam.org .

The Digital(less) Democracy Issue



Political communication intensifies during the election cycle, including AI generated misleading messages, images, videos and social media feeds. So, two of this autumn's most important elections, Brazil's presidential runoff and the American midterms, have been fought largely on social media platforms as much as phones. Did that decide the outcomes? The evidence so far suggests less than the campaigns believed, and in a different way from what regulators feared.

Brazil is the stronger case for digital influence. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, 80, who has long said he does not use a mobile phone, recorded his first selfie video after trailing Flávio Bolsonaro by two points in the first round, and the two met in only two televised debates before the final week. Lula's allies turned an existing WhatsApp group of about 50,000 people into a network of roughly 10 million in three weeks. Lula gained about 10 million votes between the rounds, against 3.6 million for Bolsonaro, and won with 51.8%. According to political Latam experts, a digital operation is the biggest driver of the comeback. Digital tools helped Lula mobilise and target undecided voters in a close race, but their effect cannot be separated from the money, the debates and the name on the other side of the ballot. Between the two rounds Lula's government announced spending measures estimated above $40 billion.

Disinformation is harder still to connect to the result. Brazil's Superior Electoral Court entered the campaign with strict AI rules, banning deepfakes in campaign material and requiring labels on synthetic content. AI-made material spread anyway: the court logged 19 AI cases in the campaign's first eleven days and on 8 October ordered Bolsonaro to remove AI videos. There is no evidence that this content moved votes in either direction.

In the United States digital campaigns were bigger and less regulated, with no federal rule on AI in political advertising and a patchwork of 31 state deepfake laws. The New York Times put spending on AI-generated ads at about $137 million, more than 80% of it from Republican campaigns and aligned PACs. However Republicans lost heavily. A fabricated video of Maine's Troy Jackson appearing to threaten his staff spread the week before the vote, and he won by more than seven points; in Wisconsin, Representative Derrick Van Orden posted deepfakes of his challenger and lost.

What decided the midterms was concrete. The economy was the top issue for 39% of voters and close to nine in ten were worried about the cost of groceries, fuel and utilities. Vice President JD Vance blamed the war with Iran; most exit-poll data point to prices. AI mattered most as a material issue: AI and data centres were a crucial or major factor in their vote.

So did digital media change the outcomes? In both countries it changed how campaigns reached voters more than what voters decided. In Brazil, where a few points separated the candidates, it may have made the difference at the margin as a tool for organising, not deception. In the United States, synthetic persuasion ran into a vote about prices.

That is the case for regulation, and it points to transparency rather than censorship. The honest answer to the question in this editorial is that nobody can measure digital influence precisely, because the platforms do not share the data. Public ad libraries, disclosure of targeting and AI use, and real-time access for researchers would change that. The United States needs a single federal disclosure rule for AI-generated political ads; Brazil needs a precise legal definition of a deepfake before content is removed. And voters need better information on what candidates will do about prices, wages, housing and health care: support for local newsrooms, nonpartisan voter guides, televised debates as the norm, and chatbots that disclose where their election answers come from. This year voters showed what they wanted to talk about. The rules should help them hold campaigns to it.

La Charla



This week Karim Lesina talks to Djibril Ouattara Ivory Coast's Minister of Digital Transition and Technological Innovation believes stronger cooperation between Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean could unlock new opportunities for investment, innovation and digital inclusion. A former CEO of MTN, Djibril Ouattara brings extensive private-sector experience to government as his country seeks a seat on the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council for 2027–2030.

Minister, you bring an unusual combination of experience to public office, having served as CEO of major telecommunications companies before joining the government. How does this background shape your vision for Ivory Coast's digital future?

My experience in the private sector taught me that digital transformation requires more than ambition. It requires investment, execution and measurable results. Having spent much of my career in telecommunications, I understand the importance of building infrastructure, creating the right conditions for investment and ensuring that technology delivers real benefits to citizens and businesses. Today, under President Alassane Ouattara's leadership, our ambition is to make Ivory Coast a leading digital economy in Africa.

We are advancing an ambitious strategy focused on connectivity, digital public services, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, innovation and digital skills. Our goal is not simply to adopt new technologies, but to use them to strengthen economic competitiveness, create opportunities for our young people and attract international investment.

I believe Ivory Coast can become both a regional digital hub and an active contributor to international technological cooperation.

Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean share many economic and technological challenges, yet cooperation between the two regions remains relatively limited. Why do you believe the time has come to build a stronger digital partnership?

