



Uruguay
Presidencia



Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data

**Minutes No.
1/2024**

Version: 1

Date: 16/05/2024

Attendees

Representatives of	% attendance at the meeting	Name
AGESIC	100%	Hebert Paguas, Virginia Pardo, Gabriel Hernández, Maximiliano Maneiro, Ninoschka Dante, Nancy Ibarra
MEC	100%	Alberto Majó
MEF	0%	Did not appoint a representative
MIEM	100%	Pascual Gattas
MTSS	100%	Marcelo Belén, Sebastián Sánchez
INE	100%	María Victoria Susena
INDHDP	100%	Marcos Israel
ANII	100%	Flavio Caiafa, Mauricio Rinaldi, Juan Maldini
URCDP	100%	Represented by Virginia Pardo, a member of the Council

Agenda

The meeting was convened to consider the following agenda

1. Establishment of the Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data, pursuant to the authority entrusted to Agesic under Art. 74 of Law 20.212 of November 2023.
2. Background and framework for the Committee's work.

Meeting proceedings:

Mr. Hebert Paguas, Executive Director of Agesic, welcomes attendees and presents the context in which the Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data, convened by Agesic, was created.

In his introduction, he mentions the background provided by the current AI Strategy for Digital Government and notes that the strategy is currently being reviewed through a participatory process that seeks to incorporate the views of different sectors (State institutions, the private and entrepreneurial sectors, academia, subject-matter specialists and civil society organizations) in order to develop a longer-term National Strategy.

He highlights the national challenges to consider regarding regulation and the importance of taking into account the various international guidelines and standards established by organizations such as UNESCO, OECD, UNDP and CAF.

He mentions the report of recommendations to Parliament entrusted to Agesic under Art. 74 of Law 20.212, which is being prepared. As part of this work, existing legislation has been reviewed and a series of meetings held at which the legal departments of various agencies were invited to contribute their views. In closing, he noted that the establishment of the Public Sector Strategic Committee for AI and Data forms part of a digital governance strategy seeking to create forums for collaboration and coordination around Artificial Intelligence, Data, Digital Citizenship and Cybersecurity.

Virginia Pardo gives a presentation on the context, the process of developing the artificial intelligence and data strategies, and the importance of establishing the Public Sector Strategic Committee (Art. 74, Law 20.212).

Some of the points covered in her presentation:

- A strategic decision has been made to work on the artificial intelligence and data strategies jointly.
- International principles and standards will be used as a basis.
- AI is a tool that, when used properly, can contribute to the national strategy and the country's development.
- She presented the process of reviewing the artificial intelligence strategy and developing the national data strategy, and each of its different stages, from June 2023 to the present.
- She mentioned Uruguay's adherence to UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and the application of the RAM self-assessment methodology, whose final report will be available soon.
- She noted that there is a tool for assessing the institutional framework provided by CAF, which Uruguay used for an initial assessment, as well as a comparative review of developments in other countries.
- She mentioned that 9 dialogue roundtables were held, with participation from different stakeholders, sectors and interest groups, which contributed their views as input to this process. An initial document will summarize the contributions collected at the dialogue roundtables, to be shared within this Committee.
- New workshops with agencies will be held soon, to which different sectors will be invited depending on the subject area to be addressed.
- In closing, she noted that a survey of AI use cases is being conducted in the public sector as part of the activities of the Observatory on the Use of AI in the State.

Hebert Paguas added that Uruguay's legislation on personal data protection is robust and places strong limits on data collection for AI use. In connection with the process of preparing the report to Parliament, a scattered legal framework is being reviewed as part of this work.

Flavio Caiafa mentions the importance of addressing Data, noting that a great deal of data is collected in Uruguay but is not shared for research.

Virginia Pardo proposes that the Committee undertake a process to identify specific actions on the different issues, considering the strategic framework and the feasibility of implementation.

She supplements the information with some of the upcoming events in Uruguay, such as the 2nd Ministerial and High-Level Authorities Summit on AI and the EU-LAC high-level dialogue on data governance.



Regarding the preparation of the report of recommendations to Parliament, she notes that the preliminary version of the document will be available until June 10 on the participation platform to receive contributions from invited stakeholders.

Alberto Majó asks how the report will be submitted to Parliament, and Hebert Paguas replies that it will be presented to the General Assembly.

Hebert Paguas notes that the difficulty in regulating technology is that it advances rapidly. He stresses that Uruguay is carrying out these processes by listening to all sectors and applying the various recommendations of international organizations.

Virginia Pardo mentions Art. 75 of Law 20.212, on promoting controlled environments (sandboxes), as part of actions already provided for in law.

Referring to the Strategic Committee, she notes that it was considered that, at this stage, it should cover the public sector, without prejudice to consultation with other stakeholders. She outlines the proposed role for this Committee in supporting the remaining stages of the process and validating and approving the strategy. The initial membership was proposed by Agesic.

Alejandro Majo notes that Uruguay will assume the pro tempore presidency of Mercosur in the second half of the year. He reports that within the science and technology commission, there is an AI commission, and considers the process being pursued by Uruguay to be timely.

Virginia Pardo mentions the temporary nature of this Committee and notes that progress must be made toward creating an institutional structure within the Strategy, which will most likely take the form of a permanent commission.

Ninoschka Dante adds that Uruguay needs to establish a governance model for Artificial Intelligence and Data.

Flavio Caiafa refers to the many concerns expressed by legislators during the summit of the future on this subject, concerning issues such as protecting personal data while using it, and how to avoid limiting the development of technology.

Virginia Pardo notes that, regarding the strategy's time frame, a horizon of 4 or 5 years is being considered, providing an important framework.

Marcos Israel notes the importance of compiling the legislation. Regarding actions related to the use and exploitation of data, he comments that, in addition to the limitations, some State agencies are reluctant.

Maximiliano Maneiro notes that generative AI now overshadows “traditional AI.” He also refers to the specific nature of data as assets, which in some way remains “hidden” in the face of this new technology.

Alberto Majó requests a brief summary of the report’s content to make it easier to get up to speed at the next meeting.

Agreements

- Next meeting: week of 10/06/2024, to exchange views on the strategies’ objectives from the perspective of the Committee’s representatives, identify actions to incorporate and sectors to consider.
- Regular Committee meetings: when scheduling them, avoid Thursday mornings where possible.
- Create a shared repository for the group’s working documents. • Agesic will share the following documents or access to them:

- Presentation used during the meeting
- Report from each roundtable
- Summary of the compilation and organization of the dialogue roundtables held
- Survey of legislation conducted as part of the review process, and recent legislation
- UNESCO recommendations
- OECD recommendations
- Email addresses of the different Committee representatives
- Minutes of the meeting for validation

Next meeting: Confirm and schedule during the week of 10/06/2024