

¡Bienvenidas y bienvenidos to El CC, CCLATAM's newsletter!. Every other week you'll find the main events shaking up Latin America, from Ushuaia in the south to Los Algodones in the north. Sign up [here](#) to stay updated on the region. Get [in touch](#) with us, we may feature an excerpt of your response in the next newsletter.

The Latam's Digital Rights Issue



Latin America is moving from passing laws to applying them. For years, governments borrowed Europe's GDPR playbook, but rules often stayed stuck on paper. Now the shift is visible. President Lula sent to Congress a bill, [positioning Brazil as the first country in Latin America with a concrete proposal to regulate economic competition in digital markets](#). Developed by the Ministry of Finance, the bill empowers the [Administrative Council for Economic Defense \(CADE\)](#) to oversee and intervene in the operations of "systemically relevant" digital platforms. It means that CADE will enforce remedies to prevent anti-competitive behavior, such as price abuses and self-preferencing in search results. Require data portability, interoperability, and the integration of third-party apps and examine acquisitions of startups, even if below traditional thresholds, to prevent "killer acquisitions."

Last year, Brazil's data authority blocked Meta's plan to use personal data for AI training, with daily fines attached. **Chile** has finally enacted a modern privacy law that creates a standalone regulator with real powers. **Mexico** is reorganizing oversight altogether after dissolving INAI, aiming to rebuild a system that can actually act. Rights that once looked symbolic are starting to have practical consequences.

The OECD can't legislate or sanction, but its studies shape how these debates are framed. Its recent [report on remedies in digital markets in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) highlights that rights are only meaningful if people can exercise them. Its [Online Dispute Resolution Framework](#) goes further, sketching out how scalable complaint and appeals systems might work in practice. And in a world of contested elections and fragile information ecosystems, the OECD's [Facts not Fakes study](#) adds an urgent note on transparency in content moderation and algorithmic selection.

The battle line is no longer just over what data is collected — it's over what platforms do with it. The same information that fuels targeted ads also powers recommender systems and increasingly trains AI models. Questions about ranking, amplification, or suppression of posts collide with questions about lawful use of data. OECD recommendations don't bind, but they give governments a vocabulary to probe those systems, even if the actual application happens locally.

For platforms, the direction of travel is obvious. Expect more questions about algorithms, stronger demands to document lawful bases for AI training, and growing insistence on user remedies that actually work. Latin America isn't just copying Europe anymore; it's building its own model of accountability, one rooted in the idea that rights mean little without practice.

CCLATAM Editorial Board

El State of Affairs

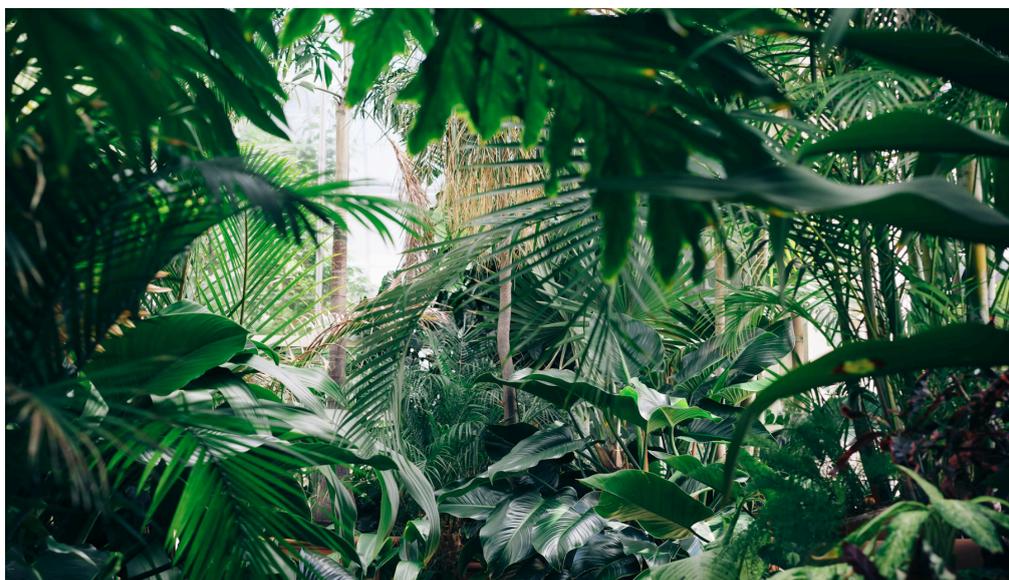


Photo by [Chris Abney](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Latin America is charting a path where economic opportunity, social justice, and climate action converge, and at the center of this movement are the forests and the clean energy systems that sustain the region's future. Would the region be able to follow it? Brazil has positioned itself as a leader with the [Tropical Forests Forever Facility \(TFFF\)](#), a pioneering multilateral fund designed to channel long-term climate finance into forest protection. By pledging to be the first nation to invest public resources into the facility, Brazil is setting a standard that blends environmental diplomacy with economic pragmatism, signaling that conservation is not a cost but a lever for attracting green investment, job creation, and sustainable development.

