NGO Hecho por Nosotros
B-Corp animaná
ASHOKA

Hecho por Nosotros at the United Nations

2025 Annual Engagement Report

An overview of Hecho por Nosotros' institutional engagement, official Side Events, and strategic contributions within the United Nations framework during the year 2025.

Strategic Vision 2025: The Systemic Leap

In 2025, Hecho por Nosotros's approach moved beyond conventional sustainability to focus on regeneration and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Ancestral Intelligence.

Objective and Scope of the Report:

This report provides a comprehensive overview of Hecho por Nosotros' institutional engagement within the United Nations framework throughout 2025. It documents the official side events hosted by the organization, as well as its strategic contributions to multilateral dialogues and advocacy spaces across the UN system.

The report highlights Hecho por Nosotros' role in convening diverse stakeholders—including civil society organizations, youth leaders, experts, and institutional representatives—to foster inclusive dialogue on global development challenges aligned with the United Nations' priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In addition, it presents a chronological and thematic account of the organization's participation in UN conferences and forums, outlining objectives and key outcomes. This document serves both as an institutional record and as a reflection of Hecho por Nosotros' commitment to sustained engagement and constructive participation within the United Nations framework.

2025 Institutional Commitments Calendar

DATE	UNITED NATIONS EVENT
2 February 2025	ECOSOC Partnership Forum Side Event
12 February 2025	63rd Commission for Social Development
16 April 2025	ECOSOC Youth Forum
30 April 2025	ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development
8 May 2025	United Nations Science, Technology and Innovation Forum
14 July 2025	High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
5 November 2025	Second World Summit for Social Development

ECOSOC Partnership Forum Side Event

February 2, 2025

Reimagining Collaboration and Co-Creation: Embracing Regenerative Models and Digital Innovation to Advance Systemic Change for Sustainability and Equity

Organized by: Hecho por Nosotros and animaná and co-hosted by Stanford Angels & Entrepreneurs

Event Focus

1. Science in Sustainable Textiles (SDGs 8, 9, 12, 13), exploring how science and traditional knowledge can create long-term sustainable solutions.
2. Empowering Marginalized Communities (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10), emphasizing the inclusion of indigenous artisans and entrepreneurs in the global market.
3. The Role of Education in Collaboration (SDGs 4, 10, 17), underlining the need for capacity building and inclusive education to enhance participation in sustainable practices.

Event Summary:

The 2025 ECOSOC Partnership Forum emphasizes the power of collaboration and co-creation in driving systemic change. Hecho Por Nosotros' side event focuses on transforming economic and production systems through regenerative models and digital innovation to tackle inequality, environmental harm, and social injustice. The report highlights the role of traditional knowledge, ethical supply chains, and circular economies—especially in fashion and textiles—in creating sustainable solutions. It calls for cross-sector collaboration to meet the 2030 Agenda, advocating for models that restore ecosystems, empower communities, and generate lasting value for people and the planet.

Participants

- Adriana Marina, Founder of Hecho pro Nosotros and animaná.
- Radhika Shah, Stanford Angels & Entrepreneurs
- Jeff Cole, Director at the Center for the Digital Future
- Andrew Eil, Consultant on climate-themed investing and climate risks
- Pranav Khanna, Leverage Crypto for impact
- Luis Alberto Camargo, Representative of Catalyst Now
- Eduard Muller, President and Rector at the University for International Cooperation
- Camilla Tettoni; Journalist and HxN Ambassador

Main Report

Adriana Marina opened the event by tracing the organization's roots in Patagonia, stressing humility and collaboration as drivers of change. She highlighted the importance of building inclusive, regenerative economies and honoring indigenous wisdom.

Following these opening remarks**, Radhika Shah** delivered the keynote. She emphasized the importance of fostering innovation through partnerships and shared how Stanford initiatives—such as online decision-making platforms and the SDG Digital Transformation Lab—are reimagining inclusion. Radhika highlighted partnerships with the UN and private investors aimed at climate resilience and underscored the importance of seeing local communities not as beneficiaries, but as leaders of systemic change.

Subsequently, the moderator of the event, **Camilla Tettoni**, set the tone for an open and collaborative dialogue. She emphasized that collaboration and co-creation are fundamental to transforming economic systems and supply chains into inclusive, regenerative models. She framed the forum as a collective space to break silos and build partnerships for a more equitable and sustainable economy. In this context**,** Camilla underscored that, at *Hecho por Nosotros*, sustainability is not merely about reducing emissions but regenerating entire systems. She emphasized that transformation must begin with and be led by local communities.

Building on this shared framework, the discussion expanded through a series of expert interventions that provided complementary perspectives on education, digital transformation, finance, and systemic change.

As an HxN collaborator, **Tricia Langman** stressed the importance of collaborative frameworks rooted in education and innovation, introducing key pillars of *Hecho por Nosotros'* work: multi-stakeholder engagement, community lab innovation, and capacity-building programs. She highlighted how these efforts aim to blend grassroots insights with global platforms to co-create regenerative solutions.

From a digital and information perspective, **Jeff Cole**, Director at the Center for the Digital Future, addressed the growing crisis of misinformation online. He noted that trust in digital content has fallen drastically, threatening informed decision-making, and emphasized the need for credible information as a foundation for effective digital collaboration and systemic transformation.

Andrew Eil, a climate finance expert, highlighted the role of private investment in driving scalable climate solutions. He stressed the importance of adaptation and resilience—areas often underfunded—and pointed to the financial viability of many green technologies. Eil called for interdisciplinary approaches and more effective use of financial markets to support regenerative practices.

Further exploring technological innovation, **Pranav Khanna** discussed how blockchain and AI can democratize financial systems and empower marginalized communities. He emphasized decentralized and transparent solutions, illustrating how smart contracts and crypto-based tools can improve project accountability and inclusiveness, particularly in underserved areas.

Luis Alberto Camargo introduced a bioregional perspective on systemic change, drawing inspiration from natural ecosystems such as mycelium networks. He argued that global, standardized models often fail to reflect local realities and advocated instead for approaches that value social, natural, and spiritual capital as foundations for resilience and regeneration.

Eduard Müller, President of the University for International Cooperation, concluded this sequence of reflections by challenging conventional sustainability frameworks. He argued that sustainability must give way to regeneration and called on universities to move beyond theory toward practical, life-centered education. Critiquing GDP and other outdated metrics, Müller proposed measuring progress through ecosystem flourishing and community well-being, emphasizing that real change requires a profound rethinking of education, values, and purpose.

Finally, **Camilla Tettoni** shared insights from her academic work on fair trade, critiquing certification systems that often marginalize indigenous voices. She presented a blockchain-based toolkit developed by HxN to support artisans' integration into ethical value chains without compromising their cultural heritage, reinforcing the role of storytelling and inclusive technology in shaping more equitable trade systems.

In her final remarks**, Adriana Marina,** founder of the NGO, reiterated the need to reconnect with nature, while also warning against isolating technological development from ecological awareness. She encouraged participants to reflect on how innovation can serve as a bridge, rather than a barrier, to the natural environment. Adriana emphasized that real transformation is collective and rooted in timeless values, concluding with a call for all stakeholders to commit to active, inclusive, and regenerative change.

63rd Commission for Social Development

February 12, 2025

Artificial Intelligence and Artisanal Intelligence Synergizing for Sustainable Living. Cotton and Camelids: Regenerative Models, Intergenerational and Intercultural Co-Creation

Organized by: Hecho por Nosotros and animaná

Event Focus

Exploring the intersection of regenerative models, artificial intelligence, and digital innovation to drive systemic change, while fostering sustainability and equity through effective collaboration and co-creation. The event highlights the contributions of changemakers, visionary leaders, and the academic community, showcasing diverse global experiences that generate locally grounded solutions with broader, scalable impact.

Event Summary

The United Nations 63rd Commission for Social Development hosted a side event, organized by Hecho Por Nosotros and Animaná, to explore the synergy between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and traditional craftsmanship. The event underscored the importance of integrating technological advancements with conventional knowledge and ethical entrepreneurship.

