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Cámara de Senadores



Building Partnerships to Strengthen Democracy and Promote Human Rights

20th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly

8th Gathering of the Open Parliament Network



May | **2024**

Asuncion, Paraguay

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Renee Atwell

Founder, Girls of Impact
Trinidad and Tobago



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Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: Youth and Women in Action



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Introduction to Girls of Impact

- Girls of Impact was founded after recognizing the lack of mentorship for young women in the Caribbean. Our programmes focus on entrepreneurial innovation, professional development, and personal growth. Through mentorship, leadership training, and volunteerism, we empower young women to become change-makers.
- Our signature impact programmes are the **Accelerate Her Programme** which offers career mentorship and the **Empower Her Programme** which provides digital literacy and leadership training for young women from rural communities.

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Importance of Women and Youth Representation

The IDB conducted a 2022 study titled "**Women Leaders in the Public Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean**," and it shed light on a sobering reality. Despite comprising 52 percent of the total government workforce across 15 countries in the region, women hold merely 23.6 percent of top-level positions, equivalent to government ministers. Addressing these disparities requires a more ambitious gender equality agenda, one that harnesses the full potential of the skills of women for sustainable development in the region.

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Importance of Women and Youth Representation

1. Youth and women bring fresh insights and innovative solutions to discussions and policymaking, ensuring inclusivity and reflecting diverse societal needs. The Girls in ICT Day initiative within CARICOM exemplifies this inclusivity.
2. Representation of youth and women in leadership inspires ambition and possibility, fostering dynamic leadership and empowering communities. Girls of Impact's Accelerate Her Programme showcases the transformative impact of mentors.
3. Youth and women from marginalized groups face barriers to opportunities and resources, making increased representation in leadership crucial for empowerment. Girls of Impact's Empower Her Programme in rural Trinidad addresses these challenges.

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Parliamentarians Support for Young Women's Leadership:

1. **Investment in Mentorship Programs:** Parliamentarians can allocate resources to support mentorship programmes for young women.
2. **Advocacy for Gender-Responsive Policies:** Parliamentarians can advocate for gender-responsive policies that address the unique challenges faced by young women.
3. **Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations:** Parliamentarians can forge partnerships with civil society organizations to amplify their impact at the grassroots level.
4. **Community Engagement and Outreach:** Parliamentarians can actively engage with young women in their constituencies, listening to their concerns, and amplifying their voices in decision-making processes.

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Session 4

Francisco Samaniego

Executive Project Coordinator,
Centro de Información y Recursos
para el Desarrollo - CIRD



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Session 4: Leaving no one behind: Democratic and inclusive participation

*Experiences, work, and approach of
the CIRD Foundation*



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CIRD's focus:

Social capital for the development of the State and sustainability.

We promote constructive intersectoral dialogue to align individual and collective interests, reach consensus, and strengthen trust and collaborative linkages.

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Some experiences:

Equity Fund Information System (HEALTH)

Young Controllers of Charitable Funds Project (EDUCATION)

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Reflections:

FEDEM – TEDIC – SEMILLAS PARA LA DEMOCRACIA – AMYPE – JUNTOS POR LA EDUCACIÓN – CONCIENCIA VIVA – CIVILAB – CEAMSO – reAcción – FENAES – LIONS CLUBS – IDEA – FUNDACIÓN LIBRE – CITIZEN OVERSIGHT OFFICES – NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEES

Not promoting actions that limit civic space, as civic space enables different actors from the social sector to contribute to democracy, governance, and governability.

