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Recommendations to Promote Information Integrity on Climate Change through the Sustainability of Journalism and the Protection of Journalists, Communicators, and Environmentalists

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Recommendations to Promote Information Integrity on Climate Change through the Sustainability of Journalism and the Protection of Journalists, Communicators, and Environmentalists

1. Introduction

Information integrity has been a central theme in discussions about the information ecosystem since the UN Secretary-General highlighted the relevance of this agenda for confronting disinformation and rights violations in the digital environment in his policy brief for Our Common Agenda.[1] Over the past year, the G20 has taken up the issue, and one of the outcomes of that work was the creation of the Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Change. This document builds on that context to underscore the centrality of journalism sustainability and of the protection of human rights defenders, environmentalists, journalists, and communicators to advancing this agenda.

The intersection between environmental defense and the promotion of a trustworthy information ecosystem is strategic. Socio-environmental issues have been a recurring target of massive disinformation strategies, and the people who work to defend them have likewise been a recurring target of hate speech campaigns. Ensuring the production and circulation of accurate, consistent, and reliable information is fundamental to information integrity, and it runs through the centrality of journalism sustainability and of the protection of human rights defenders, environmentalists, journalists, and communicators.

A pillar of democratic societies and an essential mechanism for access to information and the safeguarding of human rights, journalism plays a central role in the integrity of the information ecosystem. In the context of climate emergency, this function takes on an even more strategic dimension: the production of high-quality information on climate change guides fundamental public decisions and mobilizes the collective action needed to confront crises. Communication thus becomes an indispensable tool both for democracy and for meeting climate challenges.

It is precisely because of its public-interest nature that journalism must be supported. Today, Brazilian journalism lives a paradox: on the one hand, there has been an expansion in the diversity of formats and voices; on the other, news deserts persist in nearly half of the country's municipalities, resources remain concentrated in large groups, and dependence on digital platforms continues. Added to this picture is the fact that guaranteeing press freedom remains one of the field's main challenges, in a context

1 United Nations, Our Common Agenda – Report of the Secretary-General, 2021. Available at: <**https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/**>.

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marked by physical and digital attacks and by the growing phenomenon of judicial harassment. Ensuring information integrity therefore requires strengthening a journalistic ecosystem that is plural, diverse, sustainable, and protected in its freedom to operate.

Moreover, the overlap between news deserts and critical climate territories complicates this scenario and produces a specific informational vulnerability. The very regions most exposed to the climate crisis coincide with areas lacking local news coverage, leaving populations vulnerable to disinformation during environmental emergencies. This gap undermines access to trustworthy information on climate change, understanding of the urgency of the issue, and preparedness for extreme events, as well as the capacity for community mobilization.

For climate decision-making processes to be truly democratic, they depend on protecting the physical integrity of Indigenous peoples, quilombola communities (communities descended from settlements founded by escaped enslaved people), traditional communities, rural workers, environmentalists, and other activists on the front lines of the fight against climate change. Moreover, these populations hold historical knowledge of environmental management and conservation that must be respected—and, indeed, replicated – so that we can keep global warming targets within parameters reasonable for human survival.

Protecting those committed to sharing reliable information about the environment and the climate means safeguarding a healthy flow of information capable of shaping public policies at the local, national, regional, and global levels, as well as the individual decisions of citizens. In this context, environmental defenders play an important role in promoting the integrity of environmental information, acting as mediators between technical data, local realities, and the public debate.

Because they are often embedded in their territories, environmental defenders generally hold deep and relevant knowledge of effective mechanisms for protecting the environment. The defense of land, biodiversity, and ways of life is inseparable from the defense of information integrity. Protecting them therefore also means protecting ecosystems and the integrity of environmental knowledge itself. Likewise, communicators are usually embedded in the very contexts they cover and are often directly affected by the reality they report on. Furthermore, socio-environmental journalism suffers systematic threats to press freedom.

Disinformation is often weaponized to attack communicators, activists, and scientists working on the climate agenda. The silencing of these people can take different forms: imposed or self-imposed censorship (especially in cases where threats and attacks are recurrent and abandoning the work becomes the only way out), online attacks (through the demoralization of their work, harassment, or even content takedowns), offline attacks, and murder. This silencing, in turn, opens spaces within the information ecosystem that can then be occupied by false and implausible content.

Thus, there is no climate information integrity without guaranteeing the physical and digital security of these actors. Promoting freedom of expression and of the press means adopting measures of protection, redress, and guarantees of safe operation for all who make up the information ecosystem.

Against this backdrop, this document is organized in two parts: the sustainability of journalism, and the protection of journalists, communicators, and environmentalists. After contextualizing these themes, it presents recommendations for strengthening the Brazilian information ecosystem by promoting plural and diverse communication and journalism and by upholding the rights of human rights defenders.

2. Sustainability of journalism

2.1. The Brazilian context and challenges for journalism sustainability

2.1.1. Territorial inequalities and digital expansion

Brazilian journalism covers a vast and highly diverse territory, but it faces inequalities that undermine its sustainability. Although the country has more than 14,000 active news outlets, their distribution remains fragmented: 2,504 municipalities (45% of the total) are still classified as news deserts, without any local coverage, affecting 20.6 million people (10% of the country's population).[2] The 8.9% growth in digital outlets between 2023 and 2025 – 467 new initiatives, mostly small – reduced the national news-desert rate by 7.7%, lifting 208 municipalities out of that condition, but the effects of digital expansion are still insufficient to structurally reverse this imbalance.

Regional asymmetries reinforce this diagnosis. In the Northeast, 49.6% of municipalities remain without local coverage. Where outlets do exist, coverage is sustained above all by community radio stations. The North shows proportional growth from a historically small base (42.8% of its municipalities are considered deserts), with vast Amazonian areas lacking journalistic coverage. In the Center-West (30.4% of deserts), radio still plays a central role, with digital outlets concentrated in mid-sized cities. By contrast, the Southeast has consolidated its position as the best-served region, even though, proportionally, 49.7% of its municipalities have no local coverage at all. The South, in turn, has a track record of shrinking news deserts – today 38% of municipalities lack coverage – but also significant numbers of outlet closures (501 organizations, mostly print, in 2025).

Digital expansion, driven largely by community collectives and hyperlocal outlets, is accompanied by a movement to found and strengthen outlets that seek to correct asymmetries by prioritizing coverage of race, gender, and the environment.[3] Even so, journalistic production remains concentrated in state capitals and metropolitan regions, anchored in the urban political and economic agenda, while the environment, science, human rights, and culture remain underrepresented.

