

BOOSTING **AI SAFETY** FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN



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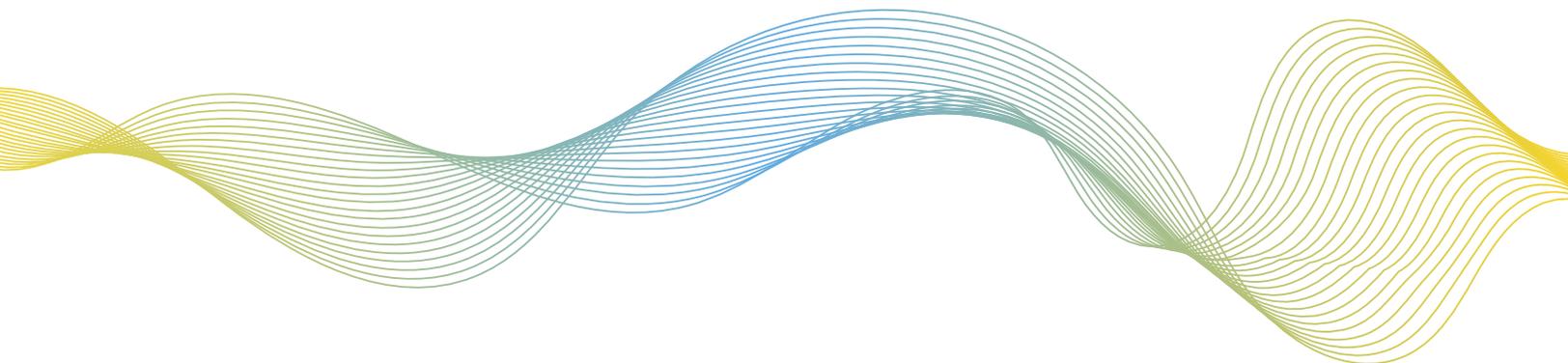
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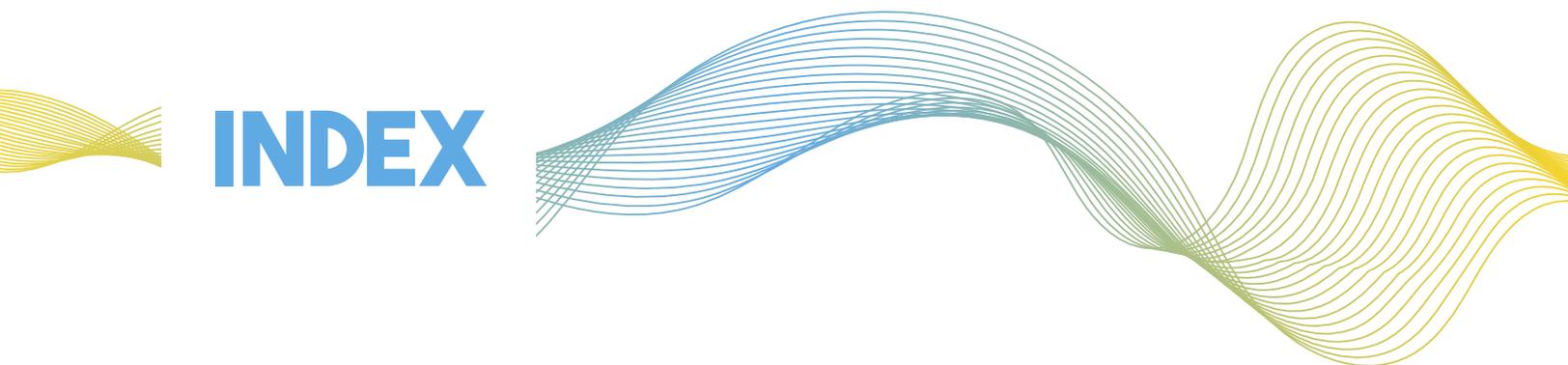
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01

INTRODUCTION



01

INTRODUCTION

The [International AI Safety Report 2025](#) published in January of that same year represented a landmark scientific assessment of the risks from advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly general-purpose AI (or AI that can perform a wide variety of tasks), and of the methods available to mitigate them. In addition to being a technical document, the report also serves as a valuable source of knowledge for policymakers, highlighting evidence gaps and key challenges that require urgent attention.

In 2024, 40% of companies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) had adopted an AI system ([Borgeaud, 2025](#)), but at the same time, ranking 7th out of 9 global regions in Oxford Insights' [2024 Government AI Readiness Index](#). This contrast highlights a growing implementation gap: while AI adoption is accelerating, institutional and governance capacities have not evolved at the same pace.

In this context, while the International AI Safety Report provides a comprehensive

global overview of the state of the science on the capabilities and risks of general-purpose AI, it is also important to complement it with regional perspectives that reflect how these realities are experienced in places like LAC. The region's distinct social, political, and economic contexts, marked by inequality, institutional fragility, and uneven access to innovation ([UNDP, 2021](#)), shape a different landscape of general-purpose AI opportunities and risks. Advancing AI safety in LAC requires not only raising awareness about cutting-edge developments in AI risks, but also understanding how the region's local specific contexts intersect with these global challenges in order to further include these realities in the global conversation.