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Ernesto Fernández Polcuch

Regional Director and UNESCO
Representative to Argentina, Bolivia,
Paraguay and Uruguay



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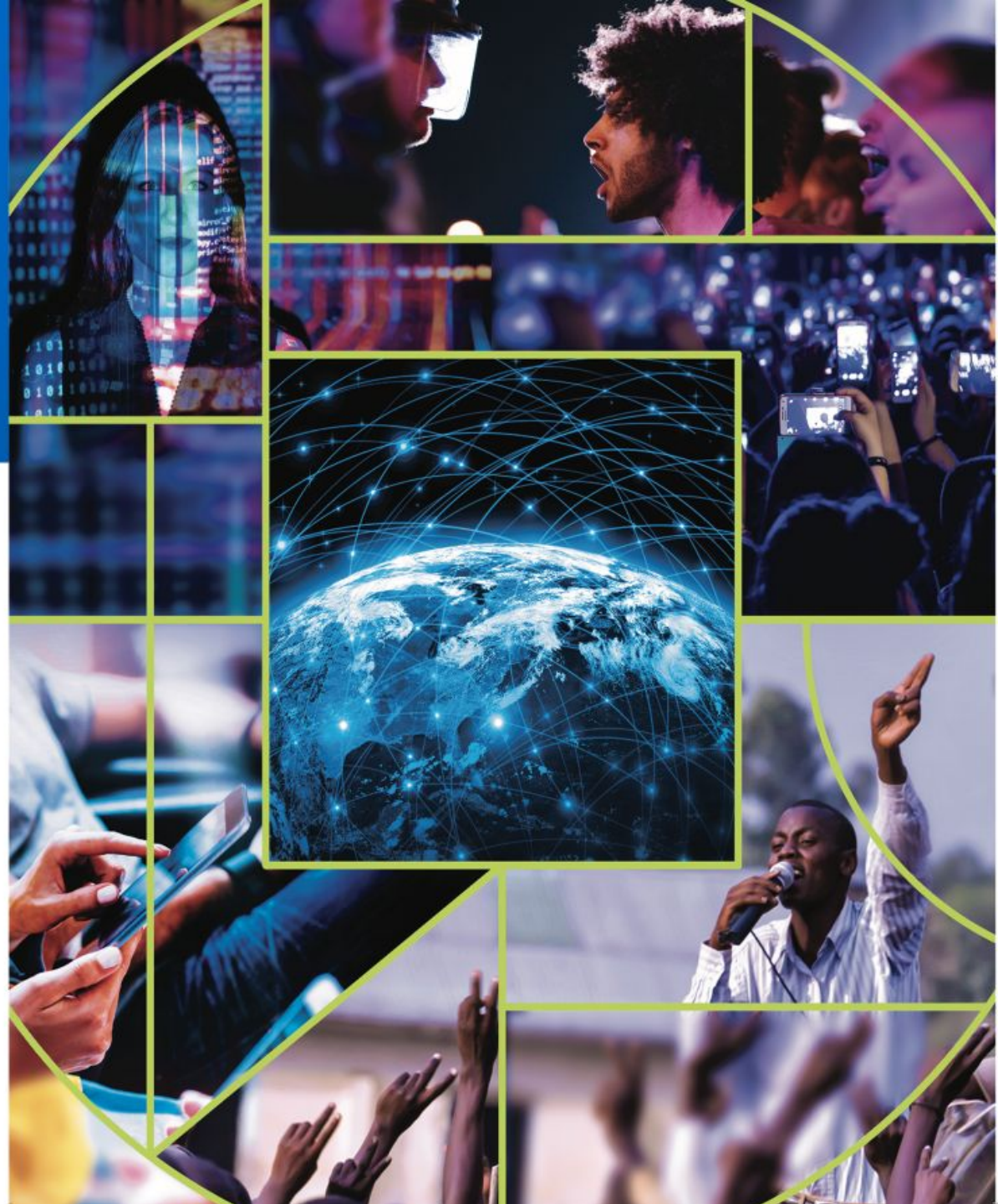


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A Multistakeholder Approach to Addressing Current Challenges to Information as a Common Good

