

National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2024 – 2030

Reference Framework

11/22/2024

During the session of November 21, 2024, the Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data approved Uruguay's new Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

The new Strategy constitutes the cornerstone for the deployment of a public AI policy that includes the public and private sectors, as well as all stakeholders, to take advantage of the potential of AI as an instrument for the sustainable development of Uruguay in all its dimensions, in addition to contributing to inclusive economic growth, the environmental sustainability of the country, the strengthening of its sovereignty and the improvement of public management.

It was created through a participatory process that gathered contributions from more than 300 people from different disciplines and fields, representatives from more than 40 State institutions, 11 civil society organizations, 45 private sector organizations, academia and various interest groups.

The Strategy seeks to promote the ethical, responsible, safe, critical, creative and pro-innovation development and use of AI, for the benefit of the well-being of people and all sectors of society. In this line, it establishes guiding principles and three specific objectives:

- 1. Governance:** establish a governance framework that guarantees the ethical, responsible and safe development and use of AI, ensuring adequate institutionality, clear regulatory frameworks and efficient processes that promote transparency, security, inclusion and legal certainty in the field of AI.
- 2. Capabilities:** develop the national capabilities and conditions necessary to foster and harness AI innovation and application, with a comprehensive approach that includes infrastructure, data, talent management and skills.
- 3. Sustainable development:** Leverage AI as a key driver for inclusive economic growth, sustainable development of the country, strengthening the competitiveness of the private sector, deepening Uruguay's digital transformation process, improving management and public services, and promoting research and innovation. Maximize the benefits of this technology for society by considering the positive impacts and mitigating the possible adverse impacts, developing the capacities for the critical integration of AI in society.

Here [review process of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy](#) It was led and articulated by Agesic, in coordination with the [Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data](#) , in accordance with the provisions of the [Article 74 of Law No. 20,212](#) of November 6, 2023. It had the technical cooperation of the Bank of

Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Its implementation is subject to a public monitoring and evaluation process.

National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Uruguay 2024 - 2030

Author

Agesic

Creation date

11/19/2024

Type of publication

Reference Framework

The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy is the cornerstone for the deployment of a public AI policy that includes all stakeholders and that enhances the sustainable development of Uruguay in all its dimensions, contributing to inclusive economic growth, the environmental sustainability of the country and the strengthening of its sovereignty.

It was developed in a participatory process that included technical cooperation from the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and included the participation of multiple actors from the public sector, the private sector, academia, civil society and interested citizens.

The strategy contains guiding principles, a set of lines of action organized into three thematic axes: Governance, AI Capabilities and Sustainable Development, and the process of creation, monitoring and review.

Report on recommendations for the regulation of artificial intelligence.

Information

06/28/2024

On June 28, 2024, Agesic submitted to the Legislative Branch the report "Article 74 of Law No. 20,212: recommendations for the regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) aimed at ethical development, the protection of human rights and the promotion of technological innovation."

In 2023, the national Parliament through the [Article 74 of Law No. 20,212](#), enacted on November 6, 2023, approved the first guidelines for an AI policy based on international standards. In addition, it defined the work process led by

Agesic of two national strategies: the review of the National AI Strategy and the creation of the National Data Strategy, considering aspects of ethics, privacy, responsibility, transparency and non-discrimination. Within this framework, it established a deadline for Agesic to prepare a report with recommendations for the regulation of AI, which expired on June 28, the date of its presentation.

The report is the result of a development process that incorporated various perspectives from several sectors and meets the following characteristics:

- It is structured based on three fundamental orientations given by law: ethical development, protection of human rights and promotion of innovation.
- It analyses seven thematic lines: institutionality and governance, human rights, work and training, intellectual property, civil liability and consumer relations, infrastructure and cybersecurity, and promotional measures.
- It includes the development of recommendations on three central aspects: institutionality and governance of ethical AI, human rights and democracy, and responsible innovation.

This document contains a series of recommendations, such as reviewing current regulations, promoting the equitable use of AI, strengthening digital and AI sovereignty, developing protocols and technical guides, promoting public and participatory discussion processes, interdisciplinary analysis, and a periodic review and update of the measures adopted, among others.

Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data

06/25/2024

Article 74 of Law No. 20,212 assigns Agesic the task of designing and implementing the Data Strategy and the review of the Artificial Intelligence Strategy. In addition, it grants Agesic the possibility of creating working groups and other participation mechanisms with different actors that collaborate in the implementation of these. In accordance with this task, Agesic created the Strategic Committee of the public sector for artificial intelligence and data, in order to collaborate in the process of creating and implementing the corresponding strategies.