The Report's Secretariat and Eon Institute, a Mexican technosocial think tank, with the support of the British Embassy in Mexico City, hosted the first overseas event dedicated to strengthening LAC regional perspectives into the AI safety debate. Held in Mexico City in September



2025, the event convened 22 specialists from all sectors from 8 LAC countries. Together, participants not only reflected on the findings of the International AI Safety Report 2025 but also contributed their experiences, contexts, and insights to enrich the conversation.

Aligned with the Report's aim to help policy makers assess, anticipate, and manage the risks associated with general-

purpose AI systems, this document achieves two things. It reflects the participant's discussions, the findings from which will be considered in future editions of the Report. It also further adds to the global conversation by amplifying perspectives and experiences from a region that remains largely underrepresented: Latin America and the Caribbean.



02

ABOUT THE EVENT



02

ABOUT THE EVENT

With the purpose of reflecting the diverse perspectives of the LAC region, the event brought together 22 AI specialists (including 40% of women) from eight countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay¹ representing government, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

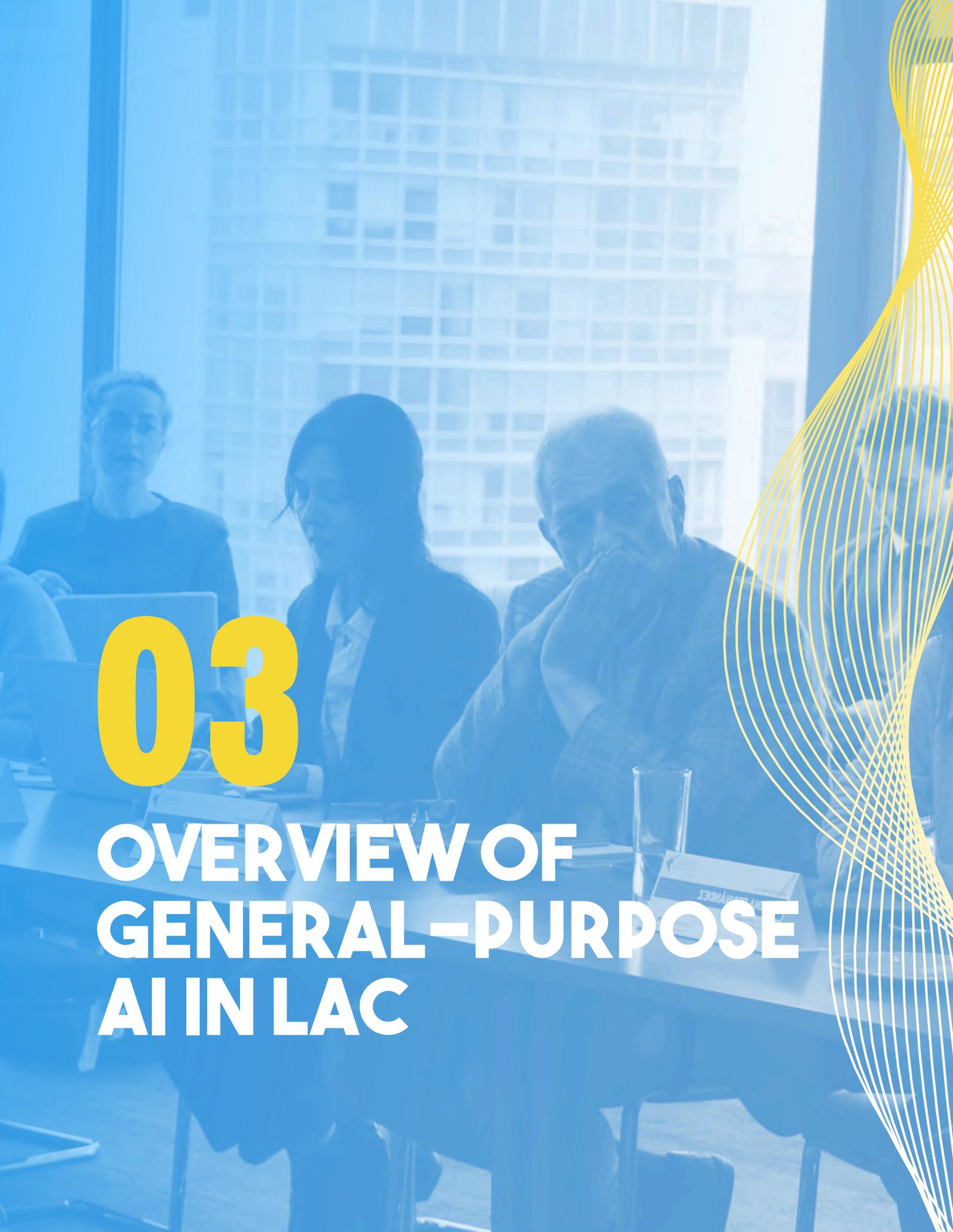
The event was structured to both present and critically engage with the 2025 International AI Safety Report. Participants were first briefed on the Report's findings with presentations by Daniel Privitera, lead writer of the 2025 report, and Lucía Velasco, member of the 2025 writing group. The presentations focused on the report's three main categories of general-purpose AI risk: risks from malicious use, risks from malfunctions, and systemic risks.

