Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data

Minutes No. 1/2024

Version: 1
Date: 05/16/2024

Assistants

Representatives of	% stake of 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 representative
MIEM	100%	Pascual Gattas
MTSS	100%	Marcelo Belen, Sebastian Sanchez
INE	100%	Maria Victoria Susena
INDHDP	100%	Mark Israel
ANII	100%	Flavio Caiafa, Mauricio Rinaldi, Juan Maldini
URCDP	100%	Represented by Virginia Pardo, member of the Council

Agenda

The call was made in order to deal with the following Agenda

1. Establishment of the Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data, in accordance with the power granted to Agesic in art. 74 of Law 20,212, of November 2023.

2. Background and framework of action of the aforementioned Committee.

Development of the meeting:

Mr.**Herbert Paguas**, Executive Director of Agesic, welcomes and presents the context for the creation of the Strategic Committee of the Public Sector for Artificial Intelligence and Data, convened by Agesic.
The introduction mentions the background of the current AI Strategy for Digital Government, and indicates that said strategy is currently being reviewed, through a participatory process that seeks to incorporate the vision of the different sectors (State Institutions, private sector and entrepreneurial sector, academia, specialists in the field, and civil society organizations), to address a longer-term National Strategy.

It highlights the country's challenges to consider regarding regulation, and the importance of considering the different international guidelines and standards established by organizations such as UNESCO, OECD, UNDP, CAF.
He mentions the report of recommendations to parliament committed to Agesic by art. 74 of Law 20.212, which is in the process of being prepared, for which a review of the existing regulations has been carried out and a series of meetings where the different legal areas of organizations were invited to integrate their vision.
Finally, he indicated that the constitution of the Strategic Committee of the Public Sector for AI and Data is part of a digital governance strategy that seeks to generate areas of articulation and coordination around Artificial Intelligence, Data, Digital Citizenship, and Cybersecurity.

Virginia Pardomakes a presentation of the context, the process of developing artificial intelligence and data strategies, and the importance of establishing the Public Sector Strategic Committee (Art. 74 Law 20,212).

Some of the points developed during his presentation:

- There is a strategic decision to work on artificial intelligence and data strategies together.
- International principles and standards will be considered as a basis,
- AI is a tool that, if used well, can contribute to the country's strategy and its development.
- He presented the process of reviewing the artificial intelligence strategy and developing the national data strategy and each of its different stages, which have taken place from June 2023 to date.
- He mentioned Uruguay's adherence to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, and the application of the RAM self-assessment methodology, whose final report will be available soon.
- He indicated that there is a diagnostic tool for the institutional framework provided by CAF that Uruguay used to make an initial diagnostic approach, as well as a comparative review of what is happening in other countries.
- He mentions that 9 roundtable discussions were held, with the participation of different actors, sectors, and interest groups that contributed their vision as input to this process. There will be an initial document with a summary of the contributions collected at the roundtable discussions to be shared within the scope of this Committee.
- There will soon be new workshops with organizations for which different sectors will be invited depending on the subject area to be addressed.

- Finally, he indicates that a survey of AI use cases in the public sector is being carried out as part of the activities of the Observatory on the use of AI in the State.

Herbert Paguas He added that Uruguay's regulations regarding personal data protection are solid, and there is a strong limitation on data collection for the use of AI. Linked to the process of creating the Parliamentary Report, a scattered legal base is being reviewed as part of this work.

Flavio Caiafamentions the importance of addressing the issue of Data, indicating that in Uruguay a lot of data is collected but not shared for research.

Virginia Pardoproposes that the Committee carry out a process to identify specific actions on the different topics, assessing the framework of the strategy and the feasibility of implementation.

Complement the information with some of the upcoming events to be held in Uruguay such as the 2nd Ministerial and High-Level AI Summit and the EU-LAC High-Level Data Governance Dialogue.

Regarding the preparation of the report of recommendations to parliament, he indicated that the preliminary version of the document will be available on the participation platform until June 10 to receive contributions from the invited actors.

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

Herbert Paguas He mentions that the difficulty of technology regulation is that it advances quickly. He highlights that Uruguay is carrying out the processes by listening to all sectors and applying the different recommendations of international organizations.

Virginia Pardomentions Article 75 of Law 20,212, referring to the promotion of controlled environments (sandboxes), as part of actions that are already legislated.

It refers to the Strategic Committee and indicates that it was understood that at this stage it should be within the scope of the public sector without prejudice to consultation with other actors. It outlines the proposed role for this Committee linked to the accompaniment of the remaining stages of the process and the validation and approval of the strategy. The initial integration was proposed by Agesic.

Alejandro Majoindicates that Uruguay will take over the pro tempore presidency of Mercosur in the second half of the year. He reports that within the framework of the science and technology commission, there is an AI commission, and considers the process that Uruguay is carrying out to be appropriate.

Virginia Pardo He mentions the temporary nature of this Committee and says that progress must be made towards the creation of the institutional framework within the Strategy, which will surely be a permanent commission.

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

Flavio Caiafa It refers to the many fears that were expressed by legislators during the summit on the future regarding this topic, on issues such as protecting personal data while it is being used and how to not limit the development of technology.

Virginia Pardo It indicates that with respect to the temporality of the strategy, a strategy horizon of 4 or 5 years is considered, which provides an important framework.

Mark Israel, points out the importance of compiling regulations. Regarding actions related to the use and exploitation of data, he comments that in addition to the limitations, there are reluctance on the part of some State agencies.

Maximiliano Maneiro It refers to the fact that today generative AI takes precedence over 'traditional AI'. It also refers to the specificity of data as assets that is somehow 'hidden' by this new technology.

Alberto Majó, requests that a brief summary of the content of the report be made, to facilitate the discussion in the next instance.

Agreements

- Next meeting: week of 06/10/2024 with the aim of exchanging views on the objectives of the strategies according to the vision of the committee representatives, identifying actions to integrate and sectors to consider.
- Regular Committee meetings. Consider scheduling them on a Thursday morning if possible.
- Create a shared repository with the group's working documents. Share the
- following documents or access to them by Agesic:

    - Presentation used during the meeting
    - Report from each of the tables
    - Summary of the systematization of the dialogue tables carried out
    - Survey of regulations carried out within the framework of the recent regulatory and review process
    - UNESCO Recommendations
    - OECD Recommendations
    - Emails from the different committee representatives
    - Minutes of the meeting for validation

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