Ernesto Fernandez Polcuch
Director
UNESCO Regional Office in Montevideo
[@efpolcuch](https://twitter.com/efpolcuch)

www.unesco.org/montevideo



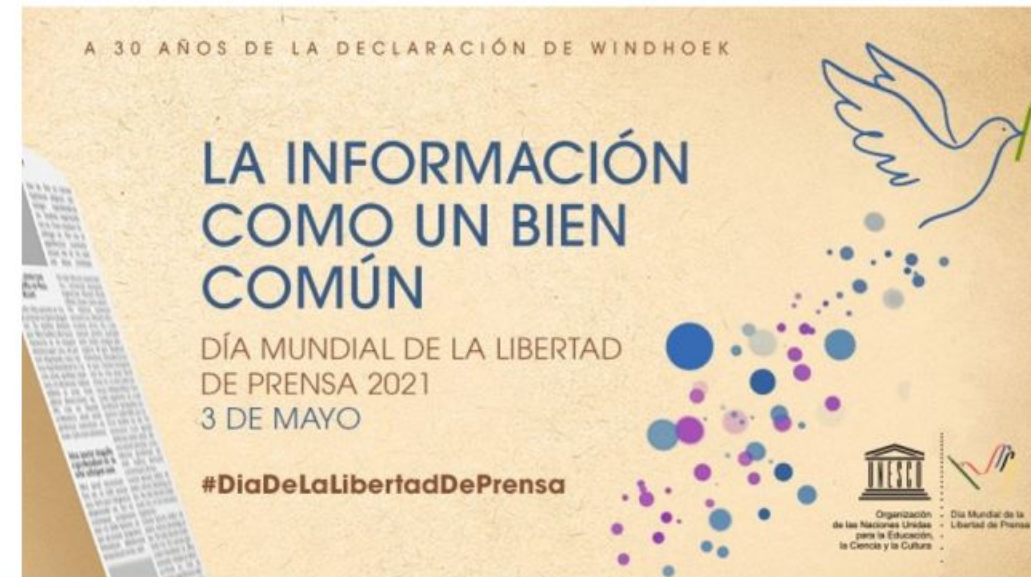
The Importance of Media Pluralism

Windhoek Declaration (1991)

- Involve all social actors
- Ensure the viability of media
- Promote transparency
- Strengthen media and information literacy

Windhoek +30 Declaration: Information as a Common Good (2021)

- Adapting to the digital environment
- Pluralism and diversity
- Sustainability of media
- Transparency and responsibility
- Countering disinformation
- Protecting against censorship
- Support for human rights



World Press Freedom Day Global Conference 2024

Summary of the key messages

- Global reach and diversity: More than 2500 participants of 116 nationalities.
- Alarming data on attacks on environmental journalists (70% have suffered attacks).
- Ministerial declaration and various joint declarations from international organizations that address the critical intersection between the climate crisis and freedom of expression.
- Launch of new projects and initiatives



How Do We Update the Declaration?

Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms: Safeguarding freedom of expression and access to information through a multistakeholder approach



Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms

Safeguarding freedom of expression and access to information through a multistakeholder approach



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Shared Responsibility

to create a Trusted Internet

- Intergovernmental organizations
- National regulatory agencies
- Civil society
- Academia
- Media
- Digital platforms



The Governance System for Digital Platforms

should align with five key principles

1. Policies and processes for curating and moderating content on platforms should be **transparent**.
2. Checks and balances must be **formally institutionalized**.
3. Governance processes should be **open and accessible** to all stakeholders, including those in situations of vulnerability and marginalization.
4. **Diverse expertise** should be a common feature of all regulatory arrangements.
5. Governance should **protect and promote** cultural diversity and the diversity of cultural expression.