Hecho Por Nosotros and Animaná, leaders in promoting a sustainable and inclusive fashion industry for over 15 years, advocated for regenerative business models that blended ancestral wisdom with innovation. The event featured a panel of experts and interactive LAB sessions, focusing on topics such as regenerative cotton production, blockchain, and Indigenous knowledge in the fashion industry. It emphasized collaboration to ensure that artificial intelligence served to enhance both sustainability and cultural heritage.

Participants

- Adriana Marina, Founder of Hecho pro Nosotros and animaná.
- Camilla Tettoni, Journalist and HxN Ambassador
- Rebecca Osewa, CEO of YIELD Initiatives
- Trish Langman, Managing Partner at Hecho por Nosotros
- Nelly García Lopez, Assistant Professor at Universidad de los Andes
- Dennis Kopon, Co-founder of AgroRegenerations
- Tarcila Rivera Zea, Quechua activist from Ayacucho
- Mahnaz Hajesmaeili, AI Product designer

Main Report

Adriana Marina warmly welcomed all participants to the side event. She expressed enthusiasm about advancing systemic change and emphasized the importance of collaboration in driving regenerative models. Adriana highlighted the synergy between artificial and artisanal intelligence, framing technology as a powerful tool when aligned with universal eco-human values. She acknowledged Hecho por Nosotros for their daily efforts and reflected on how combining technological and traditional wisdom could contribute to a better world.

The moderator, **Camilla Tettoni**, also welcomed attendees and expressed her honor in guiding the conversation, underscoring the commitment of Hecho por Nosotros and Animaná to fostering a more inclusive and sustainable fashion industry. She introduced the panelists and outlined the discussion's focus on co-creation across generations, cultures, and sectors, as well as the role of AI in promoting sustainability.

Camilla additionally announced interactive lab sessions covering topics such as sustainable cotton production, youth-led fashion evolution, and AI in business transformation, encouraging participants to apply these insights to generate lasting impact within their communities.

Building on this discussion, the session expanded through a series of expert interventions, offering

diverse perspectives on sustainability, technology, and regenerative practices.

Adriana Marina stressed the need for systemic change in the fashion industry, emphasizing co-creation and sustainable consumption. She identified challenges such as pollution, modern slavery, and ineffective certifications, and advocated for integrating artisans into sustainable value chains while leveraging technology to preserve traditional craftsmanship. Furthermore, Adriana called for increased support from financial institutions and academia to advance sustainable development and foster circular economy initiatives.

Rebecca Osewa, CEO of YIELD Initiatives, spoke about her organization's mission to revitalize Nigeria's cotton textile industry by improving farmers' livelihoods through education, sustainable farming practices, and regenerative ecosystems. She highlighted the role of AI in agriculture, particularly in precision farming, soil health monitoring, and supply chain optimization, and emphasized the urgency of restoring Nigeria's textile industry, impacted by poor seeds and counterfeit imports, calling for collaboration to promote ethical fashion.

Trish Langman, Managing Partner at Hecho por Nosotros, introduced an educational toolkit aimed at promoting sustainable and regenerative solutions in the creative industries, with a particular focus on women and youth. The toolkit encompasses design thinking tools, a materials index, and guidance on circular business models. Adriana emphasized the importance of co-creation, highlighting how communities can share their knowledge and challenges to develop new models, while suggesting that AI could help scale these solutions and support continuous learning. She further encouraged ongoing collaboration to drive meaningful and lasting change.

Nelly García Lopez, Assistant Professor at Universidad de los Andes, highlighted challenges in the construction and textile industries, including the gap between traditional labor and technological advancements, low productivity, and high carbon emissions. She advocated for a balanced approach that integrates traditional Colombian building techniques with AI innovations to preserve artisanal knowledge and promote sustainable construction. Nelly also stressed the importance of engaging older generations in AI adoption and fostering circular economy practices. Following Nelly's presentation, Adriana expressed concerns regarding the inefficiency of the current system in addressing global issues and emphasized the need for intergenerational knowledge exchange and collective action to drive innovative solutions.

Tarcila Rivera Zea called for equal recognition of Artificial Intelligence, Artisan Intelligence, and Indigenous Intelligence, questioning why Indigenous art does not receive the same recognition as other forms. She emphasized the need to provide Indigenous communities with access to technology and to safeguard their intellectual property. Tarcila highlighted two primary challenges: preserving Indigenous knowledge through technology and offering digital tools to Indigenous youth to document their culture and address local issues. She also noted the impacts of climate change on these communities and the disconnect between formal education and ancestral wisdom, proposing AI as a potential solution. Adriana further added that co-creation between generations is essential, stressing the importance of using technology for empowerment rather than profit, while protecting Indigenous traditions and resources.

Mahnaz Hajesmaeil addressed the environmental costs associated with Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly its high energy consumption and carbon footprint. While recognizing AI's potential to advance sustainability, she emphasized the necessity of

designing systems that prioritize environmental protection. Mahnaz called for education on AI's ecological impact and urged developers and users to adopt responsible, eco-friendly practices to ensure that AI contributes to progress without harming the planet.

Laboratories

Following the main panel discussions, the event transitioned into 8 "Living Room" sessions, or breakout rooms, designed to delve deeper into the topics previously covered. These sessions provided a platform for stakeholders, experts, and participants to exchange ideas and collaboratively explore solutions focused on fostering inclusive growth and sustainability. Each lab was introduced as a continuation of the event's commitment to creating spaces for open dialogue and collaboration, reflecting the goal of integrating diverse perspectives and expertise.

LAB 1

System Change, Artificial Intelligence & Artisanal Intelligence: Synergizing for Sustainable Living

The session focused on integrating artificial intelligence (AI) with artisanal intelligence to create sustainable living models, aiming to promote environmental, social, and economic regeneration through the combination of technological advancements and traditional knowledge.

Regarding environmental impact, the discussion highlighted that the textile industry significantly contributes to climate change, water pollution, and biodiversity loss, underscoring the urgency of sustainable interventions.

In terms of conscious consumption, participants emphasized that overproduction and textile waste remain major challenges that must be addressed through more responsible practices.

Cultural preservation was also a central theme, as safeguarding artisanal techniques and promoting cultural diversity are essential in the context of fast fashion.

Furthermore, the role of technology and AI was explored, demonstrating how these tools can optimize sustainability by reducing waste and improving production processes.

Overall, the session reinforced that fashion should serve as a vehicle for social and environmental change, with circular economy models and the support of artisans being central to fostering ethical and sustainable practices.

LAB 2

Revolutionizing Cotton Production: Leveraging Technology for Sustainability and Empowering Micro-Producers

This session explored how technology can support regenerative cotton farming by combining traditional practices with modern innovations to drive both environmental and social change.

Regarding regenerative cotton farming, the discussion highlighted approaches that improve soil health, enhance biodiversity, and increase carbon

sequestration through practices such as crop rotation and composting, in contrast to conventional, extractive farming methods.

The need to shift away from extractive models was emphasized, as traditional cotton farming degrades soil and biodiversity, exacerbating climate change. This urgency is further heightened by fashion's significant global reliance on cotton, underscoring the importance of adopting regenerative practices.

Technological solutions were also examined, including the use of AI and precision tools such as remote sensing to monitor soil health, optimize resource use, and support regenerative farming practices like cover cropping.

Digital platforms were highlighted for their role in helping farmers track crop cycles, access training, and improve soil management.

In addition, blockchain technology was presented to ensure traceability of regenerative cotton, guaranteeing sustainable sourcing and rewarding farmers for their commitment to environmentally responsible practices.

LAB 3

Sustainable Style: A Youth-Led Evolution in Fashion

This session focused on empowering youth to rethink the future of fashion by emphasizing cultural value, conscious consumption, and sustainability. Speakers highlighted the pivotal role that young people play in driving a transition toward a more sustainable and equitable fashion industry.

Regarding environmental impact, the discussion underscored the textile industry's contribution to climate change, water pollution, and biodiversity loss, highlighting the urgency for sustainable interventions.

In terms of conscious consumption, participants examined the negative consequences of overproduction and textile waste, advocating for more responsible practices.