Following each presentation, participants joined breakout sessions for guided

discussions to delve deeper into each risk category, discussing how these manifest in the LAC contexts and identifying region-specific risks and governance challenges, opportunities, gaps, and exploring actionable strategies to strengthen AI safety from a regional perspective. After the breakout discussions, groups reconvened in plenary to share key takeaways, fostering further dialogue among all participants. The result is a set of findings that are rooted in both international understanding and regional realities, highlighting where global frameworks align, or diverge, from the needs of LAC.

The conversations that took place during the event form the basis of the analysis and findings presented in the following sections.

¹ The participating countries were selected based on their ranking in Oxford Insight's [Government AI Readiness Index 2024](#). Brazil was not included in this event due to language considerations.

A blue-tinted photograph of a meeting. Several people are seated around a table, looking at laptops or documents. A man in the foreground has his hand to his face in a thoughtful pose. A yellow abstract graphic of many thin lines curves along the right edge of the image.

03

OVERVIEW OF GENERAL-PURPOSE AI IN LAC

03

OVERVIEW OF GENERAL-PURPOSE AI IN LAC

When it comes to AI, Latin America and the Caribbean present a highly heterogeneous landscape. It is home to some of the world's most advanced countries in this field, such as Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, all ranked among the global top 50 ([Oxford Insights, 2025](#)), alongside others that are still in the early stages of AI readiness. The following section explores adoption, infrastructure, innovation, demand, acceptance, and skills to provide a comprehensive overview of AI in LAC.²

While AI adoption among companies in LAC reaches almost 40% ([Borgeaud, 2025](#)), the adoption rate among the general population has yet to take off. According to a recent study by [Microsoft's AI Economy Institute](#), most countries in LAC report adoption rates between 10 and 20% of the working-age population, with a small few (Colombia, Costa Rica, and Uruguay) achieving rates up to 30% and others reporting less than 10% (Guatemala

and Venezuela). In comparison, countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Singapore report up to 50%. In part, this can be explained by the considerable access disparities in the region. To contextualize, less than half of the LAC population has fixed broadband, only 9.9% has high-speed internet at home ([World Bank, 2021](#)) and only 4 out of 10 rural LAC areas having access to basic internet ([UNDP, 2024](#)), which is not typically enough to interact with public AI systems. The gap in adoption is not merely a question of technological access; it reflects deeper regional structural inequalities linked to education, innovation, and digital infrastructure.

On the matter of infrastructure, the imbalance is even sharper. The region lags significantly behind, attracting only USD 2.6 billion in 2023, equivalent to just 1.56% of global demand ([Jung and Kats, 2025](#)). In terms of innovation, data related to international investment shows LAC only receives 1.12%, despite the region

² As data on general-purpose AI remains limited, this analysis also draws on available data related to traditional AI systems.

03. OVERVIEW OF GENERAL-PURPOSE AI IN LAC

accounting for 6.6% of global GDP ([ECLAC, 2025](#)). This poses a significant challenge when it comes to launching and expanding productive, technological, and innovative initiatives.

