



Ethics of Science and Technology

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UNESCO and leading Ministry in Santiago de Chile host Milestone Regional LAC Forum on Ethics of AI

In a historic collaboration, UNESCO, Chile's Ministry of Science, and CAF convened the first Regional Forum on AI Ethics, uniting leaders for responsible AI use in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event aimed to shape a collective strategy aligned with UNESCO's pioneering international framework. Notably, a dedicated Caribbean segment emphasized the region's distinctive perspectives on AI and ethical considerations.



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In a groundbreaking initiative, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation of Chile, and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), hosted the first-ever Regional Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Santiago de Chile on October 23 and 24, 2023. The event aimed to foster a common strategy and partnerships for the responsible use of AI in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region to support the leading [UNESCO Recommendation](#), a comprehensive international framework and first global standard in its field.

The two-day forum which featured a Ministerial Panel on October 23, including a dedicated regional segment for the Caribbean brought together four prominent ministers from the Caribbean to discuss the region's unique perspectives on AI developments and the ethical needs behind these.

Caribbean Ministers Emphasize Importance of AI Ethics

The Ministerial Panel which included Ms. Wahkeen Murray, Chief Technical Director in the Office of the Prime Minister,

Jamaica; Mr. Curtis King, Minister of Education and National Reconciliation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Ms. Pauline Antoine Prospere, Government Senator and Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology, and Vocational Training, Saint Lucia; and Ms. Rishma Kuldipsingh, Minister of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation, Suriname, showcased that while some countries like Jamaica have established AI strategies focusing on human rights and ethical considerations since 2007, others such as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname are in the early stages of formulating their policies. Despite varying levels of AI development, all ministers acknowledged the significance of education, accountability, and human oversight in AI applications.

Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO, highlighted the central role of the SHS sector in AI development, emphasizing the need for national policymakers and leaders to set the scene for AI development and implementation, and support responsible innovation, in the service of people worldwide. The ADG also encouraged regional group cooperation and collaboration among SIDS, such as the sharing of best practices and fostering places to learn and share among and within Member States, as countries worldwide move into next phase of Recommendation.

Challenges and Opportunities for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The unique development needs and challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), a UNESCO priority group, were emphasized by several Ministers, adding that the input of AI and the technology sector would be required to potentially support these in order for the Recommendation to be implemented and for the SDGs to be achieved. The development changes included, responding to social inclusion

needs, diversifying the economy through digital innovation, supporting tourism and various sectors, as well as achieving educational and professional development objectives, and addressing climate change.

Towards a Regional Council on AI for LAC

The forum also served as a stepping stone towards establishing a Regional Council on AI for the LAC region. The second day featured a private Summit, working towards this goal and focusing on ethical, inclusive, and rights-based AI policies and strategies. As a central political and stakeholder space, for cooperation and exchange, the event provided a space to discuss the governance and technical issues within an ethical and inclusive approach; protective of Human Rights, while responding to the needs and priorities of the region. The Regional Forum on the Ethics of AI marks a pivotal moment in the LAC region, fostering collaboration and setting the groundwork for responsible AI development.



Readiness assessment methodology: a tool of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

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In order to render operational its Recommendation, UNESCO offers practical tools, such as the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM methodology) to Member States. This methodology enables countries to identify their level of AI readiness, strengthen national policies, and respond to AI threats and risks while harnessing opportunities for sustainable development.

For further information, in particular concerning national implementation of the RAM tool, please contact:



Ms. Paula Istúriz Caveró

Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences
UNESCO Office for the Caribbean



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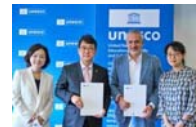
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