

Declarations of Santiago: 1998 Summit of the Americas and 2023 Latin America and Caribbean AI Ethics

Document Type: Agreements Multilateral
Event Date: October 24, 2023

Document Information

Event Country:	Chile (CHL)
Event City:	Santiago, CHL
Lead Country:	Chile (CHL)
Event Format:	Presencial
Coverage Scope:	Regional
Legal Bindingness:	Politically-binding
Score:	55
AI Check Status:	Completed
Human Review Status:	Completed
Human Reviewer:	cristina.bermeo
Countries Involved:	6 countries (see details below)

Countries Involved

Argentina (ARG)	Bolivia, Plurinational State of (BOL)	Brazil (BRA)
Japan (JPN)	Mexico (MEX)	United States (USA)

Executive Summary

The Declaration of Santiago (2023) reflects a unified commitment by Latin American and Caribbean nations to promote ethical, inclusive, and human rights-based development and governance of artificial intelligence (AI) in the region. Recognizing both the opportunities and risks of AI, the declaration emphasizes the need for strategic regulation, regional cooperation, and the integration

of local cultural perspectives. Key actions include establishing a regional working group, led by Chile, to lay the groundwork for an intergovernmental AI council, and leveraging UNESCO's ethical guidelines. The declaration calls for inclusive policy-making, capacity-building, investment, and safeguards to address social inequalities, protect vulnerable groups, and ensure responsible AI use. It also highlights the importance of data governance, innovation, and collaboration among governments, private sector, academia, and civil society to maximize AI's benefits while mitigating its risks.

Taxonomies

Themes

- **Artificial Intelligence** (Technology & Innovation)
- **AI Ethics** (Technology & Innovation) - Relevance: 1.0

Justification: AI Ethics is the central theme of the 'Declaración de Santiago', which is almost entirely dedicated to promoting an ethical framework for the development, deployment, and governance of artificial intelligence in Latin America and the Caribbean. The document repeatedly references the need for ethical principles, human rights, and responsible use of AI, making this theme the core of the declaration's message, objectives, and commitments.

- **Tech-Driven Solutions** (Technology & Innovation)
- **Digital Governance** (Data & Governance) - Relevance: 0.92

Justification: Digital Governance is highly prominent, as the declaration calls for the establishment of new governance structures (such as a regional AI council), regulatory frameworks, and public policy measures to ensure the responsible management of AI. The document emphasizes the need for multistakeholder governance, legal frameworks, and oversight mechanisms, making this theme strategically vital to achieving the declaration's goals.

- **Data Protection** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Rights** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Ethics** (Data & Governance)
- **Digital Agenda** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Acceleration** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Policy** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Skills Development** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Infrastructure** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Ecosystem** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Investment** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Regulation** (Digital Transformation & Strategy)
- **Digital Inclusion** (Inclusion & Social Development) - Relevance: 0.88

Justification: Digital Inclusion is a major strategic objective, with significant content dedicated to ensuring that AI and digital technologies benefit all segments of society, especially vulnerable groups. The declaration stresses the importance of bridging digital divides, promoting gender equality, and empowering marginalized communities, positioning inclusion as a key commitment and outcome of the region's AI and digital agenda.

- **Gender Equality in Tech** (Inclusion & Social Development)
- **Digital Education** (Inclusion & Social Development)
- **Global Digital Cooperation** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **Multilateralism** (Regional & International Cooperation)
- **Digital & Technological Partnerships** (Regional & International Cooperation)

Actors

- **Governments** (Political Actors) - Relevance: 1.0

Justification: Governments (including Heads of State, Ministers, and official representatives) are the primary actors in both declarations. They are the conveners, signatories, and main decision-makers, responsible for adopting the declarations, establishing working groups, and implementing policies and strategies. Their role is central to all key initiatives and decisions discussed.

- **Government Officials** (Political Actors)
- **Policy Level Representatives** (Political Actors)
- **United Nations** (Political Actors) - Relevance: 0.85

Justification: The United Nations, particularly through its agencies (e.g., UNESCO, ECLAC), is repeatedly referenced as a normative, technical, and cooperative partner. UN principles, recommendations, and frameworks (such as the Charter, Human Rights, and UNESCO's AI ethics guidelines) underpin much of the policy direction and are cited as foundational for regional action and governance.