The Committee is composed of representatives of:

- Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining: Pascual Gattas
- Ministry of Education and Culture: Alberto Majó
- Ministry of Labor and Social Security: Marcelo Belén
- Ministry of Economy and Finance: Pending appointment of representative
- National Institute of Statistics: Maria Victoria Susena
- National Institute of Human Rights and Ombudsman: Marcos Israel
- National Agency for Research and Innovation: Flavio Caiafa.

- Personal Data Regulatory and Control Unit: Gonzalo Sosa
- Agesic: Virginia Pardo, Gabriel Hernandez, Maximiliano Maneiro, Ninoschka Dante

Minutes No. 1/2024

Artificial Intelligence Strategic Committee

05/16/2024

Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data

Assistants

Representatives of	% meeting participation	Name
AGESIC	100%	Hebert Paguas, Virginia Pardo, Gabriel Herna Maneiro, Ninoschka Dante, Nancy Ibarra
MEC	100%	Alberto Majo
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

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 conferred on 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:

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 Pardom makes 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 Caiafa mentions the importance of addressing the issue of Data, indicating that in Uruguay a lot of data is collected, but it is not shared for research.

Virginia Pardo proposes 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 Pardo mentions 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 Majó indicates that Uruguay will take over the pro tempore presidency of Mercosur in the second half of the year. It reports that, within the framework of the science and technology commission,

There is an AI commission, which 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 as far away from Thursday mornings as possible.
- Create a shared repository with the group's working documents.
- Sharing by Agesic, the following documents or access to them:

either Presentation used during the meeting

either Report from each of the tables

either Summary of the systematization of the dialogue tables carried out

either Survey of regulations carried out within the framework of the recent regulatory and review process

either UNESCO Recommendations OECD

either Recommendations

either Emails of the different committee representatives

either Minutes of the meeting for validation

Minutes No. 2/2024

Artificial Intelligence Strategic Committee

06/13/2024

Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data

Assistants		
Representatives of	Meeting participation percentage	Name
AGESIC	100%	Virginia Pardo, Gabriel Hernández, Ma Ninoschka Dante, Angie Lecot and Nancy Iba
MEC	100%	Alberto Majó
MEF	0%	Did not appoint representative
MIEM	100%	Pascual Gattas
MTSS	100%	Marcelo Belen
INE	100%	Maria Victoria Susena
INDHDP	100%	Mark Israel
ANII	100%	Flavio Caiafa
URCDP	100%	Gonzalo Sosa

Agenda

The call was made in order to deal with the following agenda:

1.Minutes and repository of the Strategic Committee:

either Approval and publication criteria agreement Review

either access to the common repository

2.Report to Parliament:

either Manufacturing process

either Brief presentation on the approach and proposals received

3. Towards the construction of a first draft of the AI Strategy

either Exchange and position of the representatives on the objectives

either Exchange on different lines of actions to be integrated

4. Announcements from participants and next steps

Development of the meeting

The meeting was moderated by **Ninoschka Dante**.

At the beginning, the agreements of the first meeting of the Strategic Committee were reviewed, verifying compliance with these.

1. Proceedings and repository of The following Committee Strategic. agreements were reached:

either The minutes will be sent by email to the representatives of each organization in the Strategic Committee, who will have a period of 10 days to review them and make comments. After this period, the comments received will be integrated and the minutes will be approved.

either A space will be created on the Agesic website where public versions of the approved minutes will be published.

either Regarding the documentation repository for the work of the Strategic Committee, a space is available in the Agesic digital archive repository.

2. Report to Parliament

Gonzalo Sos presents a summary of the activities being carried out to comply with the provisions of Article 74 of Law 20,212, regarding the preparation of a report to Parliament with recommendations on legal regulation of artificial intelligence and data strategies. Deadline: June 28, 2024.

The different thematic axes that emerged in the dialogue tables and review of international references were considered and with a first draft of background information prepared by the Personal Data Regulatory and Control Unit (URCDP), other public sector organizations were called upon to provide further input to Agesic's vision for the preparation of the report.

In addition, the consultation was subsequently opened to other actors from civil society, academia and the private sector through the participation platform.

He said that not all the input received will necessarily be reflected in the report, but will be integrated into the version submitted to Parliament.

