

GDC Stakeholders Consultations

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Delivered by Paloma Lara-Castro

Thank you. [AlSur](#) is a consortium of 11 civil society and academic organizations in Latin America dedicated to advancing human rights in the digital sphere.

Our [submission to the Global Digital Compact](#) reflects our collective efforts to advocate for a human rights-based approach, with special consideration on the intersection of gender and human rights focusing on key areas.

We would like to focus on three high-level cross-cutting recommendations:

First, Enforcing Human Rights Online and meaningful connectivity:

From one side, in Latin America we face restrictions such as censorship and online violence, particularly affecting journalists and human rights defenders.

We recommend concrete measures to eradicate violence, ensuring that online restrictions follow legal standards, promoting net neutrality, and protecting anonymous speech. Alsur urges for a moratorium on systems failing to meet these basic criteria, in the same vein as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights already did.

From the other side, connectivity gaps across the region highlight persistent inequalities, especially affecting women, marginalized communities, and isolated groups. To bridge this digital divide, we advocate for a holistic approach focusing on availability, affordability, and accessibility of telecommunication services. Community networks and other community-based networks are key to extending access to the internet.

Connectivity policies should prioritize social justice and human rights, aiming to reduce disparities and create equal opportunities. This includes integrating interculturality, promoting digital literacy, and aligning with principles of equal access, privacy, and net neutrality.

Second, Digital Rights of Women and LGBTQIA+ Individuals:

To ensure concrete commitments to protect the digital rights of women and LGBTQIA+ people, it is essential to mainstream gender in a dual or multiple manner to ensure that gender perspective is not only incorporated into all aspects of the GDC, but also pursued as an independent objective.

Initiatives must promote actions aimed at guaranteeing a digital space free of technology-facilitated gender-based violence from an intersectional perspective ensuring balance of rights.

Third, Data Protection and AI regulation challenges:

Our recommendations stress the need for sound data protection laws, rethinking "informed consent" with new technologies, ensuring fairness in data handling, establishing independent data protection authorities, and limiting surveillance to necessary and proportionate measures.

Also, upholding human rights in AI development and deployment is crucial. We recommend emphasizing human rights in AI development, promoting diversity throughout AI lifecycles, encouraging multi-stakeholder decision-making, establishing monitoring mechanisms, developing accountability standards, and fostering collaboration for equitable AI growth.

In conclusion, a human rights-based approach is essential for technology development and regulation in Latin America. The Global Digital Compact must address widening inequalities, uphold existing consensus, and integrate the region's realities.

Thank you.