2 Atlas da Notícia. (2025). *Atlas da Notícia – Versão 7.0*. Instituto para o Desenvolvimento do Jornalismo (Projor) e Volt Data Lab. Available at: **https://atlas.jor.br/atlas-v-7/relatorio-analitico-atlas-2025**

3 Ajor – Associação de Jornalismo Digital. (2023). *Projeto Oasis: Relatório*. Available at:**https://www.ajor.org.br**

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Data from Atlas da Notícia confirm that 24%[4] of mapped outlets are concentrated in capitals and metropolitan regions, reproducing dynamics observed in countries such as India, Nigeria, and Indonesia, where metropolises centralize news production in contrast to structurally underserved rural areas.[5]

Although the expansion of internet access in the country has favored the emergence of new journalistic initiatives, the difficulty of ensuring meaningful connectivity[6] for the Brazilian population directly affects how information is produced, distributed, and consumed in the country.

2.1.2. Economic fragility and technological dependence

Although the Brazilian journalistic ecosystem has grown in the number of initiatives, the structural crisis persists – a global pattern of revenue contraction in the sector has been observed in more than 70% of countries.[7] In Brazil, this fragility takes on particular contours because of the accelerated migration of advertising investment to digital platforms. In 2024, the internet received nearly the same volume of investment as broadcast television: 39.8% versus 42.4% of the R$26.3 billion spent on advertising. In the first quarter of 2025, digital held 36.5% of investment and television concentrated 46.5%, while print media was restricted to just 1.4% of the total.[8] The decline in print advertising investment largely explains the closure of traditional newspapers, contributing to the desertification of entire municipalities and regions.

Digital advertising investment, however, does not reach newsrooms: in 2024, 81% of those resources went to social media and search channels, while 19% was invested in publishers.[9] The result of this concentration creates a tripod of vulnerabilities: technological dependence, concentration of resources, and the economic fragility of news outlets.

The effects are even more severe for independent outlets. In a report produced by the Fundo de Apoio ao Jornalismo (Journalism Support Fund) among 181 respondents, 60% of organizations have teams of up to five people who take on every function—from editorial production to fundraising—and operate, for the most part, on their own resources or one-off project grants.[10]

4 Atlas da Notícia. (2025). Atlas da Notícia – Versão 7.0. Instituto para o Desenvolvimento do Jornalismo (Projor) e Volt Data Lab. Available at: **https://atlas.jor.br/atlas-v-7/relatorio-analitico-atlas-2025**

5 Enabling Media Markets to Work for Democracy: An International Fund for Public Interest Media. (2021). Available at: **https://ifpim.org/resources/feasibility-study/**

6 The concept of meaningful connectivity reflects the understanding that internet access goes beyond mere availability, so as to ensure that an individual's online experience is safe, satisfying, enriching, productive, and affordable. Beyond the internet connection itself, it therefore involves access to adequate devices, digital skills, and use that generates real social value. According to Cetic.br, 34% of the Brazilian population is at the lowest level of meaningful connectivity, while only 22% were at the highest level. There is a larger share of individuals in the upper band of meaningful connectivity in urban areas (24%) than in rural areas (5%). In addition, the South and Southeast regions posted the highest percentages of population at the top level (33% and 28%, respectively), while the Northeast and North recorded the lowest (11% and 12%, respectively). See: CETIC.BR (2024). Conectividade significativa: propostas para medição e o retrato da população no Brasil. Available at: **https://**

cetic.br/media/docs/publicacoes/7/20240606115919/estudos_setoriais-conectividade_significativa.pdf

7 Enabling Media Markets to Work for Democracy: An International Fund for Public Interest Media. (2021). Available at: **https://ifpim.org/resources/feasibility-study/**

8 Cenp-Meios. (2025). Painel 2025 – Janeiro a Março Available at:**https://www.cenp.com.br/cenp-meios-relatorios/painel-janeiro-a-marco-2025**

9 IAB Brasil (2024). Digital AD Spend. Available at: **<https://iabbrasil.com.br/pesquisa-digital-adspend-2024/>**

10 Felizi, N., & Weingrill, N. (2025). Descentralizar, ampliar e aprofundar: o financiamento do jornalismo no Brasil. Fundo de Apoio ao Jornalismo. **https://fundodejornalismo.com.br/**

Philanthropic funding, in turn, with its small amounts and short-term grants, reproduces the same asymmetries observed on other fronts. Between 2022 and 2023, the ten leading foundations investing in journalism in the country allocated about US$16 million to 81 organizations, but half of that amount was concentrated in just nine of them. The geographic distribution also reveals patterns of inequality: 79% of supported organizations are located in the Southeast[11] - a region that is home to 31% of journalistic organizations, according to Atlas da Notícia.

In parallel, dependence on digital platforms for content distribution consolidates a new axis of vulnerability. Google, Meta, YouTube, and TikTok have become the main channels for reaching audiences,[12] concentrating not only control over data and advertising infrastructure but also discretionary power over the visibility and circulation of journalistic content.

This dynamic reflects a structural transformation in information consumption habits. Between 2016 and 2025, the internet jumped from being the main medium for 26% of the population to the information-access platform for 73% of Brazilians, with WhatsApp (39%) and Instagram (36%) surpassing broadcast TV in daily reach (Digital News Report, 2025). This migration consolidates private intermediation as an unavoidable bottleneck between news producers and consumers.

The emergence of generative artificial intelligence introduces an additional layer of risk. Data from the Pew Research Center[13] indicate that most users do not click on links when search engines display AI-generated results. Studies in Latin American countries confirm a consistent downward trend in traffic directed to news sites, with platforms retaining audiences within their own environments.[14]

If the technological dimension introduces new challenges, the political-institutional dimension reveals equally problematic contradictions. From a normative standpoint, government advertising has a specific public function: to ensure that information of collective interest – essential services, public policies, health campaigns, citizen-participation processes, among others – reaches the population, giving effect to the constitutional right to information. However, the concentration of resources in digital platforms and large journalistic organizations makes it harder for part of the population to access such information. Promoting diversification in the distribution of these resources—guaranteeing allocations directed to journalistic organizations in every state, and especially to local, community, and thematic journalism – can support the public purpose of government advertising.

The picture is completed by the absence of regulatory frameworks suited to the technological transformations under way. The lack of public policies to foster journalism and access to technology, of specific regulations for the development and use of artificial intelligence, and of mechanisms ensuring fair remuneration for the use of journalistic

11 idem.

12 University of Oxford, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism. (2025). Digital news report 2025. Oxford: University of Oxford.