Cultural preservation was also emphasized, particularly the importance of protecting artisanal techniques in the context of fast fashion.

Furthermore, the role of technology and AI was explored, demonstrating how these tools can reduce waste and optimize sustainable practices.

Overall, the session concluded that fashion should serve as a vehicle for social and environmental change, with circular economy models and the active support of artisans being central to promoting ethical and fair fashion.

LAB 4

Enterprises with AI & Blockchain

This lab explored how AI and blockchain can transform the fashion industry by promoting sustainability through circular fashion practices.

Regarding blockchain, the discussion highlighted its role in enhancing supply chain transparency, traceability, and efficiency, particularly for artisanal enterprises.

The integration of Artificial Intelligence was also examined, demonstrating how it can optimize waste management, resource allocation, and support sustainable business models.

Circular economy principles were emphasized, encouraging recycling and responsible production to reduce environmental impact.

Additionally, implementation strategies were discussed, underlining the importance of setting clear objectives, engaging relevant stakeholders, and investing in blockchain technology.

Overall, the lab showcased how the combined use of blockchain and AI can streamline industry processes, ensure sustainability, and enhance consumer trust, aligning with broader global sustainability goals.

LAB 5

Theory of Change & Fair Trade

This session examined the challenges and opportunities of sustainable practices, with a focus on systemic change and responsible consumption.

In terms of slow fashion and fair trade, participants highlighted the need to counteract the negative impacts of fast fashion by supporting ethical and transparent practices.

The risks of greenwashing were also addressed, emphasizing the importance of distinguishing genuine sustainability efforts from deceptive claims.

Empowering Indigenous artisans was a central theme, with discussions stressing the value of strengthening fair trade initiatives through local craftsmanship.

Additionally, consumer awareness was highlighted as a key driver, encouraging informed choices to stimulate demand for sustainable products.

Overall, the session concluded that fair trade is achievable by integrating local artisanal skills into the value chain, providing accessible and sustainable options, and simultaneously empowering Indigenous communities.

LAB 6

What the Andean Textile Tells Us

This session focused on the significance of Andean textiles and their cultural symbolism.

The discussion addressed textile processes and symbolism, highlighting the intricate weaving, dyeing techniques, and iconography that serve as mediums for transmitting knowledge across generations.

The session also explored Andean identity, emphasizing the challenges posed by marginalization and the exoticization of Andean culture.

Furthermore, participants examined Andean philosophy, considering textiles as expressions of cultural identity and forms of resistance.

Overall, the session underscored the importance of preserving Andean textile knowledge, revaluing its cultural significance, and inspiring younger generations to safeguard these traditions within the context of a globalized fashion industry.

LAB 7

Sustainable Fashion: Uniting Culture, Environmental Awareness, and Fair Trade

This session examined the integration of sustainable fashion with cultural values, environmental consciousness, and fair-trade principles.

Regarding sustainable fashion, the discussion highlighted the importance of eco-friendly materials, ethical production, and designs that promote durability and reuse.

The cultural significance of fashion was also emphasized, recognizing that clothing reflects cultural identity and should respect traditional practices while fostering responsible consumption.

Environmental awareness was addressed, with participants encouraging strategies to reduce ecological impact by recycled materials and cleaner production processes.

In terms of fair trade, the session underscored the need for fair wages, safe working conditions, and respect for human rights throughout the supply chain, thereby empowering communities.

Overall, the discussion highlighted how these interconnected concepts contribute to a more responsible and equitable fashion industry, with consumers playing a critical role in driving change by demanding ethical and sustainable practices.

LAB 8

Connecting Knowledge: Artisanal Intelligence and AI in Social Entrepreneurship and Universities

This session explored the intersection of artisanal intelligence and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support social entrepreneurship and connect with universities as knowledge hubs.

The discussion began with the presentation of the Bekaab Platform by David Pérez, which integrates AI to optimize waste collection, provide education, and support social entrepreneurs and NGOs.

The session also highlighted the role of AI in market analysis and the protection of traditional knowledge, with Gisella Figueroa discussing its potential for small businesses in Peru, particularly in enhancing market insights and safeguarding traditional knowledge through blockchain technology.

Additionally, Soledad Chamorro presented her work with artisans and Indigenous communities in Argentina, emphasizing the importance of cultural sustainability and the reinterpretation of traditional crafts using AI to address market challenges.

Overall, the session underscored the critical role of leveraging AI in social entrepreneurship while preserving cultural heritage, highlighting universities as pivotal actors in fostering innovation and knowledge exchange.

ECOSOC Youth Forum

April 16, 2025

Regenerative Education for Systemic Change. Articulating AI with Ancestral Knowledge

Organized by: Hecho por Nosotros and animaná

Event Focus

1- Knowledge Exchange: Creating a space for young people and stakeholders to share best practices on sustainable and inclusive development, emphasizing young entrepreneurs' role in fostering collaborative networks. (SDG 17)
2- Exploring Interconnectedness: Discussions will address policymaking, artisan heritage, education, leadership, and entrepreneurship, highlighting how these sectors contribute to sustainable development. (SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, 17)
3- Capacity Building: Equipping participants with knowledge and tools to promote social entrepreneurship and regenerative education practices, supporting marginalized communities, and fostering social inclusion. (SDGs 4, 10, 13)

Event Summary

The 2025 ECOSOC Youth Forum focused on exploring the role of regenerative education in fostering equitable relationships among individuals, communities, and the natural world.

This side event, hosted by Hecho por Nosotros, emphasized the importance of integration through both scientific and cultural perspectives, with the aim of benefiting participating communities.

The report highlighted the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in transforming education through regenerative models, while underscoring the significance of active participation from different communities to honor and preserve ancestral knowledge.

Overall, the forum aligned with the 2030 Agenda by advocating for systemic change in youth education and promoting inclusive, sustainable learning practices.

Participants

- Adriana Marina, Founder of Hecho por Nosotros and animaná
- Radhika Shah, Co-president Stanford A&E/Tech+Impact Investor
- Nelly García, Expert in sustainable design, researcher in technology and traditional knowledge promoting regenerative models, Universidad de los Andes
- Tricia Langman, Hecho por Nosotros Managing Partner
- Shobha Ramani, Business Consultant
- David Perez-Castillo, Green Business Consultant
- Diego Bermudez, Researcher at Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Main Report

Adrina Marina opened the event by presenting Hecho por Nosotros and its trajectory, highlighting the organization's longstanding work and commitment to social causes and sustainability. She emphasized the importance of regenerative education, particularly for young people, while underscoring the need to honor and preserve ancestral knowledge as a foundation for sustainable futures.

Following the opening remarks, **Shobha Ramani** highlighted the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in fostering regenerative and sustainable education models through personalized learning journeys, improved access to literacy, and multilingual inclusion. She outlined several benefits of AI for regenerative education, noting that it can support community ownership, promote equity, and facilitate intergenerational knowledge transmission. Shobha also stressed that AI could make ancestral knowledge more accessible to younger generations through AI-guided applications, prompts, and simulations, while empowering creativity and blending traditional techniques to spark new Indigenous-owned innovations.

Subsequently, **Radhika Shah** reflected on the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a global normative framework that enables collective action to address contemporary challenges, while recognizing the interconnected nature of the world. She emphasized the need to reimagine education and cited the example of COOPECAN, an Entrepreneurial Cooperative of Indigenous Camelid Farmers in Peru, which integrates Artisanal Intelligence with modern techniques to drive innovation.

Building on this discussion, **Nelly García** emphasized that research must integrate technology and traditional knowledge to promote regenerative models, a circular economy, and social inclusion. She highlighted the disconnect between how systems are designed and how they are implemented in formal education, noting that this gap must be addressed. Nelly stressed that young people should be involved earlier in these processes and described AI as a powerful repository and living laboratory of knowledge. At the same time, she cautioned that the integration of Indigenous and ancestral knowledge into AI systems must be undertaken respectfully and through genuine co-creation with communities.