He added that the report's focus follows the provisions of the aforementioned article: ethical development of AI, protection of human rights, promotion of technological innovation.

In relation to the international background, **Gonzalo Sosa** mentions that the guidance is potentially regulatory of artificial intelligence. Some points mentioned:

- Greater decentralization in the United States. Executive Order with the role of the entities
- In Europe, the risk approach is more present, and 'red lines' are marked in this regard.
- There is a lot of regulation in terms of principles, with a range of possibilities considering local idiosyncrasies.

To conclude this point, he indicates that there will be issues whose subject matter will be raised in the report for analysis.

Then, in response to the question about regulatory sandboxes, provided for in art. 75 of Law 20.212, Gonzalo Sosa indicates that the project is advancing for signature, under review by the Legal Unit of the Presidency.

3. Towards the construction of a first draft of the AI Strategy

Ninoschka Danter refers to the document systematizing the contributions arising from the dialogue tables of the Artificial Intelligence Strategy review process that was shared in the Strategic Committee repository.

In this process, some 500 proposals emerged which were considered in the systematization.

He proposes working on the Committee's vision of objectives and lines of action to be integrated into the Artificial Intelligence Strategy, considering the conditions in Uruguay and also in terms of projection. He mentioned the structure of the document and the thematic axes considered in it.

He proposes holding a round of participation on these axes, emphasizing that the general vision must be that of the Strategy.

Pascual Gattas refers to three points:

- It clearly indicates that the issue of capacity development at the educational level, in universities, in the development of critical thinking, in the general public of this tool must be a main axis where there is much to do.
- Data management as a basis for applying analysis tools and obtaining results based on standardized data by areas, such as Health, and which allows for the development of research in each of them. He mentions that there is a lot of information to process and work on for decision-making in the government and also to see in the private sector what things to share and what things not to. Share

to achieve positive results, since each company is reserved with its own.

- Infrastructure: indicates that it is important to develop infrastructure at the country level for both the government and for research with laboratories to promote *Startups*.

Maria Victoria Susena agrees with what was stated above and adds that in the matter of data sharing, interoperability should begin with public bodies, since it is more difficult to achieve in the private sector. Challenge: thinking about the governance of this process.

Virginia Pardo It also mentions the importance of the infrastructure issue, clearly establishing the objective to be achieved: improve it, rent it, build it, what to achieve? and how it then supports the actions to be implemented. Likewise, in terms of training, it is important to be clear about the purpose: education, job retraining, etc.

Alberto Majó He mentioned that the topic of capacity development should be linked to the topic of civic culture. He refers to the fact that it is the responsible use and critical thinking of citizens and not just the technical training to be imparted. Taking advantage of Uruguay's civic culture to train in these topics. He exemplified the case of the Super Computer Center in Barcelona that made Spain a leader.

Flavio Caiafa He takes up the three-point approach mentioned by Pascual Gattas, stating that the axes mentioned are those that arise in meetings with companies and with people who work in AI. He highlights the point of training that should extend from school to university. He also points out that there is an issue of civility and that it should be explained that we have "digital drugs" at hand, which is critical and has no limits.

With regard to data, he mentions that the population is constantly being asked for information. He adds that there is some light at the end of the tunnel, using the example of Salud.Uy, where the situation is much better than expected, and where with little effort (in relative terms) anonymized information from people's medical records could be made available to researchers. He proposes doing a pilot project to evaluate this.

Regarding the Strategy, it indicates that the challenging objective is to keep data protection aligned with the European framework, but at the same time not limiting the development of technology. Balance: data management and protection.

Regarding infrastructure, he mentions that the cloud will be the provider, even though we do not own the cloud, we use it. At some point, having an infrastructure will be economically necessary. Concept of sovereign national infrastructure He adds that it may be interesting, before that happens, to have an R&D+i infrastructure with modern servers.

Alberto Majó He stresses that the national infrastructure strategy should have a research component, with the inclusion of a budget. It should be a country that has the capacity to use available knowledge and adapt knowledge. R&D+i would be a strategy for using the AI strategy.

Ninoschka DanteIn relation to R&D&I, it is necessary to carry out work to generate mechanisms in this regard. In more general terms, to think about how to transform the problems into country objectives, then into specific objectives and how these issues are capitalised on in the Strategy.