I believe Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean have enormous potential to develop a much stronger relationship. Our regions share important characteristics: dynamic populations, growing digital markets, innovative entrepreneurs and a strong need to accelerate technological development.

We also face similar challenges in expanding connectivity, mobilizing investment, developing digital skills and ensuring that technology benefits all citizens. But beyond these common challenges, there are significant opportunities.

Latin America has developed valuable expertise in digital government, financial technology, telecommunications regulation and innovation. Africa has demonstrated remarkable capabilities in mobile financial services, digital inclusion
and technology solutions adapted to emerging markets.

We should be learning more from each other. I believe the time has come to move beyond occasional exchanges toward structured cooperation involving governments, regulators, businesses, investors and innovation ecosystems. Digital transformation can become a powerful bridge between our regions, creating economic opportunities and strengthening our influence in the global digital economy.

Ivory Coast has become an important economic hub in West Africa. Could Abidjan play a leading role in connecting African and Latin American digital ecosystems? What concrete opportunities do you see for cooperation and investment?

Absolutely. Ivory Coast's economic dynamism, strategic position in West Africa and growing digital ambitions provide a strong foundation for international partnerships. I see significant opportunities to develop closer relationships with Latin American and Caribbean countries.

We could encourage cooperation between telecommunications operators, regulators, technology companies and financial institutions, particularly in

infrastructure investment, digital payments, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

There is also considerable potential for partnerships between startups, universities and innovation centers. Importantly, this cooperation should be reciprocal. Africa has valuable experiences to share, just as we can learn from Latin America's progress in digital public services, financial inclusion and technological innovation.

I would like to see more exchanges of expertise, more business partnerships and greater investment flows between our regions. Ivory Coast could serve as a platform for these connections, helping translate shared interests into practical initiatives and long-term relationships.

Ivory Coast is seeking election to the ITU Council for the 2027–2030 term. How could this role help strengthen cooperation between Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and what contribution would Ivory Coast bring to the international digital agenda?

Our candidacy reflects Ivory Coast's commitment to multilateral cooperation and our determination to contribute constructively to international telecommunications governance.

We believe that developing and emerging economies have an important perspective to offer, particularly regarding connectivity, infrastructure investment, digital inclusion and innovation. Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean share many priorities in these areas.

If elected, Ivory Coast would seek to contribute actively to the ITU's work while encouraging dialogue and cooperation among Member States from different regions.

I see opportunities to strengthen exchanges of experience, support technical cooperation and identify common approaches to challenges such as affordable connectivity, cybersecurity, digital skills and emerging technologies.

My experience in the telecommunications industry has reinforced my conviction that effective digital policies must combine ambition with an understanding of investment realities and practical implementation.

Ivory Coast would bring this perspective, together with a commitment to dialogue, partnership and the collective objectives of the ITU. Our ambition is to contribute to an international digital environment in which every region can participate meaningfully and benefit from technological progress.

At CCLATAM, we are working to strengthen international cooperation through initiatives such as the Digital Latam Summit in Madrid. Would you support the

creation of a structured Africa–Latin America and Caribbean Digital Dialogue, with Ivory Coast playing a leading role?

I believe this is a promising initiative that deserves serious consideration. One of the challenges in international digital cooperation is moving beyond broad declarations toward concrete projects and sustained partnerships.
An Africa–Latin America and Caribbean Digital Dialogue could help bring together policymakers, regulators, telecommunications companies, investors and technology innovators around shared priorities.

I would see particular value in focusing on connectivity, infrastructure investment, digital public services, artificial intelligence and the development of digital skills.
Platforms such as the Digital Latam Summit can offer an important opportunity to initiate these exchanges and identify partners interested in developing a longer-term cooperation agenda.

Ivory Coast would be interested in exploring how it could contribute to such an initiative, potentially serving as a bridge between West Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ultimately, our objective should be to create opportunities for businesses, strengthen technological capabilities and deliver real benefits to our citizens.

Finally, what message would you like to send to Latin American and Caribbean governments, businesses and young entrepreneurs about the importance of building stronger partnerships with Africa?

My message is simple: we have much to gain by working more closely together. Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean are among the regions with the greatest potential to benefit from the ongoing digital transformation. We have talented young people, dynamic entrepreneurs, expanding markets and a shared ambition to build more innovative and inclusive economies. We should not allow geographic distance to limit our cooperation.

Technology gives us unprecedented opportunities to exchange knowledge, develop partnerships, attract investment and create new businesses. Ivory Coast is committed to playing an active role in this process. We want to strengthen our relationships with international partners, share our experiences and work together to ensure that digital transformation becomes a source of prosperity for our societies.