In this context, **Diego Bermudez** underscored that AI has the potential to accelerate the promotion of social equity, if it ensures respectful self-determination for communities and moves beyond extractive approaches toward mutual benefit and acknowledging the value of wisdom. He emphasized that sustainable and equitable collaboration should be grounded in sustainability and regeneration, equity and justice, and strong partnerships. Diego further noted that AI must be used to benefit communities directly, advocating for flexible systems that empower communities to utilize technology on their own terms.

The discussion then opened to young leaders, moderated by **Chiara Vera**, who highlighted the importance of regenerative education, the role of AI in its evolution, and the need to respect community values and cultural contexts throughout these processes.

Contributing to this dialogue, **Andrés Pinzón** identified fragmentation as a key challenge and stressed the need to integrate youth issues into broader policy frameworks rather than addressing them in isolation. He emphasized that achieving sustainability requires long-term investment and the empowerment of young people as co-creators and leaders. Andrés also highlighted that systemic change must be inclusive, ensuring that diverse youth voices are heard and valued.

Karen Rosentreter then shared the example of *Mil Agujas por la Dignidad: Plataforma de Resistencia Textil*, illustrating how textiles can function as powerful forms of expression and manifestation.

Following this, **Agustín Blacker** discussed how AI can help scale technologies by analyzing multiple scientific studies simultaneously and supporting informed decision-making regarding development pathways. He noted that while AI can integrate vast amounts of information efficiently, it is essential not to overlook the human dimension. Agustín emphasized that communities contribute critical knowledge about plants and ecosystems, while science enables the scaling and application of these insights to enhance quality of life.

Finally, **Syed Nooruddin** addressed the integration of ancestral knowledge and Artificial Intelligence within regenerative education. He explained that AI can work alongside craft communities by translating their wisdom into digital platforms, while emphasizing that AI must be taught to listen and learn before it speaks. Syed highlighted that AI is fundamentally about co-creation, shaping how AI learns, reflects, and evolves around cultures. He concluded by stressing that systemic change through AI requires that communities have opportunities, agency, and a seat at the decision-making table, noting that Indigenous communities have long been marginalized and must be included in every conversation shaping the future.

Laboratories

Following the main panel discussions, the event transitioned into 10 “Living Room” sessions, or breakout rooms, designed to delve deeper into the topics previously covered. These sessions provided a platform for stakeholders, experts, and participants to exchange ideas and collaboratively explore solutions focused on fostering inclusive growth and sustainability. Each lab was introduced as a continuation of the event’s commitment to creating spaces for open dialogue and collaboration, reflecting the goal of integrating diverse perspectives and expertise.

LAB 1

1 Blockchain: AI for artisanal communities

Airish Castillo emphasized that creating spaces for meaningful dialogue between human values and technology begins with the inclusion of a wide range of perspectives. She noted that inviting diverse voices enables the development of tools that genuinely reflect shared values. Through dialogue and communication, Airish highlighted that it becomes possible to shape technologies that are not only functional, but also deeply human, positioning technology not merely as a tool, but as a vehicle for transformative change.

LAB 2

From Fast to Fair: Youth Driving the Shift Towards Conscious Consumption

Andrea Guevara highlighted that young people are key agents of cultural change and are increasingly leveraging digital platforms as instruments of empowerment and critical awareness. She emphasized that these tools can be effectively used to recognize and value traditional crafts, while also defending and promoting cultural diversity.

LAB 3

Theory of Change and Fair Trade: Education and Systemic Change for Sustainable Fashion and Responsible Consumption

Subsequently, **Olga Tolstai** contributed to the discussion by noting that Artificial Intelligence plays a crucial role in connecting artisans with producers. She emphasized that achieving global change requires the promotion of sustainable production models and highlighted the role of local governments in motivating production levels and encouraging final consumers to engage more actively in and contribute to the production chain.

LAB 4

Raíces que tejen futuro: Educación regenerativa y saberes del Textil Andino

Next, **Santiago Camargo** emphasized the need to create bridges that connect knowledge and information in order to achieve shared goals. He highlighted that the most important bridge is the one between the past and the present, as this connection enables the construction of a more sustainable and meaningful future.

LAB 5

Fomentando el espíritu emprendedor en los estudiantes para la solución de problemas sociales, económicos o ambientales

Gabriela Camargo remarked that systemic change is not driven solely by policies or technology, but by honoring the history and knowledge that already exist within different communities. She emphasized the importance of linking ancestral intelligence with creative technologies and noted that a major challenge lies in how technology is used. In this context, Gabriela stressed the need for an ethical approach to technology that does not erase or undermine existing community values.

LAB 6

Creative Futures: Rethinking Arts Education in the AI Era

Following this, **Tricia Langman** reflected on the discussion around integrating AI into educational curricula while ensuring that creativity remains central. She highlighted that AI could function as a mentor or teammate in the learning process but emphasized that human creativity cannot be replaced.

LAB 7

Creative Futures: Rethinking Arts Education in the AI Era

Next, **Cristian Gil** stated that Artificial Intelligence could not be compared to human intelligence or emotions. He remarked that new technologies would continue to emerge over time and emphasized that humans must be strategic and intentional in how they choose to use them.

LAB 8

Artisanal Knowledge Repository using Artificial Intelligence

Finally, **Radhika Sha, Diego Bermudez, and Nelly García** addressed key questions related to systemic change, learning and knowledge transmission, technology and digital tools, ethics, and ownership. They concluded that there are multiple ways of learning and acknowledged AI as a powerful tool, while stressing that it must be carefully governed and should not make decisions on behalf of people. Regarding ethics and ownership, they emphasized that indigenous peoples must have a seat at the decision-making table and that communities need to clearly perceive the value of such initiatives. They further highlighted that indigenous communities are often left behind in the modern world, and that technology, when used responsibly, can support these communities and foster collective awareness of the need to work together toward a sustainable future.

LAB 9

Artisanal Knowledge Repository using Artificial Intelligence

Next, **Mahnaz Hajesmaeili** shared that the lab explored the use of large language models (LLMs) such as DeepSeek, ChatGPT, and cloud-based tools, and examined how these technologies could support learning processes. She emphasized the importance of ensuring accessibility to these tools.

LAB 10

Tramas del futuro: educación, diseño y saberes ancestrales en diálogo regenerativo

Finally, **Soledad Chamorro** explained that the core of the discussion focused on the relationship between technology and educational models, ancestral knowledge, and sustainability. The lab highlighted the need to foster a regenerative dialogue that integrates contemporary technological tools with traditional wisdom.

Final Remarks

Adriana Marina expressed her gratitude to all participants for their engagement and commitment to advancing systemic change. She emphasized the need to strengthen collaboration and to make every possible effort to transform existing systems. She concluded by underscoring the importance of connecting younger generations with elders, to ensure that creativity, knowledge, and wisdom are preserved and transmitted across generations.

ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development

April 30, 2025

Funding and Technology: Enhancing local NGOs and Grassroots Initiatives Strengthening Creative Economies for Sustainable Development in Global South

Organized by: Hecho por Nosotros and animaná

Event Focus

1. Highlight the persistent systemic inequalities in funding mechanisms that grassroot organizations encounter, which in turn, constraints the initiatives developed in the Global South, particularly in the creative and textile sectors.
2. Explore the intersection of technology and economic equity, assessing how unequal access to technological resources impacts capacity building, innovation, and local economic resilience.
3. Critically analyze the underlying structures of current extractive funding models in order to co-develop new approaches to traditional financing, making sure they are culturally appropriate, low-risk, and rooted in local knowledge systems.
4. Recognize and emphasize the pivotal leadership roles indigenous artisans, women entrepreneurs, and social innovators embody by proposing inclusive change and sustainable solutions in their communities.
5. Foster dialogue between local and global changemakers to forge pathways for collaborative investment, decentralized financing mechanisms, and long-term strategies that support circular development in alignment with the SDGs and broader international frameworks.

Event Summary

The lack of financial support remains a critical challenge faced by grassroots organizations and local NGOs. This Side Event session focused on the intersection of funding and technology, guided by a transversal question developed by Hecho por Nosotros. The question explored: *How can ethical, transparent, and culturally sensitive financing models empower grassroots organizations based in the Global South by integrating technological disparities and traditional knowledge, ensuring equitable accountability and redefining success beyond traditional metrics?*".

