



Derechos Digitales

Annual Report 2023



**DERECHOS
DIGITALES**
América Latina



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About Derechos Digitales



Derechos Digitales is a Latin American-based, independent, non-profit organization founded in 2005. Its primary mission is to establish, protect and advance human rights in the digital environment.

Our vision is to contribute to a more just, inclusive, and egalitarian Latin American society, in which Derechos Digitales participates, both directly and in coordination with other organizations, in the defense of human rights in the digital environment so that technologies serve the integral development of individuals.

The mission of Derechos Digitales is to defend, promote, and develop human rights in the digital environment in Latin America, through study, dissemination of information, and influence on public policies and private practices, in order to promote social change based on respect and human dignity.

During 2023, Derechos Digitales team were:

- **Jamila Venturini, Juan Carlos Lara**
Co-Executive Directors
- **Lucía Camacho,**
Public Policy Coordinator
- **Michel de Souza,**
Public Policies Director
- **Mayra Osorio,** Methodology and
Project Evaluation Coordinator
- **Miguel Flores,** Technologies Director
- **Paloma Lara-Castro,** Public
Policy Coordinator
- **Vladimir Garay**
Communications Director
- **Paula Jaramillo,** Project and
Legal Affairs Coordinator
- **Camila Lobato**
Operations Coordinator
- **Rafael Bonifaz,** Technology Coordinator
- **Débora Calderón,** Regional
Advocacy Coordinator
- **Belén Roca,** Communications Officer
- **Juan Manuel García**
Research Coordinator
- **Ileana Silva,** Communications Officer
- **Juliana Guerra,**
Advocacy Coordinator
- **Isidora Ruggeroni,**
Public Policy Analyst
- **María Paz Canales,** Coordinator
of International Affairs
- **María Encalada,** Technology Analyst

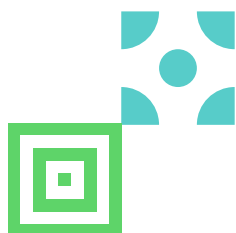
In addition, the following interns were at Derechos Digitales:

- ✦ **Anna Bentes** is an Associate Professor and Deputy Coordinator at the Getulio Vargas Foundation School of Communication, Media, and Information (FGV ECMI). She holds a PhD and a Master's degree in Communication and Culture from UFRJ (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology also from UFRJ.
- ✦ **Daniela Horta** is a political scientist from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, with a master's degree in public policy, development, and governance from the University of Rotterdam (Netherlands) and the University of York (United Kingdom).
- ✦ **Luis Fernando Arias** holds a Master's degree in Cybersecurity, with a background in Education and Computer Systems Analysis. He is an Afro-Ecuadorian popular communication, who uses and advocates for Free Software and autonomous, community-based technologies. He coordinates the [Educational Connection Project](#).
- ✦ **Kate Tejada** is a student of Information Sciences at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. She directs "[Be Brave Online](#)", a feminist organization with three years of activism in the region.

Our Board

Our Board of Directors in 2023 was composed of:

- **Flavio Tapia**, President
- **Paula Jaramillo**, Vice President
- **Roberto Cerda**, Treasurer
- **Claudio Ruiz**, Secretary



Derechos Digitales is part of the following international networks:

Derechos Digitales is an active member of various international collaborative networks working on various aspects related to the promotion of human rights in digital environments and internet governance.

Advisory Group of the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse

In October 2022, Derechos Digitales joined the advisory group of the Global Alliance for Action against Online Harassment and Abuse, which brings together governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to better understand, prevent, and address technology-enabled gender-based violence. The Global Alliance is part of the Technology for Democracy initiative, led by Denmark. Check their [website](#).

Al Sur

A consortium of eleven civil society and academic organizations based in Latin America that jointly seeks to strengthen human rights in digital environments. Its work is divided into six main thematic areas: access, surveillance, personal data, cybersecurity, intermediary liability, and artificial intelligence.

Derechos Digitales is one of the consortium's founding organizations. Its role includes managing resources and coordinating research projects to defend and promote human rights in digital environments at the regional level. Check their [website](#).

A+ Alliance and Red f<A+I>r

The <A+> Alliance for Inclusive Algorithms is a global, multidisciplinary feminist coalition, organized by Women@theTable and the Costa Rica Institute of Technology, bringing together academics, activists, and technologists prototyping the future of artificial intelligence and automated decision-making to accelerate gender equality through technology and innovation. Check their [website](#).



Latin American Civil Society Alliance for Fair Access to Knowledge

A group of organizations working for a greater balance between copyright and activities related to culture and education, to guarantee access to knowledge and the right to research in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Alliance also participates in the Right to Research in International Copyright Project and the Access to Knowledge Coalition. Check their [website](#).

Alliance for Encryption in Latin America and the Caribbean, AC-LAC

A network of 23 organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean representing diverse sectors of the digital ecosystem, with the mission of establishing a platform for collective capacity-building and knowledge-building around encryption, a fundamental tool for security and respect for human rights in the region. Check their [website](#).

Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

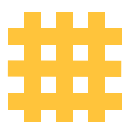
The APC network works to empower and support organizations, social movements, and individuals to use information and communication technologies (ICTs) in order to create strategic communities and initiatives and produce, this way, a meaningful contribution to human development, social justice, political participation, and environmental sustainability. Check their [website](#).

Coalition Against Online Violence

The Coalition Against Online Violence is a group of organizations from around the world working to find solutions to the abuse, harassment, and other forms of online violence faced by women journalists. Check their [website](#).

Forum on Information & Democracy

The Forum on Information and Democracy is a non-profit organization led by civil society organizations, with a mandate to implement the democratic principles of the International Association on Information and Democracy. It is a global and concerted collective effort, representing all regions of the world, in support of a democratic space for information and communication. Check their [website](#).



Global Encryption Coalition

The Global Encryption Coalition was founded in 2020 by the Center for Democracy and Technology, Global Partners Digital, and the Internet Society, and today has over 300 members. Its mission is to promote and defend encryption in key countries and multilateral forums. The GEC also supports companies' efforts to offer encrypted services to their users. Check their [website](#).

Global Network Initiative (GNI)

Launched in 2008 as a platform comprised of information and communications technology (ICT) companies, human rights and freedom of press organizations, academics, and investors, GNI's mission is to protect and promote freedom of expression and the right to privacy in the ICT industry, setting a global standard for responsible business decision-making and serving as a multi-stakeholder voice against government restrictions and demands. Check their [website](#).

Global Network of Internet and Society Research Centers

The Global Network of Internet and Society Research Centers seeks to increase cooperation among participating centers to facilitate knowledge exchange, foster synergies, and collectively address transnational problems at the global level. The network promotes and facilitates joint research activities and events, bringing a global perspective to current debates on the internet and in society. Check their [website](#).

IDRC Cyber Policy Centres

An initiative that aims to strengthen research and public policy advocacy capacity on critical issues in digital policy development. It seeks to ensure that decision-makers in the Global South use objective, high-quality research in developing policies related to the implementation of technologies. Check their [website](#).



IFEX-ALC

Alliance that brings together 24 organizations from across the region, with the common purpose of defending and promoting freedom of expression. The alliance supports the individual and collective efforts of its members, achieving political mobilization and significant results on key issues related to freedom of expression in the region. Check their [website](#).

Movement for a Better Internet

The Better Internet Movement is a collaborative effort to ensure that internet development is guided by public interest values. The movement brings together diverse voices and facilitates connection, resource sharing, and policy change, based on a shared vision and public interest agenda for an internet that benefits all people. Check their [website](#).

Latin American Observatory of Digital Threats (OLAD)

Alliance promoted by Derechos Digitales for the monitoring, analysis, and visibility of digital incidents and threats in Latin America. It seeks to strengthen local capacities and cooperation within the alliance and serve as a platform for exchange and research. OLAD arises from the need to coordinate technical capabilities, share resources, and conduct studies on digital incidents and attacks in the region, with an intersectional perspective, to contribute to the strength of the defense of human rights in digital environments.

OECD Civil Society Information Society Council (CSISAC)

The Information Society Civil Society Advisory Council (ISCAC) is the voice of civil society within the Digital Economy Policy Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It facilitates information exchange between the OECD and civil society participants, leading to better-informed and more widely accepted policy frameworks. The formal recognition of this Advisory Committee by the OECD was the result of an effort initiated in the 1990s to promote equal participation in global policymaking. Check their [website](#).



Freedom Online Coalition (FOC) Advisory Network

The Online Freedom Coalition Advisory Network is a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform that advises governments that are members of the Coalition. It organizes collaborative forums and explores opportunities for cooperation to promote human rights online. The Network is a key mechanism for the Coalition to regularly interact with non-governmental internet stakeholders. Check their [website](#).

The Data for Development Network (D4D.net)

Global alliance of research organizations based in the Global South created with the support of the International Development Research Centre ([IDRC](#)), which works to develop and mobilize the knowledge needed to advance the use of data to address critical development challenges. The Network aims to provide a more integrative response to development challenges by foregrounding Southern perspectives on the use and impact of data. Check their [website](#).

Global South Alliance

The Alliance was formed in early 2023, with the mission of uniting NGOs dedicated to promoting mutual learning and advancing digital rights with a perspective from the Global South. Drawing on meetings at the Data Privacy Global Conference, RightsCon, and Internet Governance Forum, an alliance was formed. Its goal is to create bonds of solidarity and dialogue between organizations in the Global South (or Majority World). It does not aim to create a formal coalition or represent the Global South, but rather a space for mutual empowerment, dialogue, and listening among a small group of organizations.