In parallel, Central America has launched ambitious initiatives such as the proposed [Great Mayan Jungle Biocultural Corridor](#) spanning Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize, which would protect over 14 million acres and stand as the second-largest rainforest reserve in the Americas. **Alongside it, the 5 Great Forests of Mesoamerica** programme seeks to secure the ecological future of the region by fortifying governance, improving enforcement against illegal deforestation, and building resilience against climate shocks. These programs are designed not only to safeguard biodiversity but to empower Indigenous and local communities, recognizing their stewardship as essential to both cultural heritage and territorial integrity. This community-centered model helps to create livelihoods in ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, and forest product markets, ensuring that protection aligns with prosperity.

The economic story is inseparable from the region's energy profile. Latin America generates around two-thirds of its electricity from renewables, with several countries like **Brazil, Costa Rica, Uruguay, and Paraguay already above 90%**. This clean energy dominance reduces reliance on fossil fuels and lowers carbon footprints, making the region an attractive destination for foreign investment, carbon markets, and technology partnerships. It also opens opportunities to scale green hydrogen, electrified transport, and cross-border energy integration, positioning Latin America as a global supplier of clean commodities and services. By protecting forests while expanding renewables, countries are enhancing their credibility in climate negotiations and securing access to international climate finance.

For communities, the linkage between forests and renewables means more than climate goals—it translates into resilience and equity. Healthy forests safeguard water cycles that underpin hydropower, which in turn provides affordable electricity for rural and urban populations. Protecting Indigenous lands strengthens rights, preserves knowledge systems, and ensures that growth does not come at the cost of displacement or marginalization. The emerging frameworks like the [Amazon Fund](#), TFFF, and biocultural corridors provide financing and governance spaces where Indigenous voices are central, reframing conservation from top-down control to co-management.

The challenges are real. Expanding renewable generation requires investment in storage and transmission, while forest protection depends on enforcement in areas plagued by land grabbing and illegal activities. Social justice goals must be backed by tangible policy guarantees to prevent green initiatives from becoming extractive or

exclusionary. Yet, the trajectory suggests that the region's future lies not in sacrificing environment for growth but in weaving them together into a single strategy.

Latin America is signaling to the world that protecting its forests and scaling renewables is not just about meeting climate obligations but about reshaping economies and societies. With Brazil leading on global forest finance, Central America building bold conservation corridors, and much of the region already powered by clean energy, a model is emerging where sustainability drives economic diversification and social justice alike. This is a moment where forests, energy, and people form the backbone of a green, inclusive future.

Elsewhere in LATAM

 An executive order to [attract data centers by exempting IT-related](#) capital equipment (servers, cooling etc.) from several federal taxes and import duties, with the goal of stimulating large investment (-2 trillion reais over 10 years).

 [Mexico has begun its public consultation process in preparation for the USMCA](#) review in early 2026. The government is gathering input on how the agreement is working, its strengths and weaknesses.

 The Mercosur bloc (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay) signed a trade deal with four European non-EU countries – **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland** – which will reduce tariffs and expand cooperation in goods, services, investment, and intellectual property. The combined markets cover nearly 300 million people and a GDP over \$4.3 trillion.

 [The International Monetary Fund projects Mexico's GDP](#) growth will improve mildly to about **1.5%** in 2026, up from -1.0% in 2025. However, the IMF is urging Mexico to implement fiscal and structural reforms – especially to reduce public debt, which could reach -61.5% of GDP by 2030 under current policies.

 Argentina's central bank has sold over **US\$1 billion** in just a few days trying to [defend the peso](#) amid sharp currency depreciation. The peso has dropped -9% in two weeks, and Milei's government is under increasing pressure as markets react to political setbacks and perceived weakening of reform momentum following President Javier Milei suffered a major defeat in Buenos Aires Province in local elections. .

La Cita

Politics isn't just an ideal; it's the way to get closer to the ideal.

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Sociologist, Former President of Brazil

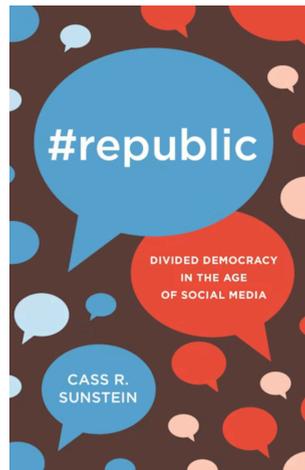
El Evento



Creative Journeys/Travesias Cretaivas is open for visitors. [Hosted at the Meridian International Center's White-Meyer House in Washington DC](#), it features artwork recently acquired for the CAF permanent collection. The showcase draws inspiration from the region's rich cultural tapestry of traditions and dynamic contemporary societies. Each piece was carefully selected to reflect the cultural values, innovative mindset, and inclusive vision of the region—spotlighting the craftsmanship of both emerging and established artists across mediums and styles.

Starting 11 September at Meridian International Center, Washington DC Check opening hours at <https://meridian.org/about/>

La Lectura



[Cass Sunstein's](#) #Republic: Divided Democracy in the Age of Social Media is worth reading if you want to understand how today's digital environment shapes democracy, public discourse, and even your own habits of consuming information.



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