The core of this dialogue relied on the participation of specialists with hands-on experience, their contributions centered on the imperative role of communities directly involved in sustainable development efforts, aiming to amplify voices that are often underrepresented in global decision-making processes. The panel delved into critical reflection on extractive business models and unequal access to technology in which speakers analyzed the limitations of the current economic systems and the challenges they represent to innovation, resilience, and self-determination.

The event served as a collaborative space between changemakers, sponsors, technologists, and cultural leaders committed to transitioning toward circular and community-driven economies that aim to promote responsible production and consumption.

Participants

- Adriana Marina, Founder of Hecho pro Nosotros and animaná
- Will Ruddick, Founder of Grassroots Economics Foundation
- Radhika Shah, Stanford Angels & Entrepreneurs
- Deon Grobbelaar, Evolve Meter
- David Luján, Specialist in Technology Transfer and Innovation, CONCYTEC Peru
- Patricia Larios Francia, PhD in Strategic Management, specializing in Business Administration and Sustainability; Professor and Researcher, Universidad del Pacifico
- Juan Lapetini, Regional Director of Partnerships and Institutional Relations, Donar Online; Professor, Universidad de San Andrés

- Luis Guzmán, CEO and Economist, 3 GLAM Services
- Edison Benites, Consumer Knowledge Coordinator
- Antonella Erben, Director of Programs and Institutional Development; Project Manager; International Relations Specialist
- Fernanda Mierez, Partner at Estudio Beccar Varela
- Soledad Chamorro, Architect; Technology Liaison, FAPyD and National University of Rosario (UNR)

Main Report

The seminar aimed to explore how ethical, transparent, and culturally sensitive financing models can empower grassroots organizations in the Global South, circling the question suggested by Hecho por Nosotros: "How can ethical, transparent, and culturally sensitive financing models empower grassroots organizations based in the Global South by integrating technological disparities and traditional knowledge, ensuring equitable accountability and redefining success beyond traditional metrics?".

Throughout the session, a recurring understanding emerged: Funding structures can be reimagined through a decolonial lens, prioritizing localized, inclusive, and context-specific solutions.

Despite the rich heritage, vast resources, and underlying resilience across the Global South, many communities face obstacles while attempting to access funding mechanisms, dignified infrastructure, and international markets. This seminar brought together academics, practitioners, and global leaders to raise awareness and propose potential pathways to approach these challenges. Under Adriana Marina's leadership, it was possible to foster and welcome contributions from experts on the field, creating possible resolutions on how to transform the current support systems through equitable practices, better accountability, technological empowerment, and youth engagement.

Key Issues Discussed

1. **Funding Bottlenecks and Misdirection:** Traditional funding mechanisms frequently fail to reach the most vulnerable communities. Lengthy and bureaucratic processes, outdated eligibility criteria, and donor-driven definitions of success often exclude grassroots organizations, limiting their ability to access timely and appropriate financial support.
2. **Outdated Success Metrics:** Impact is commonly assessed through indicators such as profit generation, marketing impact, or quantitative growth, rather than through measures of community resilience, sustainability, or cultural preservation. These metrics are typically defined by donors and contributors, with limited participation from the communities they aim to support.
3. **Digital and Cyber Literacy Gaps:** Many rural and Indigenous communities face significant barriers due to insufficient digital infrastructure and limited access to technological tools, which makes it challenging for them to reach international opportunities. Without targeted investment in computer literacy and culturally adapted technologies, these gaps are likely to widen further.
4. **Youth Migration and Cultural Erosion:** Economic precarity and lack of opportunities are pushing the youth population away from rural communities, accelerating the loss of traditional knowledge. Strengthening intergenerational collaboration is essential for the preservation of heritage and ensuring long-term social, economic, and environmental sustainability.
5. **Lack of Community-Centered Solutions:** Development interventions are often implemented through top-down approaches that fail to reflect the local context and the unique realities of communities. Grassroots organizations are frequently positioned as implementers rather than co-creators, limiting meaningful participation and

reducing the effectiveness and sustainability of proposed solutions.

Recommended Solutions for Action

1. **Culturally Sensitive and Ethical Financing Models**: Financing models must be community-led, co-designed, and respectful of traditional knowledge and values. All stakeholders—from elders to youth—should be actively included in project planning, implementation, and evaluation. Equally important is empowering women-led initiatives by ensuring access to funding resources and capacity-building opportunities, thereby addressing the gender gap in leadership and decision-making.
2. **Simplifying and Democratizing Access to Funds:** Funding models should move away from rigid structures and reduce bureaucratic barriers to enable timely and effective support for affected communities. Transparency and multilateral accountability between funders and recipients are essential for fostering mutual trust and ensuring that resources reach the communities in need. This approach shifts centralized power to local actors, allowing adaptation to their specific needs and timelines.
3. **Strengthening Civil Society**: Investments in grassroots organizations should extend beyond financial support to include long-term capacity building, access to data, skill development, and strategic planning. Promoting collective action, such as the formation of networks, can strengthen advocacy efforts and amplify the voices of marginalized communities on international platforms.
4. **Reframing Metrics of Success:** It is imperative to redefine success from the perspective of grassroots communities, prioritizing resilience, sustainability, autonomy, and cultural preservation. Achieving this requires active collaboration with Indigenous groups and small communities to develop evaluation frameworks that emphasize lived experiences and narrative storytelling, rather than relying solely on extractive data collection or donor-imposed Key Performance Indicators.
5. **Bridging the Digital Divide:** Ensuring equal access to digital infrastructure and education is critical. Technological tools must be culturally and linguistically appropriate, designed to meet the specific needs of each community. Ethical Artificial Intelligence and inclusive technology practices should enhance, but not replace, traditional systems, thereby supporting community empowerment and intergenerational knowledge transmission.
6. **Youth Engagement for Continuity**: To prevent forced migration and cultural erosion, sustainable and fulfilling futures must be created for youth within their communities. This involves providing economic opportunities, leadership development, and participatory platforms. Ensuring the intergenerational transmission of knowledge and the preservation of core community values is vital for fostering long-term community resilience and innovation.

UN Science, Technology and Innovation Forum (STI)

May 8, 2025

Weaving Futures: AI, Ancestral Knowledge & Circular Economies for Inclusive Innovation

Organized by: Hecho por Nosotros and animaná

Event Focus

In an era of rapid digital change, this 2025 UN Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Forum side event provided a critical space for contemplation, discussion, and action on the integration of Indigenous knowledge, cultural heritage, and community-driven innovation into the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence.

Organized by Hecho por Nosotros and animaná, the session highlighted that Artificial Intelligence (AI) should not be imposed but rather developed collaboratively. It showcased how inclusive and sustainable technologies can empower marginalized groups, support women entrepreneurs, and safeguard cultural identity.

The event featured impactful contributions from international leaders operating at the intersection of ethics, education, innovation, and tradition. From Latin America to Africa, the narratives and perspectives presented underscored the importance of building regenerative value chains grounded in reciprocity, care, and innovation.

Event Objectives

This side event aimed to critically examine the intersections between artificial intelligence, ancestral knowledge systems, and circular economies through a values-based, community-centered lens.

The discussion sought to elevate Indigenous, African, Latin American and feminist epistemologies as foundational to shaping ethical innovation frameworks.

Additionally, the event explored how AI and emerging technologies can support—rather than replace—traditional systems of knowledge, production, and care. Participants examined the integration of co-creation, digital justice, and data sovereignty into the design and governance of digital systems.

The session also highlighted models of inclusive entrepreneurship and regenerative economies rooted in local realities, particularly initiatives led by women, youth, and grassroots collectives. Through cross-regional dialogue, the event fostered reflections on embedding ethical guardrails into AI development while advancing global commitments under the 2030 Agenda.

Overall, the side event created a platform for meaningful exchange among technologists, cultural practitioners, educators, and community leaders, enabling the collective envisioning of digital futures that are inclusive, just, and culturally grounded.