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13 Pew Research Center. (2025). Google users are less likely to click on links when an AI summary appears in the results. **https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/07/22/google-users-are-less-likely-to-click-on-links-when-an-ai-summary-appears-in-the-results/**

14 Martínez Elebi, C. (2025, 24 de junho). IA de Google reduce el tráfico a medios de comunicación y agrava su sostenibilidad. Observacom. **https://www.observacom.org/ia-de-google-reduce-el-trafico-a-medios-de-comunicacion-y-agrava-su-sostenibilidad/**

content on digital platforms deepens the imbalances identified.[15] This regulatory vacuum exposes journalism to unfair competition from synthetic content, accelerates the spread of disinformation, and contributes to the systematic erosion of public trust in quality information.

2.1.3. Constrained Innovation

To work around these challenges, a range of initiatives is exploring digital formats aimed at expanding reach and diversifying revenue: segmented newsletters, thematic podcasts, live broadcasts, interactive infographics, and low-cost audiovisual productions combine editorial creativity with financial sustainability. They also combine new distribution and production strategies, such as pairing environmental journalism with social technologies for collaborative mapping, radio stations that incorporate streaming, and strategies to strengthen the transparency of public information. In addition, technological development in fact-checking, product innovation such as chatbots, and partnerships with local businesses are examples of how journalism has been seeking solutions.[16]

However, innovation is constrained by structural inequalities that limit access to physical and digital infrastructure, technical knowledge, and staff, especially in rural and peripheral areas. The absence of policies for developing technological solutions for journalism and the high cost of software leave a large share of the country's journalistic organizations on the margins of innovation. The country also lacks digital-skills training policies – from the ethical use of AI to audience analytics – which restricts the ability to scale initiatives.[17] Without stable funding, cooperation networks, and technical training, it will not be possible to systematically change this picture of inequality and strengthen the journalistic ecosystem in Brazil.

2.1.4. Integrated policies

International organizations have already established clear guidelines for strengthening journalistic ecosystems. The *Global Principles for Information Integrity*[18] define five fundamental pillars to that end: social trust, pluralistic media, incentives for quality production, media literacy, and transparency of digital platforms.

Brazil remains far from these guidelines. All five pillars show critical weaknesses: social trust eroded by disinformation, plurality compromised by geographic and economic concentration, incentives that are scarce and unequal, media literacy limited to one-off initiatives, and platform transparency that is practically nonexistent. This picture results, fundamentally, from the absence of a national multi-stakeholder policy integrating government, civil society, the private sector, and academia to confront, in a coordinated way, the structural inequalities identified and presented above.

15 Repórteres sem Fronteiras. (2025). Brasil: RSF pede uma regulação da inteligência artificial à altura dos desafios da informação. **https://rsf.org/pt-br/brasil-rsf-pede-uma-regula%C3%A7%C3%A3o-da-intelig%C3%AAncia-artificial-%C3%A0-altura-dos-desafios-da-informa%C3%A7%C3%A3o**

16 Ajor – Associação de Jornalismo Digital. (2023). Projeto Oasis: Relatório. **https://ajor.org.br/wp-content/ uploads/2025/02/AJOR-project_oasis-relatorio_V5.pdf**

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17 UNESCO. (2021). Media and information literacy for the Sustainable Development Goals. UNESCO Digital Library. **https:// unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380455**

18 Nações Unidas. (2024). Princípios globais para a integridade da informação. **https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/ policy-briefs**

International experience shows that only integrated public-policy frameworks can balance the relationship among national, regional, and local outlets and global digital platforms, reduce asymmetries, and ensure that public-interest information becomes truly accessible and plural.

UNESCO advocates for national funds to support independent media, with multi-stakeholder governance, transparency, and rules that ensure diversity in the distribution of resources.

2.2. Recommendations

2.2.1. Communication

2.2.1.1. National policy to strengthen public-interest journalism

Create a national policy that recognizes journalism as a public good, including the creation of a fund managed by a multi-stakeholder council and public funding calls dedicated to journalism, along with specific thematic lines to strengthen local journalism, human rights coverage, efforts to confront news deserts, and other topics of public interest.

2.2.1.2. Diversity in the distribution of government advertising funds

Define clear, public parameters for allocating government advertising resources, considering criteria beyond audience size, ensuring plurality of formats and the allocation of resources across all states of the federation, with concentration limits per economic group and fixed percentages earmarked for local and community outlets and for those serving historically marginalized communities.

2.2.1.3. Inclusion of journalism as an explicit object of institutional sponsorship

Adapt the sponsorship programs of state-owned companies and public agencies to include journalism as a priority area, creating specific lines for outlets working on strategic topics (the environment, science, culture, human rights, among others) and in underrepresented regions, strengthening the State's institutional role in fostering public-interest journalism.

2.2.2. Environment

2.2.2.1. Inclusion of the promotion of journalism in international environmental agreements

Ensure that socio-environmental journalism is recognized in multilateral treaties and commitments as part of the infrastructure of climate governance, incorporating specific support clauses into international negotiations and regional cooperation mechanisms in order to confront environmental disinformation.

2.2.2.2. Support for socio-environmental journalism

Create continuous funding lines for outlets and initiatives dedicated to socio-environmental coverage, especially in territories affected by deforestation, mining, and extreme events, guaranteeing the conditions for journalists working in high-risk contexts – who often face violence and a lack of resources – to fulfill their central role in making conflicts visible and promoting access to information.

2.2.2.3. Guaranteed participation of communicators, journalists, and environmental defenders in environmental decision-making processes

Establish mechanisms that ensure the presence of journalists and communicators – especially those from traditional, peripheral, and favela communities – on the councils and bodies that formulate and monitor environmental policies at the local, state, federal, and international levels, recognizing that their participation lends legitimacy to decisions, incorporates territorial knowledge, and helps promote information integrity.

2.2.3. Science, Technology, and Innovation

2.2.3.1. Creation of a national journalism support fund focused on infrastructure and technological innovation

Establish a dedicated fund for the acquisition of equipment, meaningful connectivity, the modernization of local newsrooms, and the development of outlets' own content-distribution channels, inspired by international experiences, with decentralized regional funding calls.

2.2.3.2. Guaranteed inclusion of journalism in innovation-promotion policies, in the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, and in the Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Plan

Include, in innovation-incentive policies, in the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, and in the National Artificial Intelligence Plan, specific action and funding lines for the development of the information ecosystem.

2.2.3.3. Inclusion of journalism in the Policy for the Promotion, Popularization, and Dissemination of Science

Include journalism as a strategic pillar of the Policy for the Promotion, Popularization, and Dissemination of Science, guaranteeing funding lines in programs of the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation that support journalistic organizations in communicating scientific discoveries in accessible language and in producing content geared toward the integrity of climate information.