The Global Network of Social Justice and Digital Resilience

This network is made up of ten established organizations, primarily from the Global South, working to improve the digital resilience of the social justice ecosystem in their local and regional contexts. This network aims to become a source of knowledge and critical thinking that builds and learns collective ways to strengthen the technological capacity of each of its members and, consequently, the digital resilience and the social justice ecosystem. Check their [website](#).



Our platforms and websites

Here you can find and review our work:



URL
derechosdigitales.org



Twitter
@derechosdigital



Instagram
@derechos_digitales



Facebook
@derechosdigital



Youtube
@DerechosDigitales_latam



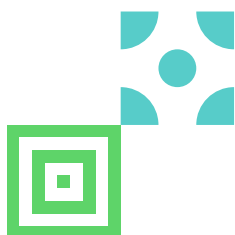
Linkedin
linkedin.com/company/derechos-digitales



Mastodon.social
@derechosdigital



Tumblr
derechosdigitales.tumblr.com



Words from the Co-Executive Director

Looking back at 2023, in a world lurching from crisis to crisis, the defense of digital rights highlighted the need to rethink justice at a global level.

It seems we are unable to escape these dramatic situations. In addition to the climate emergency and the persistent economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and global capitalism, we must add the constant risks to our fragile democracies.

The war crisis that ended in 2022 in places far from Latin America spread throughout the world, including threats in our region. The violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories spilled over into the digital realm, in the form of censorship and harassment. Simultaneously, social media users turned their attention to solidarity not only with Gaza but also with Congo and Sudan. We saw protests across the region, including the continuation of anti-government protests in Peru, and the emergence of violent repression against protests in Panama and Guatemala, in addition to the current situation in Argentina.

Despite criticism of social platforms as spaces for misinformation and frivolity, the internet remains a place for activism, reporting on human rights violations, and journalism.

In Latin America, we went from a year marked by technological surveillance to a year in which, well, the same happened, and often in worse ways. The repeated story of Pegasus surveillance saw new revelations about spying in Mexico, El Salvador (including the surveillance of a judge, extending the 2022 revelations), and the Dominican Republic. More spyware was detected in Mexico as well.

Added to this are the risks of moving from one place to another in a tangible body, in a region with increasing adoption of biometric surveillance systems. São Paulo, Brazil, announced a multimillion-dollar acquisition of a new surveillance system despite recent victories against facial recognition systems; public transportation in Bogotá and the police in Medellín announced new surveillance capabilities in Colombia; the new Argentine government announced facial surveillance to identify and punish protesters. Biometrics also expanded to monitor cross-border movements: civil society organizations denounced their use at borders and on migrants. Meanwhile in Ecuador, despite enhancing security capabilities and even introducing a digital undercover agent figure, hopes of enforcing the personal data protection law passed years ago have faded.

Regarding the situation in Argentina, one of the aftermaths of the presidential election at the end of 2023 was a strong government action against social protest, which shall deserve close attention in 2024. With the same concern, we raise an alarm regarding the regulation of organizations in Venezuela, considering the capacity of civil society associations to work.

We saw the discussion about disinformation grow and deepen, heightened in our region by acts of violence in Brasilia earlier this year, with added concern about political disinformation in that country. Meanwhile, in Chile, an expert commission was created to formulate recommendations despite uncertainty about the real impact of digital lies. The shift from concern to a broader discussion about the regulation of internet companies was also emphasized in Brazil, where the bill that began focusing on fake news turned into a larger debate about the regulation of digital platforms.

An important ruling by the Colombian Constitutional Court shed light on the role of the State in guaranteeing internet access as a crucial element in the exercise of fundamental rights.

We remain steadfast in our belief that the current human rights framework is essential for holding States accountable, so we will continue working toward institutional recognition of what we know to be our prerogatives as holders of fundamental rights.

We know there is a strong emphasis on developing new forms of governance for artificial intelligence, including regulatory efforts in the region. Our work this year also highlighted the need to integrate feminist perspectives into technological development, and we published a report on the subject with significant contributions from experts across Latin America. We also co-organized a workshop on data justice to gather more perspectives from experts in the region.

New initiatives within our Artificial Intelligence and Inclusion program will be launched in the coming years to reflect the need to seize the historic opportunity to influence future technological development, with respect for democracy, fundamental rights, the environment, and inclusion. Technology is indeed a source of risks and opportunities, but realizing the latter requires a vigilant and proactive approach.

This year, Derechos Digitales' work was strongly influenced by our dedication to collaboration and strengthening civil society throughout the region. We led regional initiatives within the Greater Internet Freedom project to generate evidence, strengthen activism, and build capacity in several countries in the region, leading to the publication of a new edition of "Latin America in a Glimpse", focusing on connectivity in different areas of the Amazon region.

We also provided financial support to the work of activists in the region, to provide financial support to 20 initiatives in 13 countries through our Rapid Response Fund and our new Derechos Digitales Fund, whose management system continues to receive applications and project submissions. We supported capacity building for individuals at the initial stages of their digital rights work through an introductory course at the end of the year. We examined the role of evaluation in civil society activism.