Event Summary

As an officially recognized side event of the 2025 UN STI Forum, it brought together diverse perspectives to rethink the role of technology in fostering sustainable development. Rooted in the values of reciprocity, care, and cultural continuity, the session critically examined extractive approaches to innovation and emphasized frameworks grounded in community leadership and ancestral knowledge.

Presenters from Latin America, Africa, and other regions shared insights on how digital tools—when developed collaboratively with communities—can strengthen resilience, preserve cultural identity, and encourage equitable economic participation. The event showcased concrete examples where AI contributes to language revitalization, intergenerational education, and the fair recognition of cultural wisdom.

At its core, the discussion redefined AI not merely as a technical or market-driven tool, but as a relational instrument capable of enhancing dignity, fostering

connections, and supporting circular, inclusive, and regenerative systems. The shared vision that emerged underscored that meaningful progress requires integrating multiple knowledge systems and ensuring that innovation uplifts, rather than marginalizes, vulnerable communities.

Main Report

The main session provided a space to reimagine the potential of artificial intelligence when grounded in community values, ancestral knowledge, and regenerative economic models. Convened by Hecho por Nosotros and animaná, and moderated by Camila Tettoni, the session foregrounded perspectives from Latin America and Africa—regions whose cultural frameworks and knowledge systems have too often been excluded from global innovation narratives. The conversation challenged the notion of AI as a purely technical field, offering instead a vision of digital transformation that is relational, inclusive, and ethically anchored.

From the outset, speakers called for a shift from extraction to co-creation, emphasizing that Indigenous, grassroots, and historically marginalized communities must not only be consulted, but positioned at the heart of design, development, and governance. Several interwoven themes shaped the discussion:

- **Digital Justice and Trusteeship:** Participants affirmed that AI must serve as a steward—not an owner—of culture and knowledge. Drawing from Gandhian ideals, the conversation emphasized community sovereignty over data and digital value, positioning communities as rightful trustees of their intellectual and natural resources.
- **Ethics of Infrastructure:** The physical underpinnings of digital systems—data centers, energy demands, water use—were explored as sites of socio-environmental impact. Without careful design, AI risks extending historical patterns of land dispossession and ecological harm, particularly when infrastructure is built on sacred or vulnerable territories.
- **Ubuntu and Relational Design:** African philosophical frameworks, such as Ubuntu ("I am because we are"), were invoked to frame ethical AI not as a technical goal, but as a cultural and relational imperative. Reciprocity, interdependence, and dignity were highlighted as foundational design principles.
- **Cultural Survival in Code:** Language emerged as a central concern—not simply as a medium of interaction, but as a vessel of identity. Speakers stressed the urgency of integrating endangered languages into AI training models, ensuring that future digital systems do not invisibilize the very communities they aim to serve.
- **Education and Empathy:** AI's potential to complement human educators was highlighted, particularly in contexts where stigma or isolation may limit access to care and learning. When designed with intention, AI can foster emotional intelligence, connection, and belonging—especially for youth in underserved communities.

Concrete examples throughout the session demonstrated how these principles can be operationalized—from platforms that support cultural preservation and fair-trade markets, to participatory digital tools shaped directly by community needs. Rather than reinforcing top-down paradigms, these initiatives showcased how AI can amplify local agency, cultural continuity, and economic inclusion.

In sum, the session underscored that sustainable development cannot be achieved through technology alone. Meaningful progress requires transdisciplinary collaboration—among technologists, educators, policymakers, and community knowledge-holders—to co-create systems that are inclusive, regenerative, and grounded in ethical accountability.

What emerged was not a singular solution, but a shared vision: a future where digital tools reflect the wisdom of the past, circulate value justly, and serve as instruments for solidarity rather than erasure. Artificial intelligence, when approached through this

lens, becomes not a symbol of disruption, but a thread capable of weaving together cultural heritage, ecological stewardship, and innovation in service of people and planet.

Speakers' insights

Adriana Marina opened the session by reframing innovation as an inherently regenerative practice—one that can and should draw from ancestral systems of knowledge and care. Drawing on her extensive experience with Hecho por Nosotros and animaná, she highlighted traditional crafts and community-based production as living blueprints for circular design. These practices, she noted, are built upon principles of reuse, shared value, and deep respect for both material and cultural continuity, principles that are increasingly relevant in today's pursuit of sustainable AI.

Adriana emphasized that digital ecosystems must be co-created with communities—not merely to ensure usability, but to uphold dignity, agency, and data sovereignty. She described Hecho por Nosotros' model of participatory platform development, where local artisans are actively engaged in shaping digital tools that serve their interests and reflect their realities. In this framework, the value generated by AI flows back to the communities who co-generate it—whether through bespoke marketplaces, digital literacy hubs, or culturally rooted design inputs.

She further underscored that co-creation must extend beyond interface design to encompass governance structures, content generation, and pedagogical frameworks. From curriculum development to ethical protocols, communities are positioned not as users, but as architects of the systems they engage with. Through this approach, Adriana illustrated how circularity and sustainability are not abstract ideals, but tangible processes that can be woven directly into technological infrastructure.

Following this, **Camila Tettoni** expanded the conversation to examine the ethical frameworks that must govern digital innovation, drawing compelling parallels between AI systems and fair-trade economies. Just as fair trade emphasizes transparency, equity, and shared benefit along supply chains, she argued that digital development must be held to similar standards—ensuring that the design, deployment, and distribution of AI are rooted in justice and accountability.

Tettoni introduced instruments such as community-owned data trusts and participatory impact assessments as mechanisms to democratize decision-making and safeguard cultural and environmental integrity. These mechanisms, she noted, enable communities to monitor how algorithms impact livelihoods and traditions while asserting control over how their data and heritage are utilized. Connecting this vision to global agendas, she highlighted the relevance of SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 17 (partnerships) as strategic entry points for aligning digital innovation with human rights and inclusive governance.

She also presented case studies in which fair-trade cooperatives collaborated directly with AI researchers to develop data-use agreements—ensuring that cultural heritage remains under community ownership and generates direct benefit when deployed digitally. For Tettoni, this model represents more than a policy aspiration; it constitutes a necessary foundation for building resilient and culturally respectful digital futures.

Together, Marina and Tettoni illuminated the shared ethos at the heart of the session: technology must not be developed in isolation from culture, ethics, or community. Their interventions demonstrated that inclusive innovation is not merely a technical challenge, but a relational and political commitment, grounded in the principles of care, accountability, and collective empowerment.

Continuing the discussion, **Radhika Shah** delivered a powerful intervention urging a fundamental rethinking of how artificial intelligence is conceptualized, built, and governed. Drawing from the Gandhian principle of trusteeship, she challenged the dominant framing of AI as a neutral or purely technical solution. Instead, she presented it as a structure of power—one that must be intentionally

guided by ethics, inclusivity, and deep ecological and cultural respect.

Just as Gandhi envisioned nature not as a commodity, but as a collective trust to be protected, Shah argued that knowledge, data, and cultural heritage must also be treated as shared human assets. This perspective calls for a radical departure from extractive digital economies toward models that center dignity, accountability, and regenerative practice.

She emphasized that all technologies—whether algorithms, datasets, or interfaces—are inherently value-laden, each encoding a specific worldview. Consequently, she argued, communities must not be relegated to the role of passive recipients or end-users. Rather, they must be positioned as co-creators, shapers, and stewards of the technological infrastructures that influence their lives.

Building on this principle, Shah highlighted the work of Hecho por Nosotros, underscoring the importance of digital ecosystems that do more than provide access. Such ecosystems must actively foster opportunities for communities to co-design platforms, generate culturally grounded content, and participate in shaping digital governance.

To illustrate this vision, Shah referenced two initiatives that exemplify AI grounded in reciprocity: the first, Manama Hila, is a digital health and literacy programme that integrates AI-powered delivery of critical health information with opportunities for community members to engage in digital employment. This model bridges the right to health with economic empowerment, particularly in remote and underserved areas; and the second initiative, Carria, focuses on language preservation, enabling Indigenous communities to actively participate in training AI language models in their native tongues. This effort not only safeguards linguistic heritage but also generates sustainable income streams for communities historically excluded from digital economies.