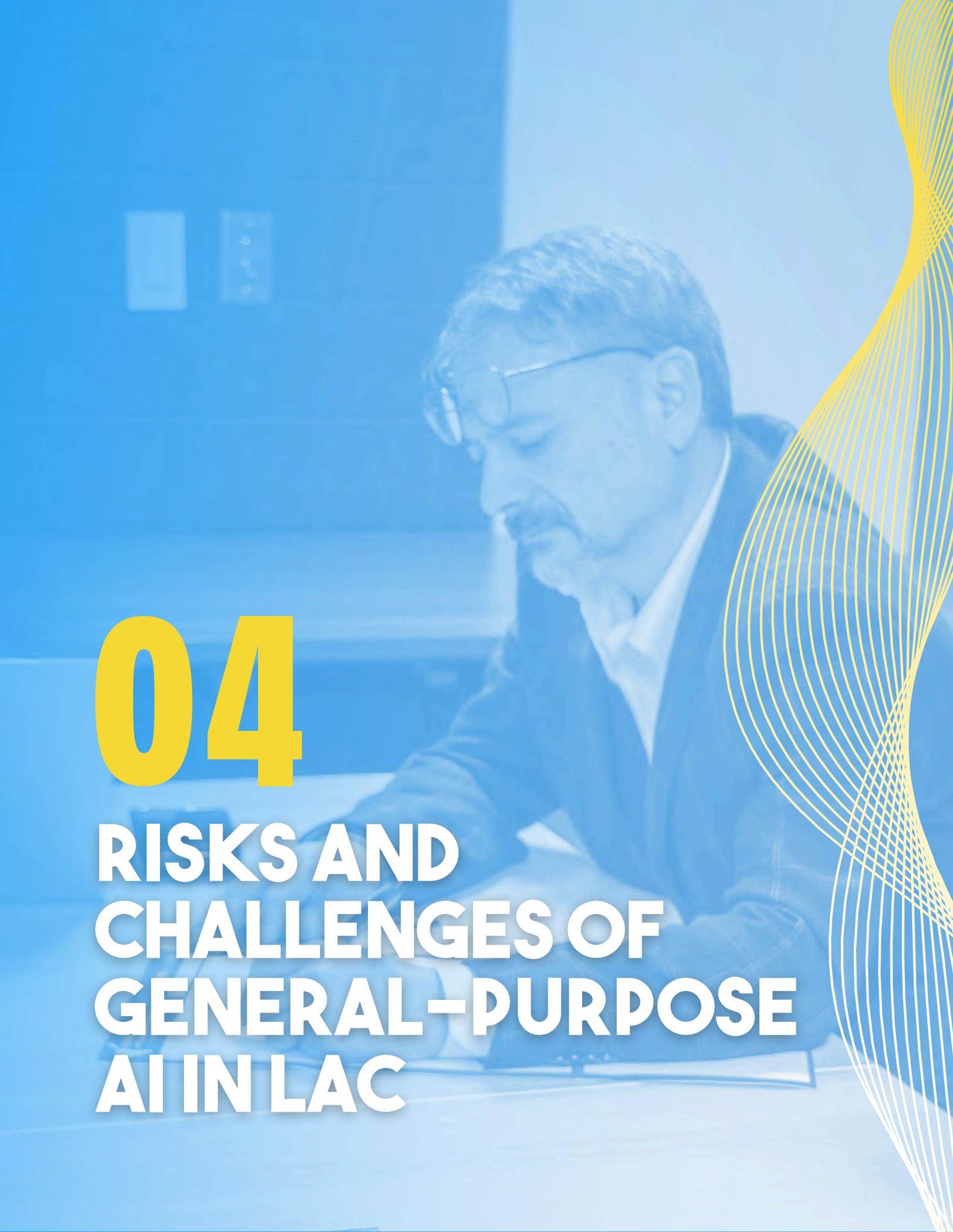
Linked to the region's capacities to develop, according to the third edition of the [Latin American Artificial Intelligence Index \(ILIA 2025\)](#)³, shows that advanced training in AI remains insufficient and is concentrated in a small number of countries. Since 2022, the talent gap relative to the global average has widened, associated with an accelerated brain drain of specialists. Another finding of the index is that AI literacy has doubled the availability of vocational training and quadrupled the pool of specialized talent. However, despite the growth of school programs and postgraduate courses, a persistent bottleneck in advanced training continues to limit the region's capacity to develop its own solutions.

Interestingly, despite the challenging picture painted above, the demand for AI tools in LAC is quickly rising. The region accounts for 14% of global visits to AI solutions, a notable feat given that it only accounts for 11% of the world's internet users ([ILIA, 2025](#)). Such a discrepancy indicates strong interest in AI solutions, with some countries like Brazil, Chile, and

Mexico boasting acceptance rates exceeding 65% ([Ipsos, 2025](#)).

Beyond the numbers, the picture of how AI adoption and impact are unfolding across the region is still incomplete, ever more so surrounding general-purpose AI. Significant knowledge gaps persist regarding who is adopting and developing these systems, the sectors in which they are being deployed, the types of value they create, the specific challenges LAC face compared to other regions, and the lessons that can be learned from these experiences. This report begins to shed light on these gaps, offering an initial step toward a clearer understanding of the region's general-purpose AI landscape.

³ An index that shows the progress of AI in terms of readiness, adoption, and governance in 19 LAC countries, led by Chile's National Center for Artificial Intelligence (CENIA). CENIA Director Álvaro Soto was also part of the International AI Safety Report 2025 expert group.



04

**RISKS AND
CHALLENGES OF
GENERAL-PURPOSE
AI IN LAC**

04

RISKS AND CHALLENGES OF GENERAL-PURPOSE AI IN LAC

The risks presented below arose from discussions among participants during the different event activities and are organized according to the classification of the original report.

4.1

RISKS FROM MALICIOUS USE

The [International AI Safety Report 2025](#) defines malicious risk as instances in which “actors can use general-purpose AI to cause harm to individuals, organizations, or society.” The report identifies four main areas of concern:

1. Harm to individuals through the creation of fake content
2. Manipulation of public opinion
3. Cyber offenses
4. Biological or chemical attacks

Misinformation, disinformation and democracy:

