**UNGA**
**Regulating Artificial Intelligence To Prevent Digital Colonialism**
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The Republic of Ecuador firmly asserts that artificial intelligence (AI), while rich with transformative potential, must be regulated to prevent systemic harm, particularly in the form of digital colonialism. Ecuador defines this as the unchecked dominance of AI development and data ownership by a small number of global corporations and states, often resulting in the marginalization of smaller nations. The threat is not only technical but existential, impacting culture, sovereignty, and rights. In particular, Ecuador is concerned about the rise of AI tools like digital morphing and deepfakes, which can violate privacy, spread disinformation, and destabilize democratic processes, especially in nations with limited regulatory safeguards.

Ecuador believes that ethical AI cannot exist without inclusion. In line with its constitutional principle of Buen Vivir, which emphasizes harmonious coexistence and collective well being. Ecuador has taken concrete steps toward responsible AI development. In June 2025, it became one of the first Latin American countries to adopt a UNESCO aligned AI Code of Ethics for public institutions. This framework promotes transparency, human oversight, no room for prejudice, and data privacy. Ecuador is also in the process of drafting an Organic Law on Artificial Intelligence, which will introduce tiered risk assessments, legally binding ethical standards, and protections against algorithmic bias and exploitation.

However, national regulation alone is insufficient in a digitally interconnected world. Ecuador emphasizes the urgent need to hold global technology corporations accountable for data extraction practices that often benefit from weak infrastructure and legal gaps in developing nations. These corporations must not be allowed to act as unchecked arbiters of AI ethics or profit from asymmetric data flows. Ecuador supports the creation of a UN Convention on Ethical AI, with binding international principles that ensure equity, consent, and transparency in AI deployment. Special attention must be given to the inclusion of Indigenous and Afro-descendant knowledge systems, languages, and rights within AI design and implementation.

Ecuador calls on fellow member states to co-create a digital future that is pluralistic and just, not another iteration of colonial logic in algorithmic form. AI must uplift rather than oppress, decentralize rather than dominate. The Republic of Ecuador stands ready to work multilaterally to ensure that no country becomes merely a resource for data, but rather a sovereign participant in shaping the ethical frameworks of the digital age.