Flavio CaiafaHe proposes that R&D&I be a specific line in the strategy with an initial infrastructure. He mentions that there is opportunity in countries that have renewable electrical matrices, given that AI processing computing centers consume a lot of energy and there is interest in ensuring sustainable infrastructures. Industrial electrical consumption is the largest percentage of consumption at a national level. If 90% of electrical energy were renewable, it would be very good. It would be necessary to see if the benefit compensates for the other lines that exist in Uruguay.

Virginia PardoIt indicates that we have to be guarantors of all the rights and principles to be protected. Promote the “things are done well here”, maintaining trust, security, capabilities, educated citizens, expert technicians, etc. Maintaining this policy is a great differential in the region. It emerged in the dialogue tables as a country value, and also arose thinking about where to direct the budget to continue working: place to research, infrastructure for pilots, for example.

Ninoschka DanteHe added that, from the roundtable discussions with the private sector, creative industries and entrepreneurs, it emerged that one of the things to consider in the strategy is how a Uruguayan entrepreneur differentiates himself, what standards he meets, etc. with the idea of a “differential seal”. There are different sectors that can capitalize on the lines of action of the Strategy. He also mentioned what the different strategies have in common in the application of methodology:

- institutional framework
- enabling components
- Regulation – What are the ethical regulatory technical frameworks?
- Innovation, investment in AI
- international cooperation
- Which sectors are prioritized?
- Talent management, impact on employment

Mark IsraelHe indicated that for some years now there has been an inflation of the Executive Branch (EP) and a control body should not be there. The solutions have been given in Decentralized Services (SSDD) or autonomously in the Legislative Branch (PL). He adds that Agesic should leave the presidency and have a status like the Regulatory Unit of Communications Services (URSEC), which is independent, a control body that is not influenced by any of the powers, and it seems important to him from the point of view of security and AI controls.

Regarding the concern raised by the data trust mentioned in the summary document, he mentions that it is an issue that deserves scrutiny, precisely the place where the data is marketed. There is legislation on trusts, but something more specific would have to be done for this case.

Another concern is the issue of data itself. For example, the Human Rights and Ombudsman's Office (INDHDP) requests data and has a very hard time obtaining it, for different reasons. If you don't have access to the data, you can't work. We talk about AI, but if you can't generate basic knowledge, you have to consider what to do with AI. Part of the strategy should be to change the way data is managed.

Regarding data trusts, he mentions that there are companies that sell or rent their databases to companies that generate AI. We have to see how this issue is handled.

Gonzalo SosaIt indicates that the data trust has not been evaluated as a tool. There is a law that has a set of solutions. It has not always been applied and not everyone understands the same thing about how to apply it. There are things that exist and we do not know about. It does not prevent the data from being communicated if the purposes are known and the law does not prohibit it. The law has specific mechanisms to regulate it.

Flavio CaiafaHe adds that one thing is data that is captured by the State and shared among itself. Every time a citizen speaks to the State, they are asked for data. Another point is how to protect personal data when entering a site and accepting that data is shared.

Ninoschka DanteHe mentions that there is another axis that emerged in the dialogue tables and it is the one referring to education and employment, as well as the need for enabling instruments in SMEs, entrepreneurs, etc. Its viability should be compared in order to include it in the Strategy as an objective, line of action.

Marcelo BelenHe added that the National Employment Directorate (DINAE) has not taken any action in this regard, since the focus is on solving problems of access to employment in certain sectors in particular. He added that at the level of the National Institute of Employment and Professional Training (INEFOP), which is the body that leads the training, there is some initiative.

Virginia PardoHe mentions that the impact of AI in the region must be known, and that there is a diagnosis, for example, of which jobs are expected to disappear or change. Perhaps we should start by having a diagnosis of the situation we are in. We propose to address this issue with an expanded Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS).

Flavio Caiafaunderstands that AI is the continuation of digital transformation, so the focus of education must be from school to adults. In addition to organizing the data.

Maximiliano Maneiro points out that we are in an era in which without data, there is also AI and that businesses can be generated 'out of nothing' just by creating generative AI and displacing others.

Upcoming activities

- Finalize the report of the dialogue table with the Creative Industries sector to add to the analysis

- Agesic convenes meetings in working subgroups, to close aspects in different lines of the AI Strategy:
 - either Training and employment axis with MTSS
 - either Education axis with Academia
 - either Infrastructure axis
- Share the summary of the contributions arising from the Data Strategy roundtables for analysis within the scope of the Strategic Committee