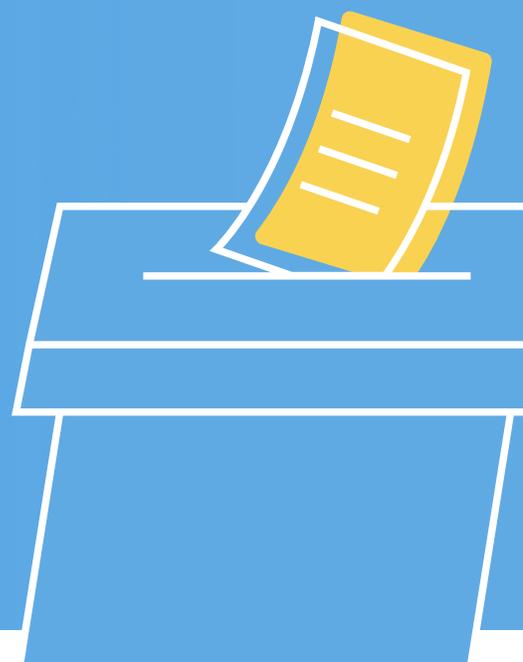
The most commonly expressed concern among participants in the LAC discussion was the increasing use of general-purpose AI to generate and spread mis- and disinformation, especially during elections and other democratic processes. Given that eight countries in the region will hold or have held presidential elections in the 2025-2026 cycle, it is unsurprising that this risk ranks as one of the main concerns. Participants highlighted that the use of deepfakes and fabricated text erodes public trust in information systems, and although social media platforms have improved their content filters, it remains difficult to control intimate or politically sensitive material. Additionally, they emphasized that this challenge is compounded by pre-existing vulnerabilities in LAC, mentioning election scandals, media polarization and monopoly, weak

institutional capacity to detect or counter synthetic content, and low levels of digital literacy among the general population. The 2023 Bogota mayoral campaign incident, summarized below, illustrates

the real and growing risks posed by the malicious use of general-purpose AI in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2023 BOGOTA ELECTIONS

In the final stretch of Colombia's local 2023 elections, the Bogotá mayoral campaign was shaken by the circulation on social media of fake audio recordings created with AI. These showcased alleged confessions and illicit agreements involving several candidates. Although some of these audio recordings were easily identified as cheapfakes or shallowfakes due to their poor quality, they spread widely across platforms such



Gender-based and political violence online:

Several participants warned that AI-generated mis- and disinformation could amplify gender-based and political violence online. This type of violence has intensified alongside the growing number of women candidates in several LAC countries. One of the most harmful manifestations discussed by participants was the non-consensual creation and distribution of deepfakes. An estimated [98% of these cases involve synthetic intimate images, with 99% of victims](#)

[being women and young people](#). While an increasing number of countries in the region, including Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama have adopted, or are in process of adopting, a legal framework (Ley Olimpia) to address gender-based digital violence, these laws are often fragmented, poorly implemented and rarely extend to cases involving synthetic media or general-purpose AI technologies. The following box summarizes said framework.



LEY OLIMPIA

The “Ley Olimpia” or Olimpia Law in English is a series of legislative reforms aimed at combating digital violence, particularly offenses that violate individuals’ sexual privacy through online platforms, often referred to as cyber-violence. These reforms criminalize the non-consensual distribution of sexual content as a breach of privacy. Since its introduction in Mexico, the initiative has been adopted across all 31 Mexican states and has inspired similar legislation abroad. Argentina, Colombia and Panama have recently enacted their own versions of the Olimpia Law, while feminist movements in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Honduras are actively advocating for comparable reforms in their countries.

Cyberattacks, fraud and scams:

Another recurring concern among participants was the potential for malicious actors to exploit AI systems to automate cyberattacks, design sophisticated phishing schemes, and create convincing deepfakes for scams. For instance, Kaspersky’s 2024 Threat Landscape report reveals an 140% increase in AI-driven scams across the region ([OECD, n.d.](#)). These practices further blur the line between legitimate and fraudulent content, making it harder for citizens to discern trustworthy information. Participants also emphasized the growing threat of large-scale cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure, which, in the absence of robust cybersecurity measures, can deeply affect countries’ stability, economy, and the functioning of essential

public services. In fact, in 2024, LAC registered the highest global growth rate in reported cyber incidents, averaging a 25% annual increase throughout the past ten years ([Diao & Cobos, 2024](#)).

Participants highlighted several underlying causes and enabling factors, notably weak regulatory frameworks, limited regional coordination to respond to cross-border cyber threats, and insufficient investment in local fact-checking initiatives and detection technologies. There was a broad consensus that overcoming these challenges requires technical safeguards and long-term strategies, including public education, stronger collaboration with civil society, and greater transparency from large technology companies operating in the region.

