Summary Report for the
Regional Forum on Cybersecurity and the Third Cyber Drill Applied Learning for Emergency Response Team for the America Region
Bogota, August 3-5, 2015

The Regional Forum on Cybersecurity and the Third Cyberdrill Applied Learning for Emergency Response Team for the America Region, co-organized by the Ministry of Information, Technology, and Communications of Columbia (MinTIC), the Colombian Chamber of Informatics and Telecommunications (CCTI) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), with support from the University of Los Andes, was successfully held in Bogotá from 3 to 5 August 2015.

The Forum and Cyberdrill were held alongside the "Second Forum of Cyber Security and Cyber Defense: New Challenges and Perspectives in Latin America", organized by the CCIT, MinTIC and the University of the Andes.

The Forum provided a platform for discussing the regional situation and perspectives on cybersecurity, gathering viewpoints of the public and private sectors, as well as academia. The Forum benefited from the participation of regional institutions, government representatives, and experts from different parts of the world.

The Third Cyber Drill Applied Learning for Emergency Response Team for the America Region was held on 4 and 5 August, and brought together members from regional Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) as well as other experts. It provided an opportunity for the participants to exercise their technical skills and incident handling procedures. Through this Cyberdrill, cooperation between National CIRTs of the Region was encouraged and capacity was built through scenarios for the handling of cyber incidents, inspiring teamwork and improving the incident response effectiveness of participating teams.

The Forum and Cyberdrill were attended by representatives from 13 countries of the Region:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, and Venezuela.

The participants recognized that there is a growing number of cyber-attacks globally that can hamper the smooth socio-economic operations and environment of nations; that Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) are critical to identify, defend, respond and manage cyber threats and enhance cyberspace security in sovereign countries; that there is a need to better cooperate on cybersecurity to ensure the continuity of society in times of crisis, to protect essential services and critical national infrastructure, and to strengthen the relations between member states of the Region; that to fully reap the benefits of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), further investment is needed to more effectively secure cyberspace, through inter alia, CIRT to CIRT cooperation, human capacity building, information, knowledge, experience sharing, and teamwork; that to strengthen cyber security in the Region, each member state should make use, according to their possibilities, of their limited resources – human, financial and other; that cooperation among stakeholders is crucial to prevent cybercrime; and that cybersecurity is more than technical solutions and requires attention from governmental decision makers, as well as, the participation of the governments to respond to cyber threats and continuous improvement through risk management.

The participants expressed their commitment to building confidence and security in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) showing respect for fundamental Human Rights and the legislation of the Member States. The participants intend to reinforce the cooperation between Member States of the Region to address the growing risks posed by the cyber threats including misuse of ICTs and the effective information exchange to prevent and handle incidents, and to share experiences and practices on cyber threats and cyber security. With the collaboration of international and regional organizations, the participants wish to pursue harmonization and integration of activities, to the extent possible, in order to gain from the benefit of their individual experiences and capacities and encourage the optimization of efforts. Finally, to build trust and cooperation within the Region and globally, members of CIRTs will try to join, resources permitting, the Forum for Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST).

———————————————————————