



Uruguay
Presidencia



Second Ministerial and High Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean

Brief summary of Closed Session

Agesic - Uruguay



About de document

This document is a brief summary of the development of the Closed Session of Ministers and High-level Authorities, focusing on the main interventions of present delegations.

Introduction

On the 3rd and 4th day of October 2024, the Second Ministerial and High-Level Authorities Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean took place in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The aim of this summit was to further develop and consolidate the work initiated in the first Ministerial Summit which took place in Santiago de Chile in October 2023, reinforcing the regional commitment with the ethics of artificial intelligence.

Within the frame of the Second Summit, a Closed Session of Ministers and High-level Authorities was held, with the purpose of defining a regional working agenda concerning AI priority areas for Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting regional cooperation and establishing joint strategies towards a responsible development thereof, in line with UNESCO's Recommendation about AI ethics.

The Second Summit was developed as follows:

1. **Open Forum:** It consisted of presentations and lectures by high-level authorities and prominent international experts.
2. **Closed event from CAF "High performance computing in Latin America and the Caribbean":** This closed session for high-level authorities addressed the matter from a technical perspective.
3. **Closed session of Ministers and High-level Authorities.** During this session the delegations exchanged about the specific advances and/or outlined objectives; expectations about the functioning of the working group during the following year and the organization of the next Summit; identifying the



interest of the countries to take part in the working groups in each of the lines of the Road Map; approval of the Declaration of Montevideo and Road Map.

Development of the Closed Session

The closed session took place on October 4th in the Executive Tower of the President's Office, with the in-person attendance of the authorities and delegations representing the following countries: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

First round of exchanges

In this first round of exchanges, Agesic's Director Hebert Paguas moderated the exchange about the approval of the Declaration of Montevideo and the Roadmap, with the aim of gathering opinions of attending authorities.

The following authorities were in charge of the opening of this session: Christian Asinelli, Corporate Vice-president of Strategic Programming, CAF- Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean-; Gabriela Ramos, Deputy Director-General of Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO; Hebert Paguas, Executive Director, Agesic, and Aisén Etcheverry Escudero, Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation, Chile; who provided their valuable perspectives about the current situation and future of AI in the region.

The abovementioned authorities highlighted the importance of regional collaboration to face the challenges and take advantage of opportunities presented by AI. They emphasized the need of developing a shared vision and coordinate efforts to develop policies and regulations promoting an ethical and person-centered AI. In this regard, the Declaration of Santiago de Chile which results from the first Summit, was positioned as an essential starting point for the construction of a common ethical framework.



A core theme of the discussions was the role of the Reference Frameworks on Artificial Intelligence (for instance, RAM). These instruments have proved to be valuable tools for the countries of the region to align their policies and strategies regarding AI. The significant progress achieved from the first Summit was highlighted, with a growing number of countries adopting these frameworks.

The authorities agreed on the importance of placing the persons in the center of the AI development. Emphasis was made on the need of guaranteeing that the benefits of this technology are distributed equally and avoiding the widening of existing gaps. Moreover, the importance of protecting human rights and privacy in the development and use of AI was also highlighted.

Interventions of delegations

The interventions of the representatives of the delegations concerning the different aspects of the Declaration of Montevideo and the implementation of the Roadmap are briefly described below.

Representative from Brazil. Eugenio García, highlights the importance of the Declaration of Montevideo and the Roadmap. He mentioned that in 2024 the presidents of the G20 will focus on digital economy, establishing priorities such as connectivity, public digital infrastructure, fight against disinformation and artificial intelligence. García also presented the Brazilian AI Plan, which has significant investment, and emphasized that the Roadmap supplements Brazil's national efforts.

Representative from Cuba. Jorge Martí Martínez, highlighted the importance of a regional Roadmap that allows sharing experiences and promoting AI policies and initiatives, fostering integration upon common challenges. This process requires regional and international commitment and collaboration, as well as financial resources, mainly for infrastructure.