4.2

RISKS FROM MALFUNCTIONS

The [International AI Safety Report 2025](#) defines risks from malfunctions as the unintended harms by general-purpose AI. “Even when users have no intention to cause harm, serious risks can arise due to the malfunctioning of general-purpose AI”. The report identifies three main areas of concern:

1. Reliability issues
2. Bias
3. Loss of control



Context:

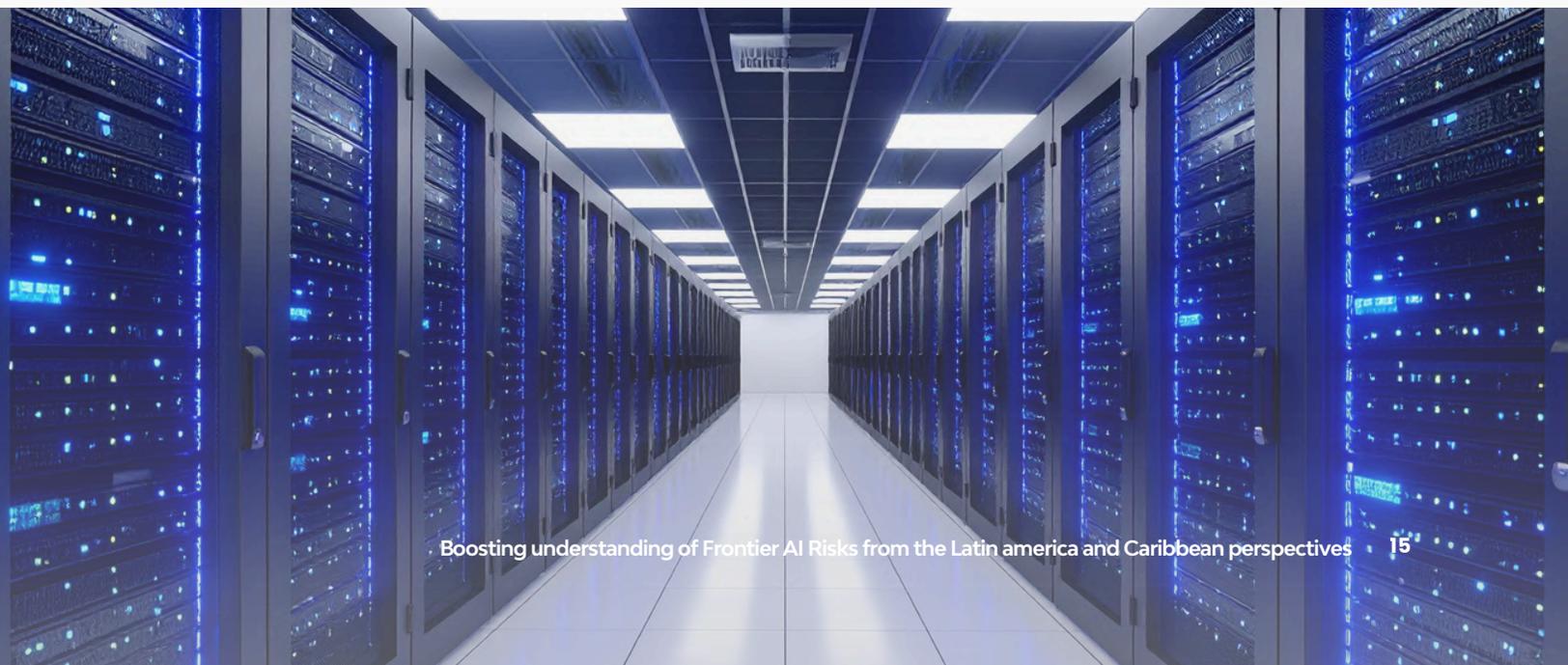
One of the main challenges in deploying general-purpose AI in LAC is that most base models are not designed for the region’s context. Their successful implementation requires continuous fine-tuning, retraining with socio-culturally relevant data, and validation with communities representing diverse literacy levels, languages, backgrounds, and social

realities. Without this adaptation, these systems risk reinforcing biases, and excluding entire groups of users. Specific challenges identified by participants include:

Data availability:

Data availability remains a major constraint. LAC countries generate and manage far fewer datasets than other regions, and much of the existing data is fragmented, outdated, or inaccessible. This scarcity (compounded by weak infrastructure, limited interoperability, and insufficient data governance frameworks) restricts the development of AI systems tailored to local needs. The absence of shared standards for data quality and responsible use further undermines fairness, transparency, and accountability.

Because most AI systems are trained primarily on English-language datasets, they often fail to recognize regional dialects, indigenous languages, or culturally specific references. Indeed,



04. RISKS AND CHALLENGES OF GENERAL-PURPOSE AI IN LAC

English remains the predominant language online, appearing on almost 50% of global websites, while Spanish ranks second, accounting for approximately 6% of online content ([Petrosyan, 2025](#)). This not only limits the accuracy of outputs but also reduces the perceived legitimacy and accessibility of these tools for millions of

people. Participants underscored the importance of investing in models that reflect the region's linguistic and cultural diversity, emphasizing that inclusivity is a prerequisite for safety and reliability and highlighted some current efforts to meet this need, such as Latam-GPT summarized in the following box.

LATAM-GPT

Latam-GPT is a Large Language Model (LLM) made in Latin America, for Latin America. The project aims to create an open, free, and collaborative AI model that reflects the region's linguistic and cultural diversity. After two years in development, it has successfully brought together citizens, researchers, and governments from across the region. The initiative is led by Chile's National Center for Artificial Intelligence, with the support of Chile's Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation, and funding from the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF).