This year we launched the LaREDD Program for digital resilience and defense, while continuing our trust-building work with digital security experts in the region. We welcomed our first pair of interns, focusing on inclusion in digital security and resilience.

We participated in the launch of a new Global Network for Social Justice and Digital Resilience. We continued our participation in our multiple networks, such as the AISur consortium, the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), IFEX, the Global Network Initiative (GNI), the Movement for a Better Internet (MFABI), the Data for Development (D4D) Network, among others.

We believe in cooperation as a path to mutual empowerment, and we will continue on that path.

Our regional mission recognizes the need to pay attention to global processes and events related to human rights in a digitalized society. We remain strongly involved in forums such as the Special Committee discussing a new cybercrime treaty within the UN's Third Committee, and the Open-Ended Working Group of the First Committee, dedicated to the security and use of technologies, especially by States. We continue to monitor processes in technical forums that affect the development of networks and their impact on human rights; and we continue to pay attention to free trade agreements that, through commercial exchange, may compromise people's rights or trade them for economic benefits.

We also followed through the UN Commission on the Status of Women dedicated to technologies and closing gaps, and in monitoring discussions at the World Intellectual Property Organization, with a potential impact on the future of access to knowledge. Another point to be highlighted in addition to the outcomes previously mentioned is the attention given to spaces such as Unesco and its initiatives in AI and platform governance, the Internet Governance Forum, the Freedom Online Coalition, and so much more.

In 2024, we will witness the holding of a Summit for the Future, organized by the United Nations, which will include a Global Digital Compact, the development of which has raised multiple concerns for a global civil society reluctant to leave the digital future to state decision. We know this is an opportunity to reclaim the future in favor of human rights, over governmental interests.

And in all these spaces, current and future, local and global, we trust in the power of civil society to drive societal change. Defending a Latin American perspective on human rights in the digital age also requires its visibility in multiple spaces, both governmental and intersectoral, with global reach and transregional solidarity with the rest of the Global Majority.

2024 will be an intense election year, and that includes several countries in the region. We will be attentive to the processes of change and potential threats to our democracies.

We will continue to prioritize people, groups, and communities as true agents of change — not allowing State or corporate power to become the ultimate winners of the future. At Derechos Digitales, we will continue working to ensure that the future belongs to everyone.

J. Carlos Lara and Jamila Venturini.
Co-executive directors.

What did we do in 2023?

1. Moving towards feminist and inclusive technology

At Derechos Digitales, we seek to strengthen the intersection of gender, technology, and social justice through our research, advocacy, training, and campaigns. We have worked and actively participated in debates surrounding how technological regulations and practices can influence and, in many cases, amplify existing inequalities, especially against minority groups such as women, gender-based dissidents, and other vulnerable groups. Through a multidisciplinary approach, we explore how innovations can be redesigned for meaningful inclusion and build public policies to protect and empower these communities.

In 2023, we addressed topics such as cybercrime and gender, combating technology-enabled gender-based violence, building a feminist framework for developing artificial intelligence (AI), and promoting the equal participation of women and girls in science and technology.

As part of our commitment to promote an inclusive and equitable technology agenda, we actively participated in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67), focusing our efforts on highlighting how public policies and technology practices can either perpetuate or correct gender inequalities.

1.1 Cybercrime and Gender

In 2023, we continued to play a crucial role in the global arena by addressing the intersections between technology, gender, and human rights from a variety of perspectives. Throughout the year, in collaboration with the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), we conducted an in-depth study documenting several cases in which anti-cybercrime laws have been applied in a discriminatory manner against women and LGBTQIA+ people. This analysis revealed troubling patterns of censorship and criminalization, highlighting emblematic cases which directly impact the lives of those affected.

These findings have been crucial in the ongoing debate on a new cybercrime treaty at the United Nations, where Derechos Digitales is actively participating, arguing that any new international legislation must take into account gender perspectives, equity, and social justice to avoid legitimizing abuses under the protection of the law.



1.2 Gender-Responsive AI Development: Principles and Practices

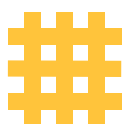
In 2023, with the support of the f< A+i >r network, we released the report “Towards a feminist framework for AI development: from principles to practice”, consolidating significant progress in the integration of the gender perspective in technology. This document, the result of a series of dialogues and reflections on artificial intelligence (AI) development, incorporates the voices and experiences of Latin American organizations and women who are at the forefront of AI initiatives. The report, available in [Spanish](#), [English](#) and [Portuguese](#), outlines key elements and reflections that should be considered to guide the development of technologies from a feminist perspective. In addition, it suggests practical modifications in the way of conceiving, designing, and implementing AI systems, foregrounding the principles of transparency, accountability, and non-discrimination.

This approach has generated vital dialogue between decision-makers, technology developers, and women’s rights activists, establishing a model for future initiatives in the sector. From this perspective, we continue to globally promote the integration of a feminist framework into technological development. We also set a crucial precedent for other organizations, contributing to a broader transformation toward more just and equitable technologies.

