**SEVENTH MEETING OF MINISTERS AND** OEA/Ser. K/XVIII.7

**HIGH AUTHORITIES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** CIDI/REMCYT-VII/doc.5/24 rev.1

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PLAN OF ACTION

TOWARDS THE SAFE, SECURE AND TRUSTWORTHY DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE AMERICAS: THE IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNANCE, REGULATORY, AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

(Adopted at the tenth plenary session, held on December 13, 2024, and   
subject to revision by the Style Committee)

*We, the Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), gathered in Washington, D.C., on December 12 and 13, 2024, at the Seventh Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), endorse the following Plan of Action to implement the Declaration: "Towards the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Deployment of Artificial Intelligence in the Americas: The Importance of Governance, Regulatory, and Institutional Frameworks." We reaffirm our commitment to transparency, accountability, inclusivity, security, regional cooperation, and ethical use of AI as essential for fostering innovation while safeguarding human rights, and sustainable development in the region.*

1. BACKGROUND
2. This Plan of Action is intended to guide the implementation of priorities established in the Declaration of the VII Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Science and Technology (VII REMCYT) held at OAS Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on December 12 and 13, 2024. It is also part of joint efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[[1]](#footnote-1) [[2]](#footnote-2).
3. The Plan of Action takes into account the “Revised General Guidelines for Sectoral Ministerial Processes within the Framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development” (CIDI/CPD/doc. 212/22 rev.1) and the “Rules of Procedure for Sectoral and Specialized Meetings at the Ministerial and/or High-Level Authorities of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development” (CIDI/doc.258/18), approved by the OAS General Assembly.
4. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:
5. The purpose of this Plan of Action is to provide a structured and coordinated approach for OAS member states to implement actions that promote the safe, secure, and trustworthy development and deployment of AI in the Americas. Key Objectives:

* Enhance regional AI governance frameworks that foster innovation while respecting human rights and promoting the well-being of the public.
* Promote the safe, secure, and trustworthy development and use of AI, including through a focus on transparency, accountability, and inclusivity.
* Strengthen institutional capacities for governance and AI innovation.
* Support alignment of AI policies with broader sustainable development goals, including economic growth and social equity in the Americas.

1. The OAS plans to leverage its unique position as a regional organization to coordinate efforts, facilitate dialogue, and act as a catalyst for cross-border cooperation on AI development and deployment.
2. GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION
3. Guiding values: This Plan of Action is grounded in our shared democratic values, respect for human rights, transparency, accountability, inclusivity, security, cooperation, and ethical use of AI. It seeks to unify member states under these shared values to ensure coherence and effectiveness in AI governance.
4. Multi-Stakeholder Involvement: The framework will involve diverse stakeholders, including civil society, academia, the private sector, and international organizations, to ensure that AI policies and actions are comprehensive and reflect diverse perspectives.
5. Areas of Action: The Plan of Action will focus on the following key areas:

* Coherent AI Governance and Interoperability
* Capacity Building in Institutional Governance and Skills Development in AI
* Research and Innovation
* Respect for Human Rights

1. Establishment of Working Groups: In line with the Declaration, this Plan of Action establishes two Working Groups:

* Working Group 1: Governance, Regulatory, and Institutional Models on AI
* Working Group 2: Regional and Collaborative Cooperation Framework for the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Deployment of AI

1. Coordination of Working Groups: Each Working Group (WG) will have a Chair and two Vice-Chairs who will coordinate to:

* Guide dialogue and identify opportunities for regional cooperation.
* Facilitate the exchange of experiences, good practices, and lessons learned.
* Provide leadership and engagement within COMCYT, CIDI, and other relevant OAS bodies.
* Collaborate with the Technical Secretariat to engage with partners and other multilateral institutions.

1. KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

The following key activities will advance the objectives of the Plan of Action in line with the Declaration:

1. Working Group 1 on Governance, Regulatory, and Institutional Models on AI:

* Share information for the development of model AI policies and frameworks, including good practices, lessons learned, case studies, and comparative models to build a common baseline of understanding on AI for the Americas.
* Collaborate in designing model governance, regulatory and institutional Frameworks for the Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Development and Deployment of AI.
* Encourage responsible government design, development, and use of AI that respects the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
* Support Inter-Sectoral dialogue and multistakeholder exchanges and actions to facilitate the pertinence, applicability and collaborative development of governance, legal, institutional and regulatory AI frameworks in the Americas.
* Share information on status quo AI policy and regulatory environment throughout member states to facilitate easier regional integration and development of AI businesses across the region.