Through 33 strategic partnerships with organizations across the region, the project has compiled a corpus exceeding 8 terabytes of text. This dataset has enabled the creation of a model with 50 billion parameters, comparable in scale to GPT-3.5, and capable of performing complex tasks such as reasoning, translation, and semantic association. Latam-GPT's regional database encompasses information from 21 Latin American countries, containing over 2.6 million documents with an average completeness rate of 59.5%.



Foreign dependency:

Participants also raised concerns about the growing dependency on foreign general-purpose AI models and cloud infrastructure. Over-reliance on external technologies not only limits the region's capacity to audit or interpret errors but also increases vulnerability to opaque decision-making processes and unintentional biases embedded in imported systems. Participants emphasized that there are currently few viable alternatives to address this dependency. The region operates within a complex geopolitical landscape, shaped by two dominant technological and economic spheres of influence, which constrain the development of autonomous and sovereign AI ecosystems in LAC.

4.3

SYSTEMIC RISKS

The [International AI Safety Report 2025](#) defines systemic risks as the ones “beyond the risks directly posed by capabilities of individual models, widespread deployment of general-purpose AI is associated with several broader systemic risks”. The report identifies six main areas of concern:

1. Labour market risks
2. Global AI R&D divide
3. Market concentration and single points of failure
4. Environmental risks
5. Privacy risks
6. Copyright infringements



Systemic risks in the development and use of general-purpose AI in LAC are deeply intertwined with the region's structural inequalities and institutional fragilities. Rather than creating entirely new vulnerabilities, AI tends to amplify pre-existing social, economic, and political disparities, such as gender inequality, labor informality, and limited digital access. Participants stressed two points.

Job displacement:

Participants highlighted how general-purpose AI-driven automation could exacerbate labour displacement in sectors such as call centres and customer services, where early signs of labour displacement are emerging in some LAC countries. This concern contrasts with widespread narratives claiming that job losses will be limited or compensated by new roles. In fact, a report by the Inter-American Development Bank ([IDB, 2023](#)) estimates that more than a third of jobs in Latin America could face a high risk of automation over the next decade, particularly roles that rely on repetitive tasks, such as administrative support, call centre operations, customer services. To illustrate this dynamic, participants mentioned Colombia. The call centre sector in this country grew by 746% in the last four years, and now accounts for 3.2% of the National GDP providing more than 750,000 jobs, almost 8% of formal employment ([Held, 2024](#)). However, despite this growth, many of these jobs are simultaneously at high risk of automation.



Skill and education gap:

The rapid adoption of general-purpose AI is also creating an urgent skills and education gap. Traditional education systems are not keeping pace with technological change, leading to the obsolescence of many of the capabilities currently taught. Participants noted that this challenge is particularly acute in LAC, where education systems are among the lowest rated globally. Structural inequalities mean that rural areas are even further affected in terms of education quality.

Participants also highlighted the lack of technological infrastructure in schools, particularly in public institutions, a reality that limits the scope for digital skills programmes and the ability to meaningfully integrate general-purpose AI tools into classrooms. Beyond infrastructure, teachers often lack the training and institutional support needed to adapt curricula, incorporate AI tools effectively, and guide students in developing critical digital skills that the labour market demands.

Policy and institutional misalignment:

Participants warned that, beyond the social and educational dimensions, systemic risks in LAC are compounded by institutional fragility, fragmented governance, and the lack of policy continuity across administrations. These dynamics hinder the development of consistent AI regulatory frameworks and long-term digital strategies. Participants also noted that although many countries in the region have adopted national AI agendas and regulations, there is often a significant discrepancy between policy design and implementation. Limited budgets and insufficient institutional capacity remain common barriers across much of LAC. The participants agreed that for the region to truly benefit from general-purpose AI, it must create the necessary mechanisms and allocate the required resources to turn strategies and regulation into action.



05

**ENABLING FACTORS
BEHIND THE
IDENTIFIED RISKS**

05

ENABLING FACTORS BEHIND THE IDENTIFIED RISKS

The risks identified across the region do not emerge in isolation. Rather, they are enabled and amplified by a series of structural, institutional and technological factors that define the LAC context. In addition to the challenges mentioned previously, participants underscored two cross-cutting enabling factors that permeate the region:

5.1 **INSTITUTIONAL MISALIGNMENT AND POLICY COORDINATION**

Participants highlighted that many public institutions across LAC continue to approach AI in isolation. Agencies are pursuing parallel digital or AI initiatives without shared standards, objectives or risk assessments, a fragmentation caused by an absence of inter-institutional collaboration methods, as well as the growing political polarization, which make

it difficult to build multisectoral agreements and articulate coherent digital policies. This divide is further exacerbated by shifting priorities between administrations, interrupting long-term planning and stalling cross-administration projects, weakening institutional memory.

In many cases, national AI strategies or digital agendas exist on paper but lack the operational coordination needed to translate them into practice. This weakens the capacity to address cross-cutting risks such as misinformation, cyberattacks, or digital violence, which require coordinated responses across education, justice, security, telecommunications, and regulatory bodies. Taken together, these factors hinder, in the first place, the ability of individual countries to design and implement effective policies to mitigate AI-related risk and, secondly, their capacity to align regionally around common principles and strategies.