Next Steps

Raising awareness of the principles

- **Dissemination**

- Governments
- Regulators
- Civil society groups

- **Strengthening capacities for application**

- Regulators
- Parliamentarians
- Judges

- **Dialogue with society**

- Fostering civil society participation in regulation processes

Support for actions to monitor the regulation of digital platforms

- Support for working groups on the governance of digital platforms
- Ongoing dialogue with organizations that form part of international networks for digital platform governance



Opportunities through UNESCO

Training for Parliamentarians

Massive open online course (MOOC) for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and legislative journalists **on topics related to freedom of expression** (including legitimate freedom of expression, hate speech, etc.),

Launch: September/October 2024

Contact for legislators: Benchelah, Mehdi m.benchelah@unesco.org





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Aguyje

Ernesto Fernandez Polcuch
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Lorena Zapata

News Editors, Esfera Pública



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**THE CHALLENGES OF
LEGISLATIVE JOURNALISM
in Argentina**



For the public, is it easy to
access to Argentine
Congress?

ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION



Reception offices



Committees



Citizen service office



CHALLENGES



Online Accessibility



Open Congress



Dialogue

WHAT DO WE DO AT THE *ESFERA PÚBLICA* AGENCY TO DEMOCRATIZE INFORMATION?

Appdate
Legislativo

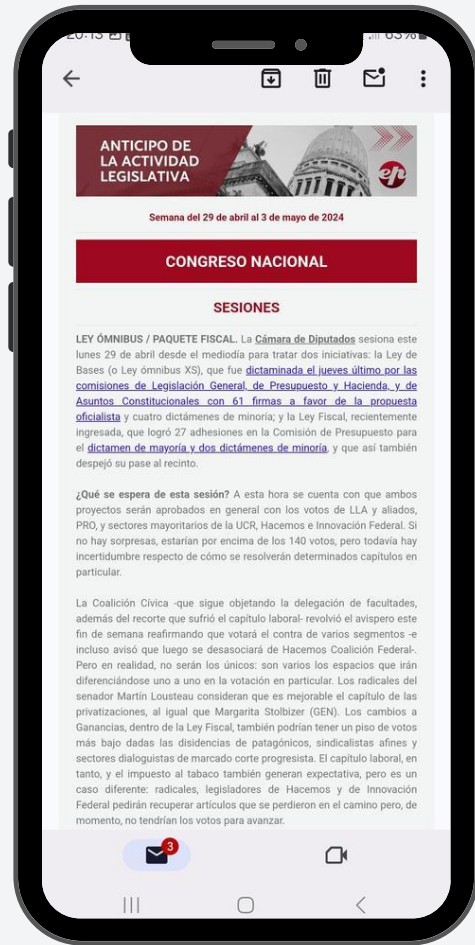


Legislative
overviews

Social
media

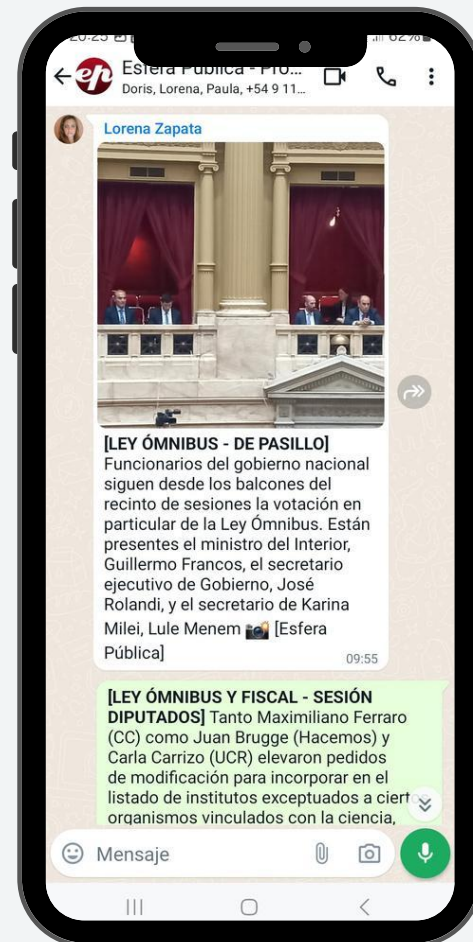


WHAT DO WE DO AT THE *ESFERA PÚBLICA* AGENCY TO DEMOCRATIZE INFORMATION?



Newsletters

Whatsapp



Political analysis



THANK YOU!