He thanked UNESCO's support, with a special mention to RAM's pilot project, used by Cuba to identify AI strengths and weaknesses. It is also pointed out that the



access to AI is related to the digital divide, which deepens inequality in developing countries. He underlined the need for cooperation and common standards to avoid the misuse of AI, criticizing unilateral coercive measures that hinder progress. Cuba confirms its commitment with an inclusive, fair and transformative AI.

Representative from Chile. Aisén Etcheverry appreciated that the Roadmap has an action-focused vision and is aligned with the established priorities. She pointed out the need of making progress in specific aspects, especially in infrastructure, such as the compute capacity and the possibility of managing our own data and training our algorithms in the region. This is key to tackle inequality, and it requires both political and technical strength to achieve it. A significant challenge is to think in a Latin American Large Language Model (LLM) including Spanish, Portuguese, and indigenous languages, built with local data. If the characteristics of the region are not incorporated, there are chances of losing part of our culture.

Representative from Mexico. Ulises Canchola indicated that the Roadmap shall strengthen the efforts of the new administration and highlighted the importance of gender equality and digital literacy. He underlines several key aspects of the Roadmap such as, for instance, gender equality, considered essential to foster equality between men and women; digital literacy, highlighting the need to act immediately so as not to miss a generation that may be benefited from technology and the participation of several stakeholders and their valuable contributions.

He stated that regions shall work together and proposes two perspectives to strengthen regional cooperation. On the one hand, High-performance Computing, which allows reflecting on how to make this infrastructure visible and innovate in other areas. And on the other hand, the technical and political coordination, as AI is not just a technical challenge, but also a social and political one. The regional cooperation should seek justice, equality and access, and the coordination between the technical and political areas will be key to achieve these aims.

Representative of Dominican Republic. Bartolomé Pujals proposed adding the creation of a platform for the exchange of digital solutions to the Roadmap, highlighting the need of generating specific results to rebuild trust in democracies.



He also suggested organizing, in the next Summit, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) demonstration session to exhibit what is being done and what may be shared among countries, mentioning their technological collaborations with Honduras and Guatemala, and offering to collaborate with Cuba and other countries.

He proposed Chile to contribute with the creation of an algorithm and solutions inventory that can adapt to the needs of other countries, which would strengthen trust and improve public services, and therefore, democracy. He insists on the creation of a portfolio of digital solutions, a kind of “collaboration supermarket”, where to exchange specific tools.

Representative from Colombia. Belfor Fabio García Henao, mentioned this work as an opportunity to reduce digital divides and highlighted the importance of building data models in an integrated and articulated manner. He expressed his agreement with Dominican Republic’s proposal regarding the portfolio of digital solutions, highlighting the need to collaborate from diverse disciplines.

Representative from UNESCO. Gabriela Ramos, celebrated that the Roadmap is action-oriented and pointed out several works UNESCO is carrying out, including the environmental and gender approach. She emphasized the need of understanding better the markets and trends in AI, as well as the importance of sharing successful experiences in other countries.

Approval of the Seat of the Third Summit

During this session, the representative of Dominican Republic expressed his interest for his country to host the Third Summit in the year 2025, which was approved by attending countries.

Second round of exchanges

In this second round, working subgroups were created to address the Roadmap by focusing on collaborating and developing lines of action defined therein.

Lines of action:

1. Governance and regulation



2. Talent and future of work
3. Protection of groups in vulnerable situation
4. Environment, sustainability and climate change
5. Infrastructure

In this session, the representatives of the delegations expressed their interest in taking part in each working subgroup according to their thematic preferences.

Agreements for the next steps

The result of this session was the approval by the authorities present of the documents “Declaration of Montevideo” and “Roadmap”.

Moreover, Dominican Republic was established as the seat for the next Summit in 2025.

After the Summit, the next steps shall be:

1. To assign and/or ratify the focal points of each country participating in the Group.
2. To define the integration of the themed subgroups (each country may choose which subgroup(s) to take part in).
3. To arrange the first meeting of the Group to start the Roadmap implementation process.