- **United Nations Officials** (Political Actors)
- **Organisation of Ibero-American States** (Political Actors)
- **Community of Latin American and Caribbean States** (Political Actors)
- **Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean** (Economic Actors)
- **Inter-American Development Bank** (Economic Actors)
- **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development** (Political Actors)
- **World Bank** (Economic Actors)
- **Private Sector Representatives** (Economic Actors)
- **Industry Actors** (Economic Actors)
- **Civil Society Organisations** (Civil Society Actors)
- **Non-governmental Institutions** (Civil Society Actors)
- **Universities** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Academic Institutions** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Research Performing Organisations** (Research and Innovation Actors)
- **Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF)** (Economic Actors) -

Relevance: 0.75

Justification: CAF is specifically acknowledged for its technical and financial support, its role in advancing the digital and AI agenda, and its involvement in the establishment and support of regional working groups. CAF's influence is significant in enabling capacity building, policy development, and regional cooperation on the main topics discussed.

Beneficiary Groups

- **Indigenous Communities** (Indigenous Peoples & Ethnic Groups)
- **Migrants** (Migrants & Refugees)
- **Small and Medium Enterprises** (SMEs / Businesses)
- **Students** (Students & Youth)
- **Vulnerable** (Uncategorised)
- **Women in Tech** (Women & Girls)
- **Youth** (Students & Youth)

Additional Beneficiary Groups

- woman
- indigenous population
- migrant
- girl
- micro and small enterprise

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

EU Policy Alignments

- Digital Decade
- EU Cyber Strategy
- Global Gateway
- NDICI-Global Europe

Commitments

Commitment 1

The Republic of Chile will convene a meeting of the regional AI Working Group in the first half of 2024.

Details:

- The Republic of Chile will convene a meeting of the regional AI Working Group in the first half of 2024. (Type: Programmatic)

Commitment 2

UNESCO and CAF are to be evaluated for maintaining support to the AI Working Group for a period of two (2) years.

Details:

- UNESCO and CAF are to be evaluated for maintaining support to the AI Working Group for a period of two (2) years. (Type: Declarative)

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPI: AI Capacity Building and Public Awareness

Description:	Fortalecimiento de capacidades, el empoderamiento de todas las personas de América Latina y el Caribe sobre los elementos fundamentales de la IA, y la generación de espacios y metodologías de concientización para que la mayoría de la población comprenda el impacto que esta tecnología tendrá en sus vidas.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Strengthen capacities and empower people in Latin America and the Caribbean on AI fundamentals, creating awareness spaces and methodologies
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Implementation of capacity building programs and awareness initiatives
Responsible Entity:	National governments, educational institutions
Sector:	Education and Capacity Building

KPI: Analysis and Adoption of AI Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

Description:	Iniciar un análisis frente a la necesidad de elaborar y adoptar nuevos marcos jurídicos y agendas regulatorias para el diseño, desarrollo y uso responsable de la IA.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Initiate analysis and, if needed, develop and adopt new legal and regulatory frameworks for responsible AI
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Completion of analysis and, if applicable, adoption of frameworks
Responsible Entity:	National governments
Sector:	Artificial Intelligence Regulation

KPI: Convening of AI Working Group Meeting

Description:	Convocar a una reunión de trabajo en el transcurso del primer semestre de 2024
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Hold a meeting of the AI Working Group in the first half of 2024

Unit:	qualitative milestone
Timeframe:	first semester of 2024
Measurement Method:	Meeting held and documented
Responsible Entity:	República de Chile
Sector:	Artificial Intelligence Governance

KPI: Development and Implementation of AI Policies and Institutional Frameworks

Description:	Diseño e implementación de políticas, planes y estrategias nacionales, regionales e internacionales, para el diseño, desarrollo y uso seguro, ético y responsable de esta tecnología, así como el establecimiento de marcos institucionales nacionales efectivos, y con un enfoque de Derechos Humanos, para el manejo adecuado de la IA.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Develop and implement effective national, regional, and international AI policies, plans, strategies, and institutional frameworks with a human rights focus
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Adoption and implementation of policies and frameworks
Responsible Entity:	National governments
Sector:	Artificial Intelligence Policy

KPI: Establishment of AI Intergovernmental Council Working Group

Description:	Establecimiento de un Grupo de Trabajo con miras a la constitución de un Consejo intergubernamental de Inteligencia Artificial para América Latina y el Caribe
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Establish a Working Group to prepare for the creation of an Intergovernmental AI Council for Latin America and the Caribbean
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Formal creation and operationalization of the Working Group
Responsible Entity:	República de Chile (to lead), participating countries