2.2.3.4. Production of national research and censuses on information access and consumption

Conduct periodic research to map information access, use, and production, infrastructure challenges, consumption habits, funding, and employability, and promote partnerships with research institutions for specific studies on information consumption and the journalism market, so that public policies to promote a trustworthy information ecosystem are grounded in evidence.

2.2.4. Education

2.2.4.1. Integration of journalism into national media literacy policies

Establish agreements between the Ministry of Education and journalism associations to produce teaching kits, school workshops, and intergenerational programs, and to use libraries and community centers as information hubs, expanding grassroots reach in line with UNESCO's recommendation to treat media literacy as a pillar of the promotion of information integrity.

2.2.4.2. Support for collaborative journalism programs with schools and universities

Encourage journalism-practice projects linked to school and university curricula, with community internships, residencies, and fellowships directed toward news deserts,

strengthening civic education and expanding local and thematic coverage.

2.2.4.3. Incentives for journalism training oriented toward strategic public-interest topics

Create training lines focused on covering climate change, public health, social inequality, and human rights, including thematic modules in training fellowships geared toward promoting the integrity of information on climate change.

2.2.5. Culture

2.2.5.1. Strengthening the connection between journalism and the National "Cultura Viva" Policy (PNCV)

Integrate the Pontos de Cultura Digital and Mídia Livre programs (digital-culture and free-media hubs) as spaces of support for local and community journalism, expanding cultural diversity and ensuring that cultural policies include journalistic production and circulation in a structured way.

3. Protection of Journalists, Communicators, and Environmentalists

3.1. The Brazilian context and challenges for the protection of journalists, communicators, and environmentalists

The protection of journalists, communicators, and environmentalists is central to guaranteeing the production and circulation of high-quality information on climate change, and it is therefore essential to strengthening the integrity of information on climate change. Standing on the front lines and mediating the public debate on the climate agenda, they directly influence public policies and mobilizations on the issue, yet they face systematic physical and digital violence and judicial harassment aimed at making their work unviable.

3.1.1. Attacks on press freedom

In recent years, Brazil has experienced significant swings in the level and nature of attacks on the press. After a period of aggressive anti-media rhetoric during the administration of Jair Bolsonaro (PL), press freedom data show a drop in the absolute number of cases of violence against journalists and communicators. In 2022, monitoring by Abraji (the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism) recorded 557 episodes of violence against professionals and outlets; in 2023, that number fell to 330; and in 2024, to 210. Fenaj (the National Federation of Journalists) also recorded a reduction: 181 attacks in 2023 and 144 in 2024, the lowest level since 2018.

This decline, however, should not be read as a sign of structural improvement in the environment in which the press operates. The scenario remains marked by serious risks, both physical and judicial. The quantitative reduction was accompanied by worrying qualitative shifts: the share of physical assaults, intimidation, and threats grew proportionally, accounting for an ever-larger portion of total incidents. In 2024, 40.9% of recorded episodes involved serious violence, up from 38.2% in 2023.[19]

19 Abraji – Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo. (2025). *Desafios do jornalismo em 2025:*

Assédio judicial contra jornalistas.

3.1.1.1. From physical violence to judicial harassment

Direct violence remains a reality for communicators. Cases such as shots fired at reporting teams, journalists' cars hit by gunfire, and threats from local authorities show that intimidation remains part of the profession's daily life. In 2024, according to Fenaj, there were 30 recorded physical assaults and 27 direct threats. Although no deaths were recorded, the concrete risks are evident and affect both professionals' safety and society's right to information.

In parallel, the phenomenon of judicial harassment is growing. Civil and criminal lawsuits rose from 7.9% of cases in 2023 to 9% in 2024, according to Abraji. Fenaj reinforces this finding: about 16% of the attacks in 2024 involved abusive use of the justice system. This practice—driven above all by politicians, business leaders, and religious leaders—aims to impose financial, psychological, and professional costs, functioning as a form of indirect censorship. It is a more veiled threat, but one with great potential to wear down and silence.

3.1.1.2. Gender-based violence and the changing profile of aggressors

Another aspect that sharpens the challenge is the rise in gender-based violence in the context of journalistic work. In 2024, 31% of attacks had this character, six percentage points more than in 2023.[20] Women journalists, cis and trans, face an additional layer of vulnerability, with attacks that frequently combine threats to their physical integrity, defamation on social media, and attempts at discrediting based on misogynistic stereotypes.

In addition, the profile of aggressors has changed in an important way. For the first time since 2019, the main perpetrators were not state agents but ordinary citizens—among them, public figures without elected office.[21] This finding points to the spread of a hostile rhetoric against the press that, even after the end of the Bolsonaro administration, continues to reverberate across different social strata, especially in digital environments, where hate speech and disinformation act as triggers for in-person attacks.

3.1.1.3. Contexts of heightened risk: journalism in the Amazon

Practicing journalism in areas of greater political and socio-environmental vulnerability, such as the Amazon region, poses specific challenges. A report by Abraji and FLIP highlights that local reporters work under constant pressure from authorities and economic groups. Outlets' financial dependence on public and private funds compromises editorial autonomy, while independent initiatives face funding difficulties.

Over the past decade, 230 episodes of violence against journalists were recorded in the Legal Amazon alone, intensifying in election years.[22] Precarious working conditions exponentially amplify the risks for environmental journalists.

20 Abraji – Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo. (2025). *Desafios do jornalismo em 2025: Assédio judicial contra jornalistas*.

21 Abraji – Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo. (2025). *Desafios do jornalismo em 2025: Assédio judicial contra jornalistas*. Available at: **https://www.abraji.org.br/noticias/desafios-do-jornalismo-em-2025-assedio-judicial-contra-jornalistas**.

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22 Instituto Vladimir Herzog. (2024). *Fronteiras da informação: Jornalismo e violência na Amazônia*. Available at: **https://vladimirherzog.org**

Freelancers and independent communicators, who frequently cover socio-environmental crimes without safety protocols or legal support, become preferred targets of illegal actors and local elites. Killings and disappearances, concentrated in the Amazon, expose the convergence between the absence of the State in border regions and journalism's critical role in denouncing environmental and human rights violations.

In this context, journalists who investigate land conflicts, environmental crimes, or human rights violations become preferred targets of threats and assaults. Fear of retaliation frequently leads to self-censorship, undermining the press's social function in strategic and politically sensitive territories.

3.1.1.4. Between isolated advances and persistent hostility

The balance of recent years reveals a paradox: even though the absolute numbers of attacks have fallen, the severity indicators and the institutional forms of violence – such as judicial harassment – make the scenario equally or even more worrying. Hostility toward journalists remains a structural phenomenon in the country, sustained by hate speech circulating above all on social media and by institutional practices that seek to constrain journalistic activity.