The future of the digital economy should not be shaped by a few countries or regions alone. Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean have an important role to play — and I believe we can achieve much more by working together.

Elsewhere in Latam

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🇺🇸*U.S. Midterm Elections: Latino Voters Emerge as a Decisive Political Force. The November 3 U.S. midterm elections confirmed the growing political influence of Latino voters, who played an important role in the Democratic Party's victories and its return to control of Congress. According to Reuters, Latino turnout may have reached 14.5 million voters, with approximately 65% supporting Democratic candidates for the House of Representatives. The shift was particularly visible in Texas, Florida and other states with significant Hispanic populations, reversing part of the Republican gains recorded in 2024. Economic concerns, especially inflation and the cost of living, remained central, alongside immigration policies. Beyond their immediate electoral impact, these results demonstrate that Latino voters are an increasingly influential and competitive constituency whose support cannot be taken for granted by either party. For Latin America, their growing political weight could also influence future U.S. debates on immigration, trade, investment and relations with the region, although the direction of those policies will depend on the new Congress and the administration.*

🇲🇽*AI Boom Fuels Mexico's Record Exports to the United States. Mexico is emerging as an important manufacturing beneficiary of the global artificial intelligence boom. Exports to the United States reached a record US$481.6 billion between January and September 2026, increasing 20.6% compared with the same period last year, driven significantly by computing equipment used in American data centers. The expansion is helping support Mexico's economic recovery, with third-quarter GDP increasing 0.9% quarter-on-quarter. However, maintaining this momentum will require reliable electricity supplies, greater investment certainty and stronger domestic technological capabilities. The development demonstrates how AI is reshaping economic opportunities across North America, creating new prospects for Latin American industry and employment*

🇵🇾*Paraguay Accelerates Depositor Protection and Strengthens Financial Oversight. Paraguay is advancing its response to the Ueno Bank crisis, with authorities prioritizing depositor protection, institutional continuity and financial stability. The Central Bank reported that approximately 1.2 million customers had received US$160 million through the deposit guarantee mechanism by November 7, while Congress has advanced legislation designed to accelerate payments to affected savers. On November 9, lawmakers approved economist Jorge Schreiner*

as the new Central Bank president, reinforcing efforts to restore confidence in financial supervision. Although the bank's resolution and broader political and legal proceedings remain ongoing, these concrete measures demonstrate the importance of functioning institutions and rapid action to protect citizens' savings.

🇵🇪*Holcim's Cementos Pacasmayo Tender Offer Highlights Peru's Infrastructure Potential. _International interest in Peru's construction industry remains evident as Swiss building-materials multinational Holcim advances its tender offer for Cementos Pacasmayo through its subsidiary Inversiones ASPI. Updated regulatory filings published during the past week detail the offer process, which remains open rather than representing a newly completed acquisition. The transaction comes as Cementos Pacasmayo has reported stronger operating performance, including a 16.3% increase in third-quarter revenue and higher sales volumes. The development highlights the importance of building materials and construction capacity to Peru's infrastructure, housing and industrial development, while illustrating continued international investor engagement with established Latin American businesses.*

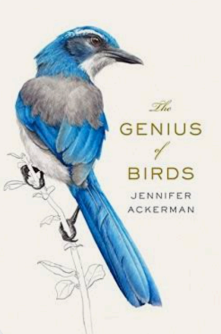
🇺🇸🇨🇳*U.S.–China Trade Relations Remain Central to Latin America's Strategic Opportunities. Renewed discussions between Washington and Beijing over critical minerals, rare earths and agricultural trade are reinforcing the importance of global supply-chain security. On November 6, U.S. officials called for China to implement previously agreed trade commitments ahead of further high-level engagement. For Latin America, these developments have direct implications: the region possesses significant reserves of lithium, copper and other strategic minerals, while Mexico and several South American economies are increasingly connected to U.S. manufacturing and technology supply chains. Greater diversification, reliable infrastructure and competitive investment frameworks could help Latin American countries benefit from changing trade patterns without becoming excessively dependent on any single economic partner.*

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La Cita

"The time has come to listen to the minor keys."

Koyo Kouoh, Artist, Curator Venice Biennale 2026



La Lectura

We suggest The Genius of Birds by Jennifer Ackerman. It's a very readable tour of what science has learned about bird intelligence: crows that make tools, birds that map thousands of hidden seed caches, songbirds that learn their songs much as children learn language. It suits a curious general reader and doesn't require any prior knowledge of birds.

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Thank you for reading, nos vemos en la próxima.