1.3 Promoting Inclusive Science for Women and Girls

We participated in the [commemoration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#), organized by the Daniel Álvarez Burneo Higher Technological Institute in Ecuador. This participation is part of our efforts to promote greater inclusion of women and girls in STEM+A fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and arts). In this area, we seek to highlight our commitment to technological equity and promote the positive impact that well-informed and dedicated activism can have on transforming the technological and scientific industries.

In addition, we collaborated with Mila, from the Quebec AI Institute, and CEIMIA to develop regional consultations on diversity, inclusion, and equity in AI, identifying best practices and regional recommendations. Our contribution is part of an initiative driven by the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), and the final report resulting from this effort is scheduled to be released in 2024. A report with interim findings was published in November 2023.



2. Building an Inclusive Digital Future in Latin America

Within the framework of digitalization in Latin America, we work to address the intersections between technology and human rights through various research and projects in the region. We also conduct in-depth analyses and make recommendations to promote equitable and fair technological development, including studies on digital identification systems and the impact of digital platforms on the privacy and data security of their users. These initiatives are part of a broader effort to ensure that the adoption and use of technologies in Latin America are carried out in a way that respects fundamental rights and promotes meaningful inclusion, especially in vulnerable and underrepresented contexts.

2.1 Technology and Human Rights in Nicaragua

In 2023, we conducted a detailed analysis of the interaction between digital technologies and human rights in Nicaragua. Our goal was to provide input to the international community on concerning legislative developments and how surveillance and control systems affect civil liberties in the country. In this case, we observed how the use of technologies in the context of a tense political environment impacts citizens' daily lives and the exercise of their rights, as well as the actions of civil society organizations.

2.2 Combating disinformation in the Brazilian elections

During the Brazilian presidential elections, we conducted a study to analyze the disinformation ecosystem and its impact on the electoral process. This analysis, conducted between November 2022 and May 2023, focused on identifying the various disinformation tactics used so as to develop strategic recommendations that can be applied in other countries in the region facing similar challenges. Through this effort, we seek to contribute to more transparent and fair electoral processes in Latin America, offering practical tools to strengthen democratic systems.

2.3 Observing the Role of Technologies in Latin America

In a new edition of our well-known publication *Latin America in a Glimpse*, we compiled a collection of essays examining the relationship between technology and vulnerable groups in Latin America. In partnership with organizations operating in various countries, we offered a detailed look at the regional context, identifying both challenges and opportunities to improve the protection of historically marginalized or vulnerable groups in the digital sphere and promote their inclusion in debates about technology. Besides being an important monitoring effort, the publication



seeks to significantly contribute to the dialogue on digital rights in the region, highlighting the need to adapt and improve technological infrastructure to better serve all communities.

2.4 Overcoming digital barriers in the Amazon

In 2023, we embarked on a crucial mission: to address connectivity challenges in the Amazon region through a series of research projects developed in partnership with leading organizations operating in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador. The research, along with comparative analysis from Derechos Digitales, was published in a special edition of **“Latin America in a Glimpse: Amazonia”**. The analyses highlight the specific barriers Amazonian communities face in accessing the internet from different perspectives. Furthermore, our comparative study seeks not only to understand these difficulties but also to generate constructive dialogue about possible solutions.

This collective effort, the results of which we have published in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, is part of our commitment to ensure that technological advances benefit everyone, especially those in the most inaccessible areas. By focusing on the Amazon, we hope to catalyze significant changes that improve access to technology and, consequently, the community’s socioeconomic development.

2.5 Digital identity in Latin America: Current Situation, Trends and Problems

As part of a multi-regional research project focused on the Global South, we aimed to identify and compare how biometrics and digital identity technologies affect twelve Latin American countries. Our **analysis**, documented in a series of reports, focuses on a deep examination of the current state of these technologies and their impact on the population. We explore the benefits, challenges, and risks associated with the implementation of digital IDs, assessing their influence on citizens’ civil rights and liberties.

This initiative has allowed us not only to better understand the diverse applications and problems these systems face but also to propose solutions and improvements to ensure their implementation is fair and secure. In doing so, we seek to contribute to building a digital environment that respects privacy and personal autonomy, which are fundamental in today’s technological context. This analysis provides a solid basis for dialogue with governments and international organizations, promoting an approach that prioritizes security and human rights in the adoption of new technologies.



2.6 Tracking Privacy: Impact of Trackers on Food Apps in Chile and Uruguay

At Derechos Digitales, we developed a **comparative study** to understand the impact of trackers on food and diet apps in Chile and Uruguay. This research, which we undertook to unravel tracking and personal data collection practices, reveals how these apps handle their users' sensitive information in both countries. We focused on evaluating the differences and similarities in privacy policies and consent mechanisms, providing a clear view of the privacy challenges and risks faced by consumers. We also provided specific recommendations for improving personal data management practices to promote a safer and fairer digital environment where user privacy is protected and respected..