1. Working Group 2 on Regional and Collaborative Cooperation Framework for AI:

* Identify strategies to strengthen institutional technical and governance capacities and skills in AI throughout the Americas in coordination with cooperation authorities.
* Support regional collaboration on AI capacity building initiatives with COMCYT partners in governments, academia, private sector and civil society.
* Coordinate with other regional organizations, development banks and partners guiding AI initiatives with OAS member states to identify collaboration opportunities, maximize resources, and avoid duplication of efforts.
* Coordinate research and evaluate the impact of AI.

1. Collaboration of OAS-SEDI with other Organs and Secretariats of the OAS on AI:

* Support the implementation of collaboration initiatives between the OAS-SEDI, and the relevant OAS Organs and Secretariats across the four pillars (development, democracy, human rights, and security), as applicable, to share knowledge, develop joint programs and contribute expertise.
* Ensure AI policies and initiatives align with development priorities, democratic values, human rights, and security concerns.

1. Leverage and strengthen existing OAS programs:

* Continue to support the implementation of existing OAS programs that can support the objectives of the Plan of Action:
  + OAS Youth Academy on Transformative Technologies: Expand the number of participants and develop targeted training programs for AI skills, particularly focusing on youth engagement and capacity building, aiming to equip youth with the necessary skills to access jobs in AI and related fields, thereby improving economic opportunities and supporting the region’s digital transformation.
  + OAS Network of Centers of Excellence on Transformative Technologies: Utilize the Network to facilitate research related to AI, with an emphasis on regional cooperation, innovation, and strategic challenges. This will help member states foster regional growth in AI expertise and capabilities, while also applying AI technologies to key regional priorities.
  + Americas Competitiveness Exchange and Groups of Experts on Subnational Competitiveness (GTECS): Highlight the value of these networks for the exchange of experiences and regional cooperation in science, technology, and innovation.

1. Collaborate with OAS Permanent Observer States and COMCYT Partners:

* Pursue collaboration with universities, research centers, NGOs, private sector entities, and other institutions to support the implementation of this Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action.

1. Coordinate with other regional organizations and partners:

* OAS-SEDI will coordinate with other regional organizations, development banks, and partners guiding AI initiatives with OAS member states to maximize resources, synergies, and collaboration opportunities while avoiding duplication of efforts.

1. Organize Thematic Multi-sectoral policy round tables:

* Convene a series of multi-sectoral policy round tables focusing on key areas such as AI governance, ethics, human rights, economic development, and security. These round tables will bring together representatives from governments, academia, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations to discuss and align AI policy approaches across sectors.

1. FUNDING
2. Member States are invited to assign appropriate and available economic, technical, and logistical resources for the implementation of this Plan of Action, subject to availability of resources, while working with the Technical Secretariat to expand funding avenues.
3. The Technical Secretariat will continue to work with Member states to explore possible additional sources of funding for the implementation of activities included in this Plan of Action, including actions to pool resources from member states, international donors, and private sector partners.
4. The Technical Secretariat will continue to encourage in-kind contributions such as expertise, training, technology, and other resources from member states and partners, particularly for capacity-building initiatives.
5. FOLLOW-UP, EVALUATION, AND REPORTING
6. The Authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT), together with the Troika (the current, former and future Chairs of the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology), in collaboration with the Member States, will develop a detailed Work Plan to implement this Plan of Action, including holding regular planning meetings and COMCYT sessions before the VIII REMCYT.
7. Member states are invited to actively participate in COMCYT initiatives and share information, to build a common baseline of understanding on AI in the Americas.
8. The OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) will continue to facilitate communication among the working groups, support project implementation, and organize regular meetings, videoconferences, and workshops.
9. The COMCYT Chair will report on the follow-up of actions during regular and special meetings and at the next Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology.
10. CONCLUSION:
11. This Plan of Action underscores the need and potential for a coordinated approach to ensure the safe, secure and trustworthy development and deployment of AI in the Americas. The support of all member states is critical for its effective and timely implementation, including allocating appropriate economic, technical, and logistical resources and strengthening existing OAS programs. The OAS Secretariat will play a key role in providing technical assistance and facilitating cooperation among Member States and partners to achieve this Plan of Action and its corresponding Work Plan.

FOOTNOTES

* + - 1. That being so, the Argentine Republic prefers not to adopt a definitive stance with respect to this paragraph and all those paragraphs that may contravene the guiding principles seeking to protect life, liberty, and private property.
      2. …capabilities, and levels of development, its Constitution, and domestic law, as well as its national principles and values.

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1. The Argentine Republic considers that Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development comprises non-legally binding aspirations which each sovereign State is free to interpret and pursue as it wishes… [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Republic of Paraguay considers that the commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are voluntary and shall apply after taking into account the country's specific circumstances… [↑](#footnote-ref-2)