Sector:	Artificial Intelligence Governance
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KPI: Monitoring AI Impact on Labor and Vulnerable Groups

Description:	Monitorear el impacto de la IA en los trabajadores y trabajadoras de América Latina y el Caribe y la necesidad de pensar en formas de protección e intervención en caso de que se justifiquen, con el propósito de evitar profundizar las problemáticas de desempleo y exclusión, en especial en la población más joven y en situación de vulnerabilidad de los países de la región.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Monitor AI's impact on workers, especially youth and vulnerable populations, and develop protection/intervention measures if needed
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Establishment of monitoring mechanisms and implementation of interventions
Responsible Entity:	National governments, labor ministries
Sector:	Labor and Social Protection

KPI: Promotion of AI Investment and Innovation

Description:	Incentivar mayores inversiones en la región para aprovechar de forma integral la IA para solucionar sus diversas problemáticas, y promover el uso innovador de esta tecnología, desarrollando los incentivos necesarios para este fin.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Encourage increased investment and innovative use of AI to address regional challenges
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Tracking of investment initiatives and innovation programs
Responsible Entity:	National governments, private sector
Sector:	Investment and Innovation

KPI: Promotion of Inclusive and Gender-Equitable AI

Description:	Promover iniciativas y políticas para fomentar el diseño, desarrollo y uso inclusivo de la IA, con énfasis en la promoción de la inclusión, la equidad de género y la disminución de brechas con perspectiva interseccional.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Promote initiatives and policies for inclusive AI design, development, and use, focusing on inclusion, gender equity, and reducing intersectional gaps
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Adoption and implementation of inclusive AI policies
Responsible Entity:	National governments
Sector:	Social Inclusion and Gender

KPI: Promotion of Secure and Ethical Data Exchange Mechanisms

Description:	Promover e invertir en mecanismos que permitan el intercambio seguro, equitativo, legal y ético de datos, en coherencia con la Recomendación sobre la Ética de la Inteligencia Artificial de UNESCO.
Type:	qualitative
Target Description:	Promote and invest in mechanisms for secure, equitable, legal, and ethical data exchange for AI
Unit:	qualitative milestone
Measurement Method:	Implementation of data exchange mechanisms and investment tracking
Responsible Entity:	National governments, data protection authorities
Sector:	Data Governance

KPI: UNESCO and CAF Support for AI Working Group

Description:	Evaluar solicitar a UNESCO y CAF -banco de desarrollo de América Latina y el Caribe- mantener por el término de dos (2) años el acompañamiento al mencionado Grupo de Trabajo.
Type:	qualitative
Target Value:	2.0

Target Description:	Seek to secure UNESCO and CAF support for the AI Working Group for two years
Unit:	years
Timeframe:	2 years
Measurement Method:	Formal request and confirmation of support
Responsible Entity:	AI Working Group, UNESCO, CAF
Sector:	Artificial Intelligence Governance

Practical Applications

Application 1:

Establishment of a Group of Work (Grupo de Trabajo) with the aim of constituting an Intergovernmental Council on Artificial Intelligence for Latin America and the Caribbean, under the framework of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, to strengthen regional capacities in this area.

Application 2:

Appointment of the Republic of Chile to lead the Group of Work, with a mandate to convene a working meeting during the first half of 2024; participating countries are to designate a focal point for this process.

Application 3:

Ongoing technical and financial support from UNESCO and CAF (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean) for the Group of Work for a period of two years.

Application 4:

Recognition of the technical and financial support provided by UNESCO and CAF for the organization and execution of the ministerial meeting and for fostering discussions and exchange of best practices on AI in the region.

Application 5:

Active implementation of national public policy initiatives in some countries of the region, focusing on ethics, regulation, talent development, and infrastructure for the deployment of AI technology.

Application 6:

Use of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, including its Readiness Assessment Methodology and Ethical Impact Assessment Methodology, as guiding tools for the design and implementation of national AI policies, plans, and strategies.

Application 7:

Commitment to promote multi-stakeholder participation in the design and implementation of public policies, plans, and strategies related to AI.

Application 8:

Encouragement of collaboration and shared use of infrastructure and computing capacity resources in the context of AI among countries in the region.

Source Files

Filename	Type	Size	Upload Date
Declarations of Santiago	PDF	124.9 KB	2025-06-26
Declarations of Santiago 1	PDF	75.7 KB	2025-06-26