2.7 How Do Digital Platforms in Latin America Protect Our Rights?

We wanted to assess the impact of food delivery and e-commerce platforms in Latin America. Therefore, we conducted a **study** that sought to scrutinize the regulations and practices of various digital platforms under the Derechos Digitales Ranking standards, in order to discover how they protect or violate users' rights. Our research revealed worrying information about the varied ways these companies manage our personal information and how their operations affect the privacy and digital rights of people in the region.

Based on this analysis, we were able to develop a set of recommendations aimed at companies, legislators, and decision-makers, in order to promote more ethical and responsible handling of personal data.



3. Strengthening Digital Security: Initiatives and Tools to Defend our Rights

At Derechos Digitales, we are committed to strengthening resilience, autonomy, and digital security in Latin America, recognizing their crucial importance for the exercise of human rights. We work to develop and implement both public and private policies that directly influence the use and management of technologies in the region. Through our initiatives, we not only seek to influence internet governance at the local and regional levels, but also to improve the capacities of local communities in digital technologies, aligned with the protection and promotion of fundamental rights.

Part of our work included active participation in global forums and internet governance platforms, where we strived to represent and articulate Latin American experiences and perspectives. We also developed and made available tools and resources that empower the community to improve its response and action capacity to address digital security challenges.

3.1 Latin American Digital Security and Resilience Program (LAREDD)

In 2023, we launched the Latin American Digital Security and Resilience Program (LAREDD) for Digital Rights. This initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of the human rights defense ecosystem in Latin America by jointly developing the capacities and skills among the region's network of digital security activists and specialists, from a social justice perspective.

LAREDD will consolidate and coordinate the various activities carried out by our organization in the field of digital security, including preventive actions — through training and audits — and responses to digital security incidents.

The program is designed to foster collaboration among the various organizations working in the region, facilitating the exchange of capabilities and knowledge, and enabling coordinated action to address increasingly numerous and sophisticated threats.

As part of this program, Derechos Digitales launched its first call for two internships, aimed at strengthening digital resilience in Latin America by jointly developing capacities and skills among the region's network of activists and digital security specialists, from a social justice perspective.



3.2 Digital Security Alliances: COSIC 2023

At Derechos Digitales, we deeply value regional cooperation to strengthen defenses against digital threats. During the second week of November, we had the opportunity to participate in the regional meeting of **COSIC**, a Latin American network dedicated to providing security and protection assistance and support to members of civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean. This event was a great platform to exchange knowledge and strategies on digital security, allowing us to contribute with our experience while also learning from the participants' practices.

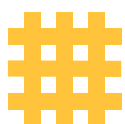
3.3 Latin American Observatory of Digital Threats (OLAD)

At Derechos Digitales, we led the creation of the Latin American Observatory of Digital Threats (OLAD), a network developed in collaboration with 14 organizations from Mexico to Chile. Our initiative's main goal is to monitor and thoroughly analyze digital threats affecting the region. We are dedicated to strengthening local capacities and fostering effective cooperation to respond swiftly and in a coordinated manner to digital security incidents.

In October 2023, we held the second in-person OLAD meeting, where we planned the work for the following year and outlined the methodology for developing the first report, which will be published in late 2024. Additionally, we held a series of online meetings and activities throughout the year, seeking to strengthen collaboration and exchange knowledge among participants.

3.4 “Torify” Yourself!

At Derechos Digitales, we have led a campaign to strengthen the Tor network in Latin America, and in 2023 we coordinated a series of workshops in Ecuador to promote training in digital privacy and security. These workshops, some focused on specific groups and led by local allies, along with sessions open to students and activists, culminated in the collaborative event with Tor called PrivaciQ. Our goal was to expand the network of volunteers capable of managing Tor hubs in the country, thus strengthening our digital infrastructure. We will continue to expand this initiative, updating materials at <https://tor.derechosdigitales.org/torificate/> to encourage greater participation in online privacy protection across the region.



3.5 Tools to Combat Internet Outages in Latin America

An internet blackout is the intentional interruption of internet access by authorities or government actors to significantly affect communication and access to information. Therefore, at Derechos Digitales, we have created a toolkit to address internet blackouts in Latin America, focused on compiling experiences, lessons learned, and strategies for monitoring and responding to these situations from a human rights and regional perspective.

This toolkit includes materials such as “An Overview of Internet Shutdowns in Latin America”, which provides a comprehensive review of the incidents, and “What, How, Where? An Introduction to Internet Shutdowns”, which offers answers to frequently asked questions and a chronological map of relevant events. Additionally, we offer helpful resource guides and blog posts highlighting the human rights impacts of these shutdowns.

3.6 Rapid Response Fund for the Protection of Digital Rights in Latin America

This is a Derechos Digitales initiative that provides support to Latin American activists and civil society organizations so they can respond quickly and flexibly to threats to human rights in technological environments in an agile, flexible, and less bureaucratic manner, which requires a different approach from traditional funding cycles.