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Session 7

Nery Rodas Méndez

Member of Congress, Guatemala
Third Vice-President of the Congress of
the Republic



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Democracy must be a tool at the service of human beings.

Where do we politicians want to take democracy?

- Instrumentalized to achieve power
- Autocratic government

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Distortion of the political system

- Misusing political power with the **opening up of illicit financing** of political parties
- Misusing political power through opening **the State's capacity as an employer.**
- Misusing political power to **co-opt the justice system**

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Bien echo
diputado
Nery Rodas

TikTok
@abner_rodas



TikTok
@abner_rodas



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**The two cancers that damage
democracy and credibility for
the public: corruption and
ineptitude.**

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How do we regain trust?

- **Digital governance:** The future of democracy is shaping up towards **greater digitalization and citizen participation.** Technology is transforming the way we engage in politics.
- **Challenges for the new era:** Protecting **privacy** and the fighting **disinformation.**

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Thank you!

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Session 7

Lika Døhl Diouf

Associate Programme Management
Officer, Economic Commission for Latin
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ECLAC



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The Future of Democracy and Digital Governance

Session 7



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Digital transformation, democracy and human rights

*People-centred perspectives for
parliamentarians*



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Impact of digital transformation on democracy

Digital transformation changes all of society, and thus also **democracy**.

“The same rights that people have **offline** must also be protected **online**”

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Risks and threats of digital transformation

Global risks report 2024

Top 10 long-term risks (10 years)

- Misinformation and disinformation (#5)
- Adverse outcomes of AI technologies (#6)
- Cyber insecurity (#8)

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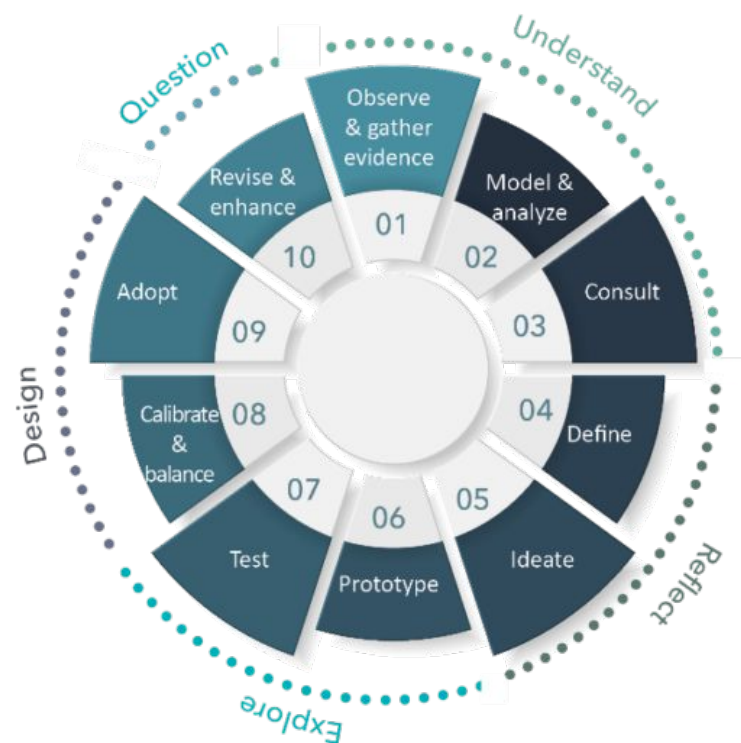


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Democratic responses to digital transformation

- Must be people-centred, inclusive, sustainable, take a long-term view
- Siloed, sectoral regulation is not viable
- The new gold standard is **inclusive, collaborative regulation**
- Parliamentarians can contribute by tapping into their constituencies
- Everything is changing, democracy must too