According to Reporters Without Borders, over the past decade Brazil has become the second most dangerous country in Latin America for the practice of journalism, with at least 30 professionals killed in that period. The most frequent targets are communicators in small and mid-sized cities—bloggers, radio broadcasters, and independent journalists—who investigate corruption and local politics, often in contexts of weak institutional protection. In 2022, for example, three killings were directly related to journalistic activity, among them that of British reporter Dom Phillips, murdered in the Amazon while investigating environmental crimes in Indigenous territories.

The absence of recorded deaths in 2024 does not eliminate the risks: attempts at intimidation, physical assaults, judicial censorship, and the growth of gender-based violence make up a picture that continues to place Brazilian press freedom under threat. The current challenge is not only to reduce the number of attacks, but to confront the persistence of silencing strategies that have become part of the profession's daily life.

3.1.1.5. The Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators, and Environmentalists

The Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators, and Environmentalists (PPDDH), established by Decree No. 9,937/2019, which monitors 940 active cases, has structural limitations: low uptake among journalists and coverage in only four of the nine Amazonian states. This institutional fragmentation reveals that the protection of the press has not been incorporated as a strategic component of this policy: despite the express inclusion of communicators in the program's name, journalists and communicators are severely underrepresented within the PPDDH. These professionals face specific risks, often aggravated by invisibility, by local coverage contexts, and by their very underrepresentation in the Program.

It is essential to reinforce the effective inclusion and protection of journalists and communicators within the Program, given the essential role they play for democracy, for the plurality of voices, and for the guarantee of the right to information. Special attention should also be paid to environmental journalism, given the gravity of the threats faced by professionals who investigate environmental crimes, illegal deforestation, predatory mining, and other rights violations, above all in the Amazon region. In these territories, where violence against communicators and environmental defenders reaches critical

levels, it is urgent to strengthen rapid-response mechanisms, institutional integration, and cooperation with local civil society organizations.

To that end, the Sales Pimenta Technical Working Group (GTT) – collective installed in 2023, composed of representatives of civil society and the federal government, and created through a court decision ordering the federal government to draw up the National Plan for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders – has prepared its proposed plan. Advancing the protection of human rights defenders, including journalists and communicators, depends on the plan's approval and implementation. Its institutionalization is an indispensable condition for guaranteeing legal certainty, predictability, and the effectiveness of protective measures.

The ministerial order regulating the PPDDH establishes a broad concept of communicators, encompassing not only professional journalists but also community, independent, grassroots, and digital communicators at risk. This inclusive approach is fundamental to ensuring that journalists and communicators – especially those working in contexts of greater vulnerability, such as the Amazon and environmental journalism – can carry out their work freely and without fear of reprisal. It is also important to ensure that the PPDDH is aligned with the reality of the country's journalistic ecosystem.

3.1.2. The vulnerability of environmental defenders

In recent years, Latin America has recorded the highest rates in the world of killings of environmental defenders. According to Global Witness data, in 2023 at least 196 environmental defenders were killed worldwide—85% of them in Latin America. Of that number, at least 25 deaths were recorded in Brazil (with a cumulative total of 401 killings since 2012), making the country one of the most affected, especially in regions of high biodiversity and land conflict, such as the Legal Amazon.[23]

Beyond physical violence, environmental defenders, including journalists and communicators, face growing digital threats—at times, even from state agents.[24] In a recent Global Witness survey[25] of defenders around the world, about 92% of respondents said they had suffered some form of online attack or harassment.

3.1.2.1. Obstacles to meaningful connectivity

These attacks and threats, however, begin with the existence of major obstacles to meaningful internet access, which disproportionately affect the communities most engaged in environmental defense in Brazil and Latin America. A study

23 GLOBAL WITNESS (2024). Vozes Silenciadas: a violência contra as pessoas defensoras da terra e do meio ambiente. Available at: **https://globalwitness.org/pt/campaigns/land-and-environmental-defenders/vozes-silenciadas/#assassinatos**

24 APC; ARTIGO19; DERECHOS DIGITALES; INTERVOZES (2023). Contribuição de partes interessadas 41ª Sessão período – Brasil. Available at: **https://www.derechosdigitales.org/wp-content/uploads/UPR_Brazil-PT2.pdf**

25 GLOBAL WITNESS (2025). Plataformas Toxicas, Planeta em Colapso. Available at: **https://globalwitness.org/pt/ campaigns/digital-threats/plataformas-toxicas-planeta-em-colapso/**

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conducted by Derechos Digitales with Idec points to structural barriers to internet access in the Brazilian Amazon, such as "intermittent electric power supply and weak, unstable telephone signal in the locality," leaving the population with a sense of digital exclusion.[26]

This low level of meaningful access to the internet and to digital technologies in general undermines the capacity of groups and activists to access and produce critical information—including on safe internet use and self-protection—and to take part in public debates on environmental policies and conflicts. It also limits their production of content publicizing their work and the violence surrounding it, as well as the development of innovative solutions for environmental protection.[27] In this sense, it is a barrier that hinders defenders' environmental activism itself, along with the defense of their safety and their territories.

3.1.2.2. Digital attacks

When they do have internet access, these individuals are also constant targets of rights violations in the digital environment. Digital violence and surveillance have become recurring tools of intimidation.[28] Environmental defenders have been the target of attacks such as disinformation campaigns about their lives and work,[29] account takeovers, and theft of personal data.[30] These practices not only endanger their physical and psychological integrity but also add new layers of obstacles to the continuity of monitoring, reporting, and mobilization efforts in defense of the environment.

This scenario is confirmed by the aforementioned Global Witness survey conducted worldwide. According to its findings, the most common digital threats include attacks on the organizations where these individuals work, as well as on their identities, work, or character (experienced by 77% of respondents). In addition, 73% said they had received direct threats. Also striking are the rates of *doxxing* (56%), cyberattacks such as *phishing*, *malware*, and account hacking (62%), and the non-consensual sharing of personal images (65%).