To achieve this goal, the program offers micro-grants to foster alliances for strengthening rights, facilitating communication, offering workshops on digital security and exchanging views on strategic litigation, and also proposing partnerships with potential relevant organizations in the project implementation countries.

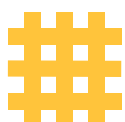
In 2023, this project entered its fourth year of implementation, opening up opportunities for groups and activists who have traditionally had limited opportunities to participate in technology debates in the region, or who have been impacted by control, surveillance, and exclusion.



3.7 Internship Program for Digital Security and Resilience in America

Derechos Digitales launched an internship program focused on digital security and resilience in Latin America, designed to support the development of communities working on digital security issues from a social justice perspective. This program, which began in September 2023, seeks to strengthen the capacities of activists and specialists in the region, offering a space for the exchange of knowledge and experiences in the defense of digital rights.

As part of the Latin American Resilience and Digital Defense Program (LAREDD), the initiative places particular emphasis on including voices that have traditionally been excluded from technology debates. The internship aims to create international connections and foster collaboration with Latin American communities facing digital security challenges, contributing to strengthening digital resilience in the region.



4. Promoting Digital Governance: Global Perspectives and Social Justice

At Derechos Digitales, we advocate for the responsible integration of technology with human rights in Latin America and beyond. From local forums to international arenas, our commitment is to influence public policies that respect civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. This mission leads us to actively participate in a variety of platforms and events addressing everything from data justice to global digital governance.

Throughout 2023, we have intensified our presence in crucial debates and collaborated on significant initiatives shaping the digital future. We participated in gatherings such as RightsCon, contributed to discussions on the Global Digital Compact, engaged with the UN Ad Hoc Committee, and participated in the Paris Peace Forum, among others. In each of these spaces, we reinforce the importance of a human rights approach to technological development, always seeking to promote a vision that encompasses social justice and inclusion.

4.1 Data Justice and Digital Public Goods in Latin America

In February 2023, we organized the workshop “Data Justice and Digital Public Goods in Latin America: What Will Latin American Participation in the Digital Future Be?” to exchange knowledge among experts from the region. This workshop focused on building a Latin American research and advocacy agenda that serves as a counterpoint to the polarizing narratives of the Global North.

This initiative was carried out by Derechos Digitales in cooperation with the Monterrey Institute of Technology and the Association for Progressive Communications (APC). The initiative was supported by the Global Data Justice Project at Tilburg University and the Feminist Research Network on Artificial Intelligence (f< a+i >r).

4.2 We were part of RightsCon 2023

We actively participated in RightsCon 2023, one of the world’s leading platforms for debate and action in the field of digital rights. This conference, held in San José, Costa Rica, offered us the opportunity to host panels and share our research, projects, and perspectives with a global audience, highlighting the importance of incorporating human rights considerations into public policymaking for digital environments.

During the event, we participated in panel discussions that addressed critical topics such as state surveillance, internet privacy, and freedom of expression. These interactions allowed us to establish strategic partnerships with other key players



in the sector. The exchange of ideas and solutions at RightsCon strengthened our focus and inspired us to continue working to ensure that technology serves as a means to advance people's fundamental rights.

4.3 Global Digital Compact: Digital Justice and Human Rights

At Derechos Digitales, we played a key role in the Global Digital Compact (GDC), consultation sessions held on February 15th and 16th, 2023, in Mexico City. This event was organized by the governments of Mexico and Germany in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. We were deeply involved in the discussions, advocating for the integration of a comprehensive human rights perspective into digital governance and promoting approaches based on social justice principles appropriate to the realities of Latin America.

Our focus during the GDC was to highlight the importance of considering regional dynamics in global technology policymaking, with the goal of ensuring that innovations foster inclusion and equity.

Furthermore, as part of our participation in the Multi-Stakeholder Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF), we collaborated on the systematization of a contribution to the GDC that summarized the discussions held within the framework of LACIGF 2022.

4.4 Active Participation in the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee

Among other online and in-person spaces and discussions, we played an active role during the 6th session of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee, which focused on developing an international convention to oppose the criminal use of information and communications technologies. From August 21st to September 1st, 2023, we contributed, together with the AI Sur network, with recommendations focused on gender perspectives, criminalization, procedural and law enforcement measures, and international cooperation. This joint effort sought to influence the formation of global policy that respects human rights while addressing the challenges of digital crime.

At Derechos Digitales, we remain committed to monitoring these developments and advocating for a framework that is not only effective in fighting crime, but also protects fundamental freedoms and promotes fair cooperation between nations.



4.5 Raising Latin American voices in global AI Governance

We participated in the Paris Peace Forum, focusing our participation on the challenges of artificial intelligence (AI) governance from a Latin American perspective. We highlighted the need for inclusive policies that consider diverse realities, promoting equity and social justice in the global development of AI. Our participation underscored the importance of integrating Latin American voices into the international technological dialogue.

