LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Journalism's New Frontier

An analysis of 188 global AI policy proposals and their impacts on journalism.

Read the full report at https://bit.ly/4s7nVPq.

The Center for News, Technology and Innovation reviewed 188 national and regional AI strategies, laws and policies around the world to determine how they impact journalism. We focused our analysis around how regulatory activity addresses seven policy components that are particularly likely to impact journalism.

Of the 80 AI strategies, policies and laws we reviewed in Latin America and the Caribbean, five specifically mentioned journalism; seven addressed freedom of speech or expression; 24 addressed manipulated or synthetic content; 39 addressed algorithmic discrimination and bias; 18 addressed intellectual property and copyright; 48 addressed transparency and bias; 43 addressed data protection and privacy; and 38 addressed public information and awareness.

Freedom of speech and expression: Freedom of speech is rarely included in legally binding articles of Latin America and Caribbean AI policies.

Manipulated or synthetic content: Many Latin American and Caribbean countries are creating laws about manipulated content, mainly by requiring labels, watermarks or consent, but there is variation in who is responsible and when exceptions are allowed for journalism.

Algorithmic discrimination and bias: Latin American and Caribbean countries are addressing algorithmic bias with a human rights-centered approach, such as prohibiting high-risk systems, mandating audits and diverse training data and strengthening end-user rights.

Intellectual property and copyright: The focus in the region ranges from the rights of copyright holders if their work is used to train AI systems to the intellectual property of developers and/or ownership of AI-generated works.

Transparency and accountability: Transparency and accountability is the most commonly addressed topic in this region, but not all proposals operationalize these concepts.

Data protection and privacy: Latin American and Caribbean countries are making data protection and privacy a key guiding principle of their AI policies by banning indiscriminate surveillance (except by governments); enforcing existing privacy laws; and requiring data minimization, informed consent and periodic reporting.

Public information and awareness: Many Latin American and Caribbean countries are promoting public awareness about AI through government-led initiatives or by holding developers responsible for public education.

Notable legislation

Brazil: The Brazilian Chamber of Deputies is currently debating a comprehensive AI governance bill, 2338/2023. This bill provides one of the clearest statements establishing user rights for copyrighted works that protect journalists and researchers. Article 42 specifies explicitly that journalists and researchers can use copyrighted materials for data mining and other automated uses, as long as they meet certain conditions. Commercial actors, however, do not receive the same protection.