26 DERECHOS DIGITALES; IDEC (2023). Latin America in a Glimpse: Amazonia - Brasil. Available at: **https://www.derechosdigitales.org/wp-content/uploads/DD_Amazonia_2_Brasil_POR.pdf**

27 Importantes iniciativas vêm sendo conduzidas por ativistas ambientais que envolvem o uso de tecnologias digitais para proteção de seu trabalho e territórios. Um exemplo é o emprego de câmeras de vídeo, drones, GPS, celulares e redes sociais para monitoramento de invasão de terras indígenas. Mais informações e outros exemplos disponíveis em: UOL (2023). Jovens indígenas usam tecnologia como 'arma' para proteger a Amazônia. Available at: https://noticias.uol.com.br/ultimas-noticias/afp/2023/05/03/jovens-indigenas-usam-tecnologia-como-arma-para-proteger-a-amazonia.htm. RIBEIRO (2023). Comunidades indígenas do Xingu usam tecnologia para proteger território de atividades ilegais. Available at: https://portalamazonia.com/inovacao-e-tecnologia/comunidades-indigenas-do-xingu-usam-tecnologia-para-proteger-territorio-de-atividades-ilegais/. DOL (2025). Agentes indígenas usam tecnologia para monitorar e proteger a Floresta Amazônica. Available at: https://cop.dol.com.br/amazonia/agentes-indigenas-usam-tecnologia-para-monitorar-e-proteger-a-floresta-amazonica/5568/

28 DERECHOS DIGITALES (2025). Na mira: Segurança e principais ameaças digitais na América Latina. Available at: https://www.derechosdigitales.org/wp-content/uploads/En-la-Mira_-PT.pdf; DERECHOS DIGITALES; APC (2023). When protection becomes an excuse for criminalisation: Gender considerations on cybercrime frameworks. Available at: https:// www.derechosdigitales.org/wp-content/uploads/gender_considerations_on_cybercrime.pdf

29 DERECHOS DIGITALES; INSTITUTO NUPEF; TEDIC. FUNDACIÓN KARISMA (2025). Contribution to the International

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Partnership for Information and Democracy's call: Addressing Disinformation and Attacks on Information Integrity on Environmental Issues Beyond Climate Change. Available at: https://www.derechosdigitales.org/wp-content/uploads/ Contribucio%CC%81n-completa-final-FID-1.pdf

30 TEDIC; FUNDACIÓN KARISMA (2024). Riesgos digitales para personas defensoras de derechos humanos en Paraguay y Colombia. Available at: https://www.tedic.org/ciber_paraguay_colombia/

Digital insecurity thus becomes an additional factor of silencing and self-censorship. Also, according to Global Witness, the effects most commonly felt by defenders after online attacks are fear for their own safety and physical integrity (63%), anxiety (60%), fear of reputational damage (59%), fear for their families and communities (55%), and lost productivity at work (45%). The fear is such that staying silent can become the only possible way to live and survive.

An important point is that, in many cases of digital attacks against environmental defenders, the difficulty lies not only in identifying their authors or masterminds, but above all in the impunity that marks and feeds this type of violence in Brazil – the result of factors such as corruption and a lack of political will in investigations.[31] Perpetrators and their accomplices often become evident when attacks move from the online environment to the offline world. Also, according to Global Witness, the main offline attacks against defenders include physical threats (45%), threats of criminalization (35%), and actual criminalization (30%). Also of concern are the rates of job loss (22%), physical violence (22%), attacks on their homes (10%), and sexual violence (3%). Furthermore, when asked whether the threats and attacks they suffered online bore any relation to the violence suffered offline, 70% of defenders said yes – partially or directly.

3.1.2.3. Digital surveillance

Digital surveillance has also emerged as a worrying practice in Brazil, marked both by the acquisition of spyware systems[32] and by the use of social media monitoring tools without any regulatory framework to limit or control their application. Moreover, during the administration of former president Jair Bolsonaro (PL), public bodies implemented essentially surveillance-oriented systems[33] and were accused of classifying and tracking people based on their political positions, resulting even in detentions and judicial proceedings based on critical or satirical statements made online.[34]

These episodes compound the growing use of facial recognition technologies in public spaces, which – according to ample evidence produced in Brazil and internationally – not only fail to deliver the public-security results that usually justify their acquisition, but also disproportionately and unjustly

31 AGÊNCIA BRASIL (2024). Impunidade aumenta violência contra defensores de direitos humanos. Available at: https://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/radioagencia-nacional/internacional/audio/2024-03/impunidade-alimenta-violencia-contra-defensores-de-direitos-humanos

32 IstoÉ (2021). Além do Pegasus, Carlos Bolsonaro queria outra ferramenta para espionagem dentro do governo. Available at: https://istoe.com.br/alem-do-pegasus-carlos-bolsonaro-queria-outra-ferramenta-para-espionagem-dentro-do-governo; UOL (2022). Gabinete do ódio busca comprar nova ferramenta espiã intitulada DarkMatter. Available at: https://noticias.uol.com.br/politica/ultimas-noticias/2022/01/17/gabinete-do-odio-usou-viagem-de-bolsonaro-para-negociar-sistema-espiao.htmOSINT/; CNN (2024). FirstMile: como funciona o software espião que teria sido usado pela Abin de Ramagem. Available at: https://www.cnnbrasil.com.br/politica/firstmile-como-funciona-o-software-espiao-que-teria-sido-usado-pela-abin-de-ramagem/.

33 VALENTE; FREITAS (2024). Programa do Ministério da Justiça admite monitorar 'alvo' sem justificativa. Available at: https://noticias.uol.com.br/ultimas-noticias/agencia-publica/2024/10/09/programa-do-mj-permite-monitorar-alvos-sem-justificativa

34 DERECHOS DIGITALES (2024). Perfilamiento en redes sociales y ciberpatrullaje como nuevas modalidades de la vigilancia masiva desplegada por los Estados: casos relevantes en América Latina. Available at: https://www. derechosdigitales.org/wp-content/uploads/Informe-RELE-vigilancia-masiva_cerrado.pdf

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affect Black and Indigenous populations.[35] The absence of transparency and of clear legal frameworks for these practices not only exposes environmental defenders, journalists, and communicators to a heightened risk of criminalization, but also produces a chilling effect on freedom of expression and democratic participation in digital and physical spaces.

3.1.2.4. Gender-based violence

In this scenario, it is important to note that factors such as gender and race aggravate the digital risks of technology-facilitated violence. Conduct such as *stalking*, the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, and *doxxing*[36] disproportionately affects women and LGBTQIA+ human rights defenders, including environmental defenders.[37] This gender-based digital violence has direct impacts on their mental health, physical safety, and capacity to remain politically active.[38] Black and Indigenous women and LGBTQIA+ people are even more vulnerable, given the intersection of gender and racial inequalities that run so deep in the Brazilian and Latin American context.

At the same time, national cybersecurity regulations – notably the National Cybersecurity Policy (Decree No. 11,856/2023) and the National Cybersecurity Strategy (Decree No. 12,573/2025) – do not consider the overlapping layers of oppression that affect these groups and demand specific, intersectional responses.