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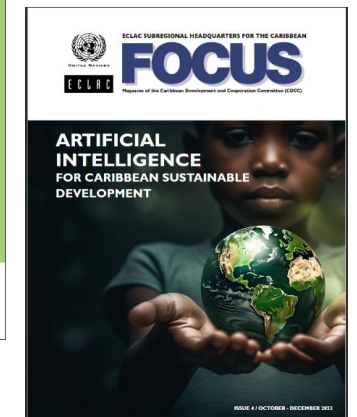
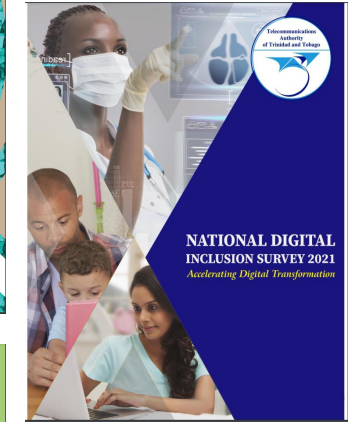
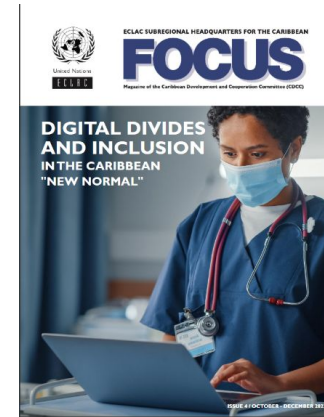


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Caribbean developments

- Filling data gaps
- Holistic strategies
- Participatory governance
- ECLAC work
 - digital inclusion
 - artificial intelligence



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Addressing digital regulatory challenges

- 1. Seek to be innovative and promote new methods**
- 2. Focus on the values and processes**
- 3. Aim to create a regulatory ecosystem**

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Strategies to promote digital inclusion

- 1. Analyse and engage with your constituents**
- 2. Consider the negative impact of digital exclusion AND adverse digital incorporation**
- 3. Aim to reach the furthest behind first**

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Pursuing people-centred digital transformation

- 1. Embrace participatory approaches**
- 2. Take a whole-of-society approach**
- 3. Consider the long-term implications**

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Thank You!

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UNITED NATIONS



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Valentina Muñoz Rabanal

UN SDG Advocate
Founder of AMUJI



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Public policies for more inclusive STEAM

Young women's perspectives



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GENDER GAP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Young Women for Ideas Association
(AMUJI, by its Spanish initials)

- 80% of the jobs of 2030 do not exist yet
- The gender gap in enrollment in undergraduate technology education is 75% - to the detriment of women



Promote, support, and retain women's STEAM talents during their school years, "by girls for girls".

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First National Policy on Artificial Intelligence in Chile

What are machines learning? And who is training them?

- Gender stereotypes
- Adultcentrism
- Racism

#LASNIÑASDICEN

"QUEREMOS QUE SE NOS RECONOZCA COMO DESARROLLADORAS, DIFUSORAS Y DEFENSORAS DE LA CTCI A NIVEL GLOBAL"

LEE LA DECLARACIÓN
EN: [BIT.LY/3DYOKAJ](https://bit.ly/3DYOKAJ)



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Democratization of STEAM

Diversity and inclusion
through **leadership** and
not “representation”



actualidad

WOMAN



Valentina Muñoz:

Activista chilena es la única latina que
participará en reunión anual con el
Secretario General de la ONU



2 enero, 2024

Valentina Muñoz, programadora y activista por la erradicación de las brechas digitales y de género

Tricampeona regional, campeona nacional e internacional en concursos de robótica y reconocida por medios nacionales, universidades y espacios como las Naciones Unidas, Valentina Muñoz es una reconocida programadora y activista que elevó la bandera por el fin de las brechas digitales y de género.

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Public policies with citizen LEADERSHIP

- Who better than girls to speak about girls' problems?
- How can we reduce digital gaps without consulting those in rural areas?
- How can we continue legislation on technology without digital literacy?



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Visibility beyond “the photo”

When diversity is achieved in political advocacy spaces, the media follows suit and continues to highlight the same groups.

Let's change that... one girl at a time!



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