4.6 Global Network for Social Justice and Digital Resilience

We participated in the 18th Internet Governance Forum held in Kyoto in October 2023, where, among other activities, we participated in the launch of the Global Network for Social Justice and Digital Resilience. This network, which includes our organization and nine others, was established with the goal of strengthening the technical capacities of organizations working for social justice in the Global South. We have been an active part of it since its inception, seeking to strengthen collaboration between organizations and Latin American experts working on digital security and resilience while facilitating the participation of historically marginalized people in these discussions.

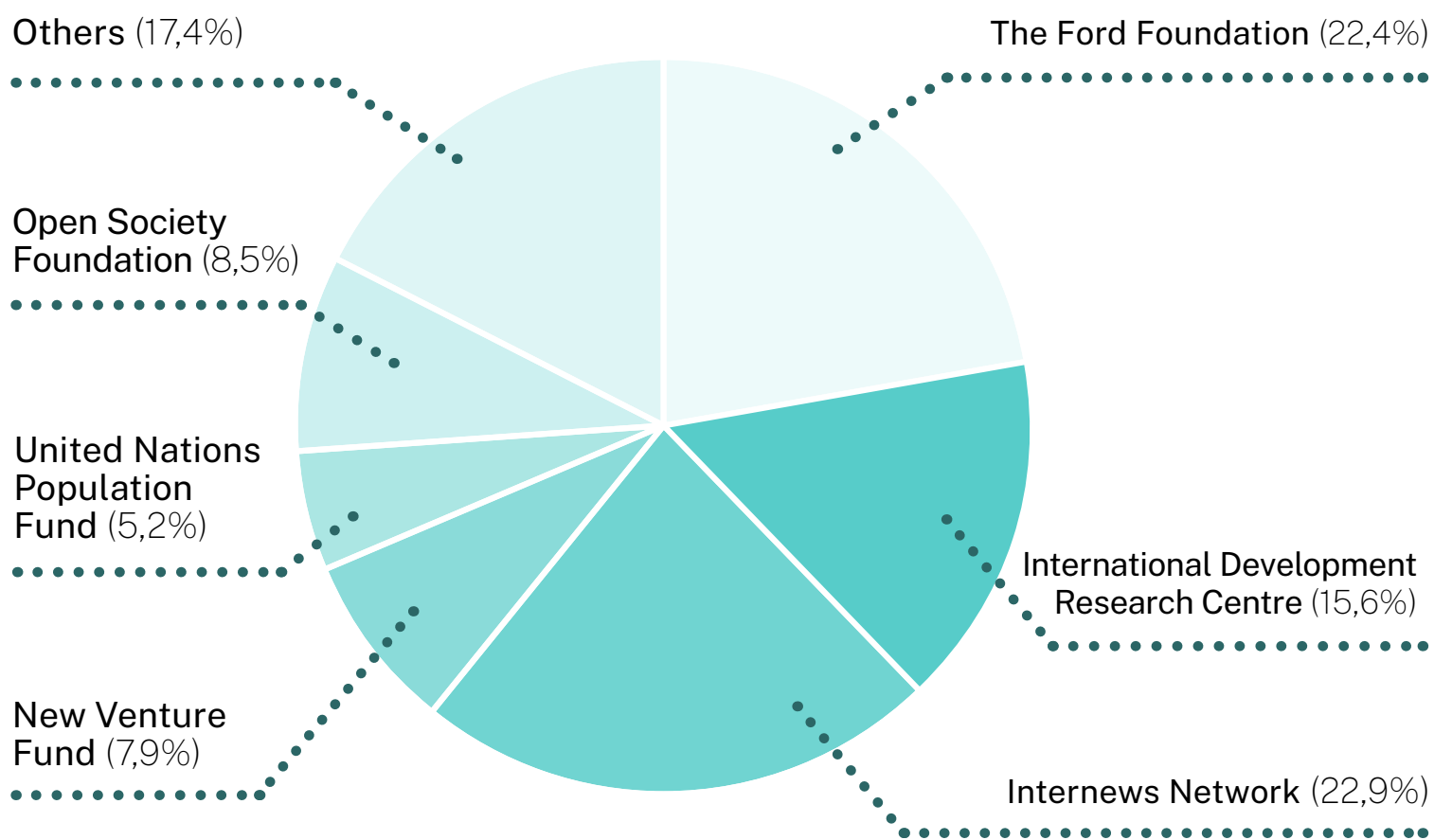
4.7 Without Community There Are No Commons

In 2023, we also participated in the Creative Commons Summit in Mexico City, reaffirming our commitment to open access to knowledge and the expansion of the digital commons. During this global event, we led discussions and workshops that addressed the complex interactions between technology, culture, and copyright from a Latin American perspective, seeking to strengthen policies for equitable access to and distribution of digital resources. In this space, we sought to influence the importance of building and maintaining a collaborative community in the defense and promotion of a more inclusive and accessible public domain.



Sources of financing

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