3.1.2.5. The architecture of social media

Social media platforms, while contributing to the democratization of communication and the dissemination of information about environmental defense, also impose structural barriers to the visibility and reach of the work carried out by environmental and community organizations. Automated moderation, often lacking knowledge of local context, leads to the removal or reduced reach of legitimate content, while disinformation

35 CESEC; DPU (2025). Mapeando a vigilância biométrica: levantamento nacional sobre o uso do reconhecimento facial na segurança pública. Available at: https://direitoshumanos.dpu.def.br/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/CESeC DPU_Mapeando_a_vigilancia_biometrica.pdf

36 Sobre condutas que configuram violência de gênero facilitada por tecnologias e suas definições, consultar: Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Its Causes and Consequences on online violence against women and girls from a human rights perspective (2018). Available at: https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1641160?v=pdf; e Luchadoras and SocialTic. Take back the tech! (2018). Available at: https://www.takebackthetech.net/

37 FUNDACIÓN MULTITUDES (2024). Online Gender-Based Violence Against Women Environmental and Human Rights Defenders in Latin America. Available at: https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/2024-11/online_gender-based_violence_against_women_environmental_and_ human_rights_defenders_in_latin_america.pdf; TEDIC; FUNDACIÓN KARISMA (2024). Riesgos digitales para personas defensoras de derechos humanos en Paraguay y Colombia.

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Available at: https://www.tedic.org/ciber_paraguay_colombia/; UN WOMEN (2024). How women human rights defenders are under threat worldwide. Available at: https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/how-women-human-rights-defenders-are-under-threat-worldwide

38 Ibid

and harassment campaigns circulate more widely.[39] The absence of technical support, algorithmic transparency, and effective reporting channels reinforces the informational power imbalance.[40] Not by chance, two-thirds of respondents to the Global Witness survey hold that the platforms' business model has in some way aggravated the violence they suffered – especially the polarizing character of algorithms in promoting content considered extreme, and the lack of investment in good content-moderation practices.

In the Global Witness survey, Facebook was identified as the stage for attacks by 62% of respondents – and, by a considerable margin, X (formerly Twitter) and WhatsApp come second and third (cited by 37% and 36% of participants, respectively). Overall, 82% of survey participants reported that the attacks occurred on a platform owned by Meta.

3.1.3. The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (the Escazú Agreement) was signed by Brazil in 2018 and has been before the National Congress for ratification since May 2023. It represents an important step forward for confronting climate disinformation, promoting information integrity, combating environmental crimes,[41] and protecting human rights defenders, communicators, and environmentalists.

As regards the invaluable work of environmental communicators and journalists, as well as environmental defenders, two major contributions of the Escazú Agreement stand out: (i) confronting environmental corruption and promoting informational integrity; and (ii) protecting people who communicate and make public denunciations within the climate agenda.

3.1.3.1. Confronting environmental corruption and promoting informational integrity

Brazil has model legislation for promoting access to information, grounded in the constitutional recognition of this right as a democratic pillar. Since 1988, the country has operated under the principle of maximum disclosure, with secrecy as the exception,

39 Em estudo lançado em 2025, o Center for Democracy and Technology analisou como redes sociais moderam conteúdo em idiomas e dialetos do Sul Global considerados de "baixo recurso" devido à escassez de dados de treinamento disponíveis para desenvolver modelos de IA justos e precisos que os compreendam. Ainda que o estudo não tenha focado em idiomas ou dialetos adotados no Brasil, seus resultados apontam para a limitação das políticas de moderação de conteúdo adotadas pelas grandes plataformas digitais. Também indicam a crescente preocupação de usuários do Sul Global sobre a crescente circulação de conteúdo desinformativo e de discurso de ódio, ao lado da sensação de aumento de remoções equivocadas de conteúdo legítimo – compreendida em alguns casos como "desejo das grandes empresas de silenciar suas vozes". Mais informação Available at: CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND TECHNOLOGY (2025). Content Moderation in the Global South: A Comparative Study of Four Low-Resource Languages. Available at: https://cdt.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/20250628-2-Comparative-final.pdf

40 FUNDACIÓN KARISMA (2025). Conectando las causas: el trabajo de sociedad civil y medios independientes en redes sociales es un desafío. Available at: https://web.karisma.org.co/conectando-las-causas-el-trabajo-de-sociedad-civil-y-medios-independientes-en-redes-sociales-es-un-desafio/

41 Manifestação de apoio do CTICC à ratificação do Acordo de Escazú pelo Congresso Nacional. Available at: https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2025/06/cticc-emite-documento-de-manifestacao-de-apoio-a-ratificacao-do-acordo-de-escazu-pelo-congresso-nacional/ManifestaoCTICCratificaodoAcordodeEscaz_12_05_2025.docx.docx1.pdf

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as a foundation of public administration. It was from 2003 onward, however, with Law No. 10,650/2003 and the establishment of the National Environmental System (SISNAMA), that the country introduced specific provisions for the proactive sharing of environmental information of public interest.

This framework was further reinforced in 2012, with the entry into force of the Access to Information Law (Law No. 12,527/2011), which grounds the principle of transparency in human rights parameters, sets limits on secrecy, and creates possibilities for both active and passive access to information. What the Escazú Agreement can provide is the strengthening of this framework, driving the creation of more efficient and robust mechanisms for producing environmental data and information, while respecting what is already established in Brazilian legislation.

In parallel, given the Agreement's capacity-building and cooperation provisions (Articles 10 to 12), ratification could place Brazil at the center of this exchange as a regional powerhouse in the promotion of information.

At the local level, the broad dissemination of environmental information can deter environmental crimes and corruption. One of the very purposes of transparency in public administration is to curb corruption by making it more traceable and harder to carry out. In the case of other environmental crimes, transparency raises the cost for companies and public bodies involved in their occurrence – a matter of national interest, since a large share of these crimes take place in border regions.

3.1.3.2. Protection of people who communicate and make public denunciations within the climate agenda

The Escazú Agreement is an innovative instrument in that it treats environmental defenders as direct beneficiaries of its principles. In the field of climate information integrity, protecting people who disseminate information and blow the whistle in relation to the environmental agenda is fundamental so that public officials can act on cases of corruption and environmental crime. In this sense, the very promotion of transparency on these issues can be considered a protection mechanism, since it leaves those who make such denunciations less exposed and better supported.

Moreover, as already mentioned, Brazil already has a program for the protection of defenders—and, since 2024, a proposed National Plan for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.[42] This public-policy framework can benefit directly from capacity-building processes with other countries—an exchange that would be extremely positive for countries that do not yet have similar public policies.