5.2 REGIONAL GOVERNANCE FRAGMENTATION

The internal reality presented above is also present at the regional level, where countries in LAC make decisions in isolation to one another, without broader alignment, leading to fragmented governance and duplicated efforts. According to the participants, this fragmentation stems from political polarisation, disparate regulatory approaches and divergent international alignments (whether towards the US, Europe, or China), which pull the region in different directions, and the fall of multilateralism that creates a limitation for LAC's development. Although some leading countries participate in international forums, much of the region remains underrepresented. This lack of collective orientation limits regional cooperation and weakens LAC's influence in global debates, leaving individual countries negotiating from a position of structural disadvantage, with limited ability to shape global standards. That said, some countries, Brazil among them, have been successful in making their voices heard in the face of Big Tech's attempts to set the terms.





06

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR
COLLABORATION IN
THE REGION**

06

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION IN THE REGION

Participants agreed that the challenges and opportunities posed by general-purpose AI require a coordinated, strategic regional response. The following recommendations were mentioned by

the participants to promote progress toward safer general-purpose AI development and use in the region:

BUILDING A SHARED VISION AND COLLECTIVE STRENGTH

With a population of 668 million, LAC represents a powerful bloc of consumers and innovators. By leveraging its market size and coordinating internally, the region can collectively demand higher quality, safety and fairness standards for the technologies it imports and develops. By acting together, LAC can amplify its voice in global discussions and position its own values and perspectives in the AI governance conversation.



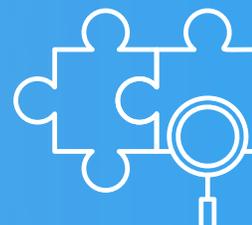
ADVANCING GOVERNANCE AND REGIONAL STANDARDS

Governments across LAC could collaborate to develop local standards, regulatory frameworks, and codes of conduct that promote transparency, accountability and trust in AI systems. Clear rules for the use of general-purpose AI in the public sector, the justice system and the private sector would reduce the prevalence of “shadow AI” practices (unregulated or opaque uses of general purpose AI) and improve public confidence. It is important to note that regional cooperation should not be seen as a prerequisite for action; countries can take action individually while still promoting regional coherence.



STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Strengthening the region’s shared knowledge platforms and collaborative research networks will require not only creating new initiatives but also building on existing ones. While such mechanisms already exist in LAC, they often lack the mandate or resources to address major social, economic and environmental regional issues posed by general-purpose AI. For instance, further mapping regional risks and identifying priority areas for action would enable the development of targeted, evidence-based strategies that reflect local realities.



STRENGTHENING EDUCATION AND DIGITAL LITERACY

To ensure that general-purpose AI serves as a tool for empowerment, the region must position AI literacy at the center of its strategy. This involves promoting digital literacy, critical thinking and ethical awareness among students, teachers, the media, public officials and the public in general. Education systems should integrate micro-credentials, flexible training pathways and continuous learning programmes that align with the evolving demands of the labour market.



INCREASING VISIBILITY THROUGH LOCAL INNOVATION

Finally, the region must make visible the positive, responsible uses of general-purpose AI that already exist within its borders. By documenting and sharing successful local experiences (such as AI chatbots for public service delivery, predictive health tools, or education-support systems) LAC can build a repository of best practices and boost local innovation that inspire trust, guide policymakers, and position the region as a source of innovation and safety leadership.





07

CONCLUSION

07

CONCLUSION

AI Safety in Latin America and the Caribbean is not only about bringing high-level conversations on emerging technologies to LAC, but also about enriching the global dialogue with insights shaped by the region's own experiences, contexts, and perspectives. This report contributes to that goal by positioning LAC as an active participant in the evolving AI governance landscape, rather than a passive recipient of external agendas. This initiative builds on the region's realities to understand and address the risks associated with the development and use of general-purpose AI in LAC. Despite its internal differences, the region shares profound similarities, including challenges such as job displacement, skills and technical gap, and foreign dependency, that can serve as the foundation for a stronger collective voice. By recognizing and building on these shared foundations, LAC can strengthen its capacity to act collaboratively and to shape how AI is developed and used within and beyond its borders.

Rather than providing definitive answers, the event aimed to establish a foundation for future initiatives that will further promote dialogue between governments, civil society, academia and the private sector in the region. If there is one overarching takeaway from the discussions in this initial exercise, it is this: Latin America and the Caribbean have both the responsibility and the opportunity to contribute to the global discussion on AI safety and governance, not just as individual nations, but as a region with its own vision, priorities and shared values. This will require coordination, persistence and political will, but it could also lead to the development of a unique LAC model of technological governance, grounded in inclusion, equity and human dignity.



08

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We also wish to extend our appreciation to the British Embassy in Mexico City for opening its doors to host this dialogue and for its support in facilitating the event.

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