Shah emphasized that these examples reflect what she termed a shift from "extraction to co-creation" They illustrate that inclusive innovation extends beyond mere access—it entails agency, redistribution, and shared authorship over the systems that shape collective futures.

Closing her remarks, she underscored the necessity of reorienting AI development away from purely efficiency-driven logics toward ecosystems founded on trust, equity, and solidarity. The ultimate objective, she affirmed, is not only to democratize access to tools but to ensure that the benefits of innovation are equitably shared, that local identities are preserved, and that communities are empowered to define and steer their own digital destinies.

Building on the principles of inclusive and community-centered AI articulated by Shah, **Wakanyi Hoffmann** delivered a resonant and deeply ethical critique of the current trajectory of artificial intelligence development, urging participants to confront how technological infrastructures are increasingly replicating long-standing systems of extraction, marginalization, and cultural erasure. Her intervention, grounded in the African philosophy of Ubuntu, offered a call to reimagine AI as a space of relationality—one that prioritizes collective well-being, interconnectedness, and ecological harmony over profit and control.

Opening with a stark example from Kenya, Hoffmann described how land traditionally used by the Samburu community for agriculture and water access has been reallocated for data centers, with freshwater now diverted to cool servers rather than sustain life. "This is not innovation for all," she cautioned. "This is the digital repetition of displacement." Her framing captured the event's core tension: that innovation, if left unchecked, can become yet another frontier of dispossession.

As a counterpoint, Hoffmann advocated for embedding Ubuntu ethics in every layer of AI systems. Rather than treating identity, knowledge, and language as commodities, Ubuntu teaches that one exists through others—human and more-than-human alike. In technological terms, this entails designing systems that uphold mutual care, cultural continuity, and the integrity of local ecosystems.

She further shared her work on building a digital repository of African folktales—ancestral narratives

that carry intergenerational wisdom on balance, resilience, and restraint. These stories, transmitted orally over centuries, encode sustainable practices, including the use of local materials, adherence to seasonal rhythms, and avoidance of excess. Hoffmann argued that such cultural repositories are not merely folklore but constitute vital intellectual contributions to the ethical architecture of AI.

Building on her prior reflections, Hoffmann further highlighted three initiatives as exemplary cases of decolonial and community-led digital innovation: the first**,** Lelapa AI, is a homegrown African model that integrates Ubuntu principles while revitalizing endangered Indigenous languages, embedding relational ethics directly into the core of its code; the second one, Rural Link AI, a decentralized platform enabling farmers across Kenya to exchange climate knowledge, seed preservation methods, and agricultural techniques, thereby supporting resilience through local wisdom rather than external intervention; and the last one, Decan Studios, a cultural heritage project that digitizes oral and visual traditions in Ghana and neighboring regions. Unlike conventional archiving models, it returns narrative ownership to communities, reimagining digital memory as a living, communal space.

Concluding her intervention, Hoffmann issued a stark warning: unless values are consciously encoded, artificial intelligence risks entrenching existing inequalities and rendering invisible the languages, stories, and epistemologies of countless communities. She described the linguistic bias in large language models as a form of digital extinction, one that must be actively resisted.

"*We cannot afford to reproduce colonialism through code,"* she urged. "*Let us encode care, reciprocity, and survival. Let us build systems as wise and relational as the communities they seek to serve*."

Luis Portales Derbez, Director of the Institute for the Future of Education at the University of Monterrey, offered a humanistic and forward-looking reflection on the role of education in a rapidly transforming digital world. He emphasized that education is not merely a right; it constitutes a realm of acknowledgment, connection, and transformative potential. Central to his intervention was a plea to reconceptualize artificial intelligence—not as a replacement for education, but to enhance empathy, opportunity, and inclusion, particularly for those who have historically been marginalized in knowledge creation.

Portales outlined four foundational principles guiding the Institute's work: flexibility, adaptability, inclusivity, and relevance. He argued that these principles are especially critical in contexts of structural inequality, where conventional education systems often fail to reflect or respond to learners' lived realities. Within this framework, AI is envisioned not merely as a content-delivery mechanism, but as a mirror through which students can see themselves reflected, respected, and empowered.

Portales Derbez presented a pioneering initiative developed by the Institute: an AI tutor designed for adolescents in low-income communities, which prioritizes the development of emotional intelligence alongside academic skills. This tool creates a supportive environment where students can express themselves, build confidence, and navigate complex emotions. Many participants reported feeling more comfortable interacting with the AI than with parents or teachers, indicating that technology, when ethically designed, can establish a neutral ground in which empathy and trust are fostered.

Portales carefully stressed that such tools must never replace human relationships. Rather, they are intended as complementary supports, particularly in contexts where stigma, trauma, or resource scarcity limit young people's access to connection and guidance. Because AI carries no personal history or inherited bias, it can—when governed responsibly—offer safe spaces for learning, reflection, and self-expression.

He also addressed the broader societal role of education, cautioning against the use of technology to reinforce dominant norms or perpetuate exclusion. Instead, he advocated for conscious digital pedagogy, an approach that invites learners to become co-creators of their own futures. Education,

he argued, should cultivate agency, embrace pluralism, and enable communities to shape the tools and narratives that define them.

In conclusion, Portales urged greater investment in educational models centered on empathy, cultural relevance, and local ownership. He reminded participants that AI holds transformative potential—not because it automates, but because it can amplify human dignity and possibility. He summarized this vision succinctly: "AI has no intrinsic purpose. That must be defined by us—by communities, by educators, by values that see people not as data points, but as beings worthy of care and potential."

UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

July 14, 2025

Crafting Change: AI & Artisanal Intelligence for Inclusive and Regenerative Economies

Organized by: Hecho por Nosotros and animaná

Event Focus

1. **Recognizing and Integrating Artisanal Knowledge in AI Development:** To recognize and actively integrate the unique skills, traditional knowledge, and cultural heritage of artisanal communities into the development and application of artificial intelligence tools.
2. **Amplifying Artisanal Voices and Addressing Technological Access through AI:** To leverage AI-powered platforms and tools to amplify the voices and needs of artisanal communities by connecting them directly with broader markets, facilitating fair-trade mechanisms, and enabling access to critical information and resources.
3. **Utilizing AI to Bridge Capacity Gaps and Promote Inclusive Economic Growth:** To identify how artificial intelligence can contribute to bridging existing capacity gaps within artisanal communities, particularly in areas such as design innovation, quality control, supply chain management, and sustainable market access.
4. **Fostering Equitable Partnerships, De-risking Investment, and Ensuring Access to AI for Artisanal Development:** To foster collaborative partnerships among AI developers, policymakers, investors, and artisanal communities, ensuring that the development and deployment of AI solutions are context-specific and inclusive.

Event Summary

The 2025 High-Level Political Forum focused on exploring the potential for a symbiotic relationship between artisanal communities and artificial intelligence, addressing how AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools and insights can empower craftspeople and strengthen their livelihoods. This officially recognized side event, hosted by Hecho por Nosotros, sought to examine opportunities for AI to enhance various aspects of artisanal work, ranging from supporting and informing production methods to preserving traditional techniques and fostering innovation in design.

The report highlights the role of artificial intelligence in bridging existing technological disparities, while offering concrete solutions for capacity building within communities.

Aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the initiative advocates fair trade practices, sustainable production models, and the creation of meaningful connections between artisans and global consumers.