3.2. Recommendations

3.2.1. Broad protections for journalists, communicators, and environmental defenders

3.2.1.1. Adoption of legal redress mechanisms

42 For more, go to: https://www.gov.br/participamaisbrasil/12-12-proposta-final-plano-nacional-de-protecao-as-defensoras-e-aos-defensores-de-direitos-humanos

Establish legal redress mechanisms consistent with the obligation to provide journalists, communicators, and environmental defenders with effective remedies against rights violations.

3.2.1.2. Strengthening the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Communicators, and Environmentalists

- Fully implement the National Plan for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders proposed by the Sales Pimenta Technical Working Group.[43]
- Guarantee the approval and full implementation of the Plan proposed by the Sales Pimenta Technical Working Group, including so as to incorporate digital security into the protection programs for human rights defenders and environmental defenders.
- Expand outreach on the mechanisms available for the protection of defenders, journalists, and communicators, online and offline.
- Promote the participation of communicators in the Program for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.
- Adopt outreach, accessibility, and training strategies regarding the PPDDH's tools so as to broaden communicators' participation in the program.

3.2.2. Production of information to support protection policies

3.2.2.1. Production and publication of data on human rights violations on the internet

Systematize and publicly disseminate information on the cases handled through the Disque-100/Disque Direitos Humanos service (the Dial 100 human rights hotline) and the Observatório da Violência Contra Jornalistas e Comunicadores Sociais (Observatory of Violence Against Journalists and Social Communicators) concerning attacks of a digital nature, so that this information can support the formulation of public policies and other protection initiatives, based on anonymization parameters that guarantee victims' privacy.

3.2.3. Protection of journalists and press freedom

3.2.3.1. Adoption of an investigation protocol for cases involving journalists, communicators, or journalistic organizations

Establish an investigation protocol with objective procedures that guarantee respect for the press freedom assured to journalists, communicators, and journalistic organizations.

3.2.3.2. Digital protection for journalists, communicators, and environmental defenders

43 Plano Nacional de Proteção a Defensoras e Defensores dos Direitos Humanos. Available at: https://agenciagov.ebc.com.br/noticias/202412/com-ampla-participacao-popular-plano-nacional-para-proteger-defensores-de-direitos-humanos-tem-primeira-versao-consolidada

3.2.3.2.1. Support for the capacity-building and training of agents involved in investigating attacks on human rights in the digital environment

Train the teams responsible for investigating reports of attacks in the digital environment.

Offer training in human rights, digital security, and techniques for collecting and preserving digital evidence.

3.2.3.2.2. Promotion of the digital security of women and LGBTQIA+ human rights defenders

Create specific strategies to guarantee the digital security of women and LGBTQIA+ human rights defenders, including environmental defenders and communicators.

3.2.3.2.3. Support for digital security training programs

Support and fund community digital security training programs.

Create mechanisms to guarantee the security and sustainability of the civil society organizations and activists that provide digital security support to human rights defenders, and train leaders on the subject who can multiply knowledge and serve as points of reference in the event of digital attacks.

3.2.3.3. Guarantee of meaningful, self-determined internet access

3.2.3.3.1. Strengthening meaningful, self-determined internet access

Establish national connectivity targets for Indigenous, quilombola, and traditional territories, with a transparent public budget and meaningful participation by the affected populations in the development and monitoring of the resulting digital inclusion policies;

Incorporate these dimensions into the discussion and structuring of the National Digital Inclusion Plan (PNID).

3.2.3.3.2. Legal and financial strengthening of community internet networks [44]

Recognize their importance and their quality as a solution for guaranteeing the self-determination of individuals and communities in internet access and provide legal and financial support to community internet networks.

3.2.3.4. Protection against surveillance

3.2.3.4.1. Adoption of specific, differentiated criteria for the sharing of data about environmental defenders among public bodies and between public and private bodies

44 Community networks are telecommunications infrastructures built, managed, and maintained by local communities with the goal of ensuring Internet access in a way that is autonomous, inclusive, and adapted to cultural and territorial realities. They represent an alternative to the traditional commercial model, prioritizing digital sovereignty, collective use, and the strengthening of community communication. In Brazil, initiatives such as networks in quilombola or indigenous communities in the Amazon have shown that these efforts are essential for ensuring meaningful connectivity and access to information in regions historically neglected by public policies and private investment. See: Baca, C.; Belli, L.; Huerta, E.; Velasco, K. (2018). Redes comunitarias en América Latina: desafíos, regulaciones, soluciones.
APC; FGV Direito Rio; Redes por la Diversidad, Equidad y Sustentabilidad A.C. Available at: https://www.internetsociety.org/wp-content/ uploads/2018/11/2018-Redes-Comunitarias-ES.pdf; INSTITUTO NUPEF; INTERNETLAB (2025). Redes na Floresta: Mapeamento das políticas de conectividade na região amazônica brasileira. Available at: https://internetlab.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/relatorio_ redesnafloresta_10062025.pdf

Establish, in law or regulation, differentiated criteria – including and especially in contexts of legal gaps in data protection, such as the field of public security.

3.2.3.4.2. Establish, in law or regulation, differentiated criteria—including and especially in contexts of legal gaps in data protection, such as the field of public security.

Guarantee respect for, and the adoption of, rules that limit the acquisition and deployment of surveillance technologies and of interventions in private communications.

3.2.3.5. Digital platform governance

3.2.3.5.1. Guaranteed transparency of data on digital attacks on digital platforms

Establish mechanisms requiring digital platforms to systematize and publish information on digital attacks and victims, based on anonymization parameters that guarantee victims' privacy;

Include, in social media companies' transparency reports, data on reported attacks against environmental defenders that can assist in diagnosing the problem and in formulating policies to confront it, based on anonymization parameters that guarantee victims' privacy.

3.2.3.5.2. Incentives for training digital platform teams on human rights issues

Establish mechanisms to foster this type of training, so that these teams can act swiftly and protectively in cases of human rights violations, including by activating the network of public bodies for the protection of defenders.

3.2.3.5.3. Support for the adoption of secure communication mechanisms for the defense of rights

Encourage digital platforms to adopt and strengthen mechanisms such as encryption and anonymity, which are fundamental in contexts of reporting violations.

3.2.3.5.4. Guaranteed transparency in content moderation

Establish mechanisms for algorithmic transparency in content moderation and allow independent audits of the algorithms used by platforms.

3.2.3.5.5. Adoption of platform accountability mechanisms for human rights violations

Establish mechanisms to hold platforms accountable in cases of human rights violations. These mechanisms should cover the sponsored promotion of violent, hateful, or disinformative content.

3.2.3.6. Ratification of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Ratify and implement, in full and in accordance with the international law of multilateral treaties, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (the Escazú Agreement), so as to promote information integrity.

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