



Strategic Input Note

# **AI Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean**

## **Key Findings from the Regional Dialogues**

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The regional dialogues on AI Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), convened by Cepei in partnership with ILDA, PIT Policy Lab, and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) on June 4 and June 23, 2026, brought together representatives from governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and multilateral organizations to contribute to the United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance.

The discussions underscored a broad regional consensus on the need to strengthen coordination on AI governance while recognizing the region's heterogeneity, uneven institutional and technical capacities, and diverse regulatory approaches. Participants also highlighted the opportunity to build a more coordinated regional voice grounded in shared principles, practical cooperation, and long-term capacity development.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations Global Dialogue should be viewed not simply as an international consultation, but as a strategic opportunity to launch a long-term regional agenda capable of strengthening Latin America and the Caribbean's influence in shaping global AI governance.

## Key Regional Priorities for AI Governance

1. **AI governance must move beyond a regulatory approach:** Latin America and the Caribbean should embrace a comprehensive vision of AI governance that recognizes responsible AI as dependent not only on regulation, but also on robust data governance, digital infrastructure, institutional and technical capabilities, and the enabling conditions required to foster innovation, productivity, and inclusive economic development.

Similarly, the regional debate should move beyond an exclusive focus on risk mitigation and incorporate mechanisms that ensure a more equitable distribution of AI benefits. In this regard, systemic risk assessment, technology foresight, strategic monitoring, and AI Benefit Sharing mechanisms offer important opportunities to mobilize regional investment and expand the Global South's access to frontier models, computing infrastructure, and advanced technological capabilities.

2. **Latin America and the Caribbean has the potential to lead a middle-powers agenda:** The region possesses unique comparative advantages, including extensive experience in multistakeholder governance, strong human rights traditions, growing digital public innovation ecosystems, strategic natural resources, and an expanding AI ecosystem.

These strengths position Latin America and the Caribbean to build strategic partnerships with other regions facing similar challenges, including technological dependence, regulatory fragmentation, and limited investment in digital infrastructure and talent development.

Moreover, the region's role as a provider of critical minerals, renewable energy resources, and water resources creates an opportunity to exercise greater leadership in shaping global digital and environmental governance agendas that integrate sustainability, human rights, and the inclusion of historically marginalized communities.

3. **Closing capability gaps should become a regional cooperation priority:** Persistent asymmetries in technical, technological, regulatory, and financial capacities continue to constrain regional coordination, particularly among Caribbean countries. Regional cooperation platforms can play a critical role in facilitating peer learning, exchanging knowledge and best practices, strengthening institutional capabilities, and reducing capacity gaps across the region.
4. **AI sovereignty should become a strategic pillar of the regional agenda:** Latin America and the Caribbean should advance a shared vision of AI sovereignty that addresses the political, technical, economic, and conceptual dimensions of digital sovereignty. Such a vision should seek to reduce excessive technological dependence on external actors while also responding to the environmental implications associated with expanding AI infrastructure, including data centers, cloud services, and computing capacity.
5. **Investing in shared regional infrastructure is essential to strengthen technological capabilities:** Investment in Digital Public Goods, shared digital infrastructure, interoperable regulatory frameworks, regional computing infrastructure, and collaborative talent-development initiatives should become central pillars of the region's strategy to strengthen technological capabilities and digital sovereignty. Beyond infrastructure itself, these investments can accelerate innovation, facilitate knowledge sharing, and reduce structural asymmetries across countries.
6. **Human capabilities, workforce transformation, and institutional capacity must remain cross-cutting priorities:** Strengthening institutional and technical capabilities is essential to advancing inclusive, trustworthy, and sustainable AI governance. Regional priorities include developing AI literacy across the public sector, strengthening technical expertise across industries, consolidating regional knowledge networks, promoting technology transfer and co-development, and mobilizing resources to finance shared capabilities. Workforce transformation should also become a strategic policy priority. As AI reshapes labor markets, governments need to better understand how AI affects value chains, occupations, and skills demand in order to design forward-looking policies that prepare workers for the future economy.

## **Strategic Actions for the 2026–2027 Regional Agenda**

The United Nations Global Dialogue on AI Governance represents a strategic opportunity to position regional priorities within global discussions while catalyzing cooperation on financing, technology transfer, knowledge exchange, and institutional capacity development.

The Geneva Dialogue should therefore be understood as the beginning, not the culmination of a long-term regional process aimed at establishing a permanent coordination mechanism capable of strengthening regional collaboration, promoting collective learning, and building a coherent regional voice ahead of the 2027 United Nations Global Dialogue in New York.

In this context, establishing a Permanent Regional Multistakeholder Platform for AI Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean would provide a critical mechanism for coordinating technical and political efforts, aligning regional priorities, and connecting ongoing initiatives led by organizations such as the IDB, CAF, ECLAC, UNESCO, and other regional partners.

Operationally, this platform should convene governments, academia, civil society, the private sector, and multilateral organizations on a sustained basis to develop joint initiatives, accelerate regional capacity development, promote collaborative projects, and define a common set of regional priorities spanning AI governance, data governance, digital and computing infrastructure, and human capabilities.

