

**2021 Activity Report and Results**  
**OAS Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee**  
**on Science and Technology (COMCYT)**

**OBJECTIVE: Increase cooperation for strengthening member states institutional capacities on incorporating innovation and transformative technology to create added value and diversification in their economies in a sustainable and inclusive fashion.**

**Science, Technology and Innovation**

- Convened the **VI Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology** held virtually on December 7-8, 2021 to consider the Declaration of Jamaica “*Harnessing the Power of Transformative Science and Technologies to Drive our Communities Forward.*” The topics for the Ministerial Meeting included: regional cooperation on science and technology to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the youth skills gap and readiness for industry 4.0, promoting the inclusion of women, rural and indigenous communities and other populations in vulnerable situations in STI, technology foresight as input for public policy decisions, and effective public-private-academia collaboration to enhance quality of life and support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through STI.
- Two Strategic Sessions of **Prospecta Americas**, held virtually October 27-28, 2021, on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, the CONACYT of México and the State of Hidalgo, México.
  - Supported the launch of two regional technology foresight studies under Prospecta Americas in collaboration with Minciencias of Colombia, on “**The Future of Work in Latin America,**” directed by the Center for Strategic Thinking and Foresight of the Universidad Externado de Colombia and on “**Foresight in the Agri Food Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean,**” directed by the Open Network on Foresight and Innovation of the Ibero-American Program on Science and Technology for Development (CYTED).
- Fifty (50) good practices and experiences shared with 500+ participants from 24 countries during six **thematic sessions of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT)** held between April and June 2021 on: Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Americas; Policies of Artificial intelligence in the Americas; Inclusive Innovation and Women in STEM; Impact Engineering; National Quality Infrastructure as a Pillar for Sustainable Development and Bioeconomy.
  - The Session on NQI included presentations from Mr. Verne Emmanuel, Director of the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards and Regional Director for CARICOM on COPANT’s Board; Mrs. Sharonmae Shirley, CEO of the Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC); Mrs. Elizabeth Ferreira, Chief Chemical Metrologist, Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU) and SIM Liaison to the Quality Infrastructure Council of the Americas (QICA); and Mr. Philip Wilson, CEO of Ecofiltro, Guatemala.

- Two virtual platforms [“**COMCYT Central**” and “**COMUNITT**” (in collaboration with the University of California Riverside)] created to support professionals and entrepreneurs through mentoring sessions with experts and leaders of technology transfer and commercialization in the Americas to accelerate their innovative solutions, technologies, products and services “from idea to market” and address some of the most pressing challenges in communities of the Americas while contributing to the diversification of the economies of the region.
- In collaboration with COMCYT Working Group 2 Partners, convened **3 regional conferences on engineering education** (LACCEI, ACOFI and LEIRD), which supported the exchange of good practices and provided training in engineering education for more than 1200 professionals and engineering students of the Americas.
- Supported virtual events showcasing the social, scientific, and intellectual contributions of women in STEM with academic organizations from the **Matilda Regional Chair on Women in Engineering in the Americas** and the **UNESCO Regional Chair for Women, Science and Technology in Latin America** based in FLACSO, Argentina.