Participants

- Adriana Marina, Founder of Hecho por Nosotros and animaná
- Diego Bermúdez, Hecho por Nosotros leader/ Expert in digital innovation and circular economy
- Tricia Langman, Managing partner Hecho por Nosotros
- Cristina García Mochales, Hecho por Nosotros/ Business model innovator
- Radhika Shah, Co-president Stanford A&E/Tech+Impact Investor.
- Grabriela Arenas, Co Co-Founder and CO Chief Facilitator at Catalyst Now, global social innovation leader and UN Peace Ambassador for Latin America
- Nicolas Guerini, director at IIFM Milano
- Laura Benbenaste, Specialist in Social Innovation and Impact Projects
- Louise Lee, Consultant, educator design

Main Report

The event opened with welcoming remarks by **Adriana Marina** and **Andrea Guevara**, who emphasized the importance of collaborative spaces as a prerequisite for achieving systemic change. They reflected on the work carried out by Hecho por Nosotros within the sustainable fashion industry, highlighting the organization's commitment to integrating regenerative business models, traditional knowledge, and technological innovation as mutually reinforcing pillars.

Subsequently, **Diego Bermudez** inaugurated the speakers' segment by underscoring the urgent need for transformation within the creative economy, particularly in the fashion industry. He noted that the prevailing production model continues to reinforce patterns of overproduction and overconsumption, while simultaneously creating structural barriers for Indigenous economies. These barriers include limited access to finance, fragmented value chains, homogenization within global markets, and restricted access to knowledge and digital tools necessary to understand foreign market dynamics and regulatory frameworks. He concluded by emphasizing that meaningful transformation must begin within the creative economy itself and be driven by what he referred to as digital artisanal intelligence.

Following this intervention**,** **Tricia Langman** presented Toolkit, a global educational initiative designed to support artisans and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through sustainable and regenerative emerging technologies and practices. She highlighted that the primary objective of the initiative is to democratize access to knowledge and tools. In closing, she underscored the role of emerging technologies—such as blockchain and artificial intelligence—in supporting artisans, designers, and SMEs across diverse contexts.

Cristina García then emphasized that collaboration is, in her view, the most important ingredient for achieving systemic change. She illustrated the transformative power of a collaborative spirit through concrete examples, including a project currently being developed by Hecho por Nosotros to create an AI-powered platform aimed at safeguarding ancestral knowledge. This initiative, she noted, is being built in partnership with institutions and programs such as AWAKE University, Lenovo, and Ashoka.

In a subsequent intervention, Adriana Marina highlighted the importance of sharing best practices with the global community to enable their replication and implementation across contexts. She emphasized that societies are increasingly acknowledging the current state of the fashion industry, in which Indigenous communities—despite being the root of cultural heritage—remain structurally excluded from the system. Adriana concluded by stressing that collaboration and mutual understanding are essential to overcoming fragmentation and fostering a more inclusive and interconnected global ecosystem.

Next, **Radhika Shah** stated that, to genuinely shift systems toward sustainability, there is a need to co-create at a global level and to design and build AI-powered solutions. She further stressed that academic perspectives must evolve and translate into artisanal knowledge and Indigenous wisdom in order to foster regenerative and inclusive economic models.

Building on this reflection, **Gabriela Arenas** turned attention to what she identified as the central question guiding the discussion: *"How do we learn to live with AI, which is present in everything we do?"* She argued that a critical first step lies in becoming consciously aware of what data is being fed into AI systems. By sharing initiatives, she noted, AI can facilitate reconnection among groups engaged in similar work, fostering collaboration and enabling

communities to interact and organize information more effectively.

Subsequently, **Nicola Guerini** highlighted the responsibility to teach and communicate that fashion is not merely a product, but also a cultural expression. He identified a key challenge within the sector: artisans and young designers often operate within different conceptual and linguistic frameworks, which creates barriers to collaboration and mutual understanding.

Following this intervention, **Laura Benbenaste** focused on the role of social entrepreneurs who leverage technology to address social challenges. She underscored the importance of building stronger connections between social entrepreneurs and the technology industry in order to develop technological solutions that are intentionally designed to transform social realities.

Louise Lee then shared three frameworks and initiatives developed by Times Higher Education that illustrate how universities can actively support the themes discussed throughout the event. These include the AI and Digital Maturity Index, the Technology Utilization Index, and the Impact Rankings. Together, these frameworks enable universities to assess how they can improve by learning from successful institutional practices, innovating through technology in underserved contexts, and strengthening their contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, **Wakanyi Hoffman** briefly presented aspects of her work, which centers on the ethics of AI design. She emphasized the application of Ubuntu ethics as a guiding framework for the development of new technologies.

Laboratories

Following the main panel discussions, the event transitioned into 14 "Living Room" sessions, or breakout rooms, designed to delve deeper into the topics previously covered. These sessions provided a platform for stakeholders, experts, and participants to exchange ideas and collaboratively explore solutions focused on fostering inclusive growth and sustainability. Each lab was introduced as a continuation of the event's commitment to creating spaces for open dialogue and collaboration, reflecting the goal of integrating diverse perspectives and expertise.

LAB 1

Collaboration and Funding for a Systemic & Inclusive Change for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind.

Participants: Radhika Shah, Fran Fachimi, Adriana Marina, Jade McLachlan, Daiana

This laboratory session focused on the importance of bottom-up funding models, blockchain for transparency, and using existing tools and knowledge rather than waiting for funding. The session highlighted trust-based finance and youth-led action.

LAB 2

Regenerative Education for Systemic Change

Participants: Adriana Marina, Nicola Guerini, Trish Langman, Wakanyi Hoffman, Louise Lee, Diego Bermúdez

This lab focused on the role of Artificial Intelligence in documenting and transmitting ancestral knowledge. Participants proposed the development of a multilingual AI ecosystem and emphasized ethics and collaboration in the design of educational technologies grounded in collective memory.

LAB 3

AI Solutions to Preserve Fading Traditional Wisdom and Skills

Participants: Nelly García López, Shobha Ramani, Margherita Biagioli

This lab examined the erosion of orally transmitted knowledge through the lens of vernacular

architecture, highlighting the role of AI in regenerating—rather than merely digitizing—cultural practices. Participants introduced the concept of "emotioning data" as an approach to data design that is respectful, contextual, and attuned to cultural meaning.

LAB 4

Fair Trade and Theory of Change

Participants: Camilla Tettoni, Rozela Franco, Giovanni Conti, Olga Tolstaia

This session emphasized the need for systemic change within the fashion industry, addressing the challenges of implementing fair trade at scale. It underscored the value of the Theory of Change framework as a strategic tool for advancing sustainable transitions that move beyond surface-level sustainability approaches.

LAB 5

AI in SMEs Awarded the Argentine Seal of Good Design

Participants: Sebastián Feinsilber, Luciana González Franco, Fernando Bach, Matías Figliozzi

This lab showcased small and medium-sized enterprises that presented models centered on zero-waste design, co-creation with artisanal communities, and the use of AI to systematize traditional knowledge without generating cultural loss. The discussion emphasized the importance of intersectoral partnerships and consumer education.

LAB 6

Empowering Gender Equality in Creative Economies: Innovation, Access and Equity

Participants: Martha Castellanos (guest), Patricia Porreca, Paola Álvarez, Norma, Catalina Rodríguez

Through a case study focused on the Wayuu community in Colombia, this lab illustrated how pedagogical approaches rooted in cultural identity can foster both economic and social empowerment for women. The initiative demonstrated the integration of university-level education into traditional community life.

LAB 7

From Consumption to Connection: Youth, Technology, and the Revival of Ancestral Wisdom

Participants: Alejandra Nava (guest), Minjeong Bae, Brenda Lee

This session explored themes of emotional consumption, digital inclusion, and the role of mentorship in youth empowerment. Technology was reframed not as a symbol of status or prestige, but as a tool to strengthen community wellbeing.

LAB 8

ILO Migrant Communities in Latin America: Technology as Enablers of Decent Work

Participants: Andrea Guevara (moderator), Montserrat López (speaker)

This lab examined the role of digital tools across the different stages of migration, highlighting both their potential—such as platforms like MigApp—and their associated risks, including misinformation and limited connectivity. The discussion underscored the need for a regional framework for skills recognition.

LAB 9

Blockchain and Ethical AI for Artisans Communities

Participants: Radhika Machetti, Jess Maina, Airish Castillo, Silvia Sorzano (moderator), Sharika Nandan

Participants explored the Digital Product Passport as a mechanism to ensure transparency, safeguard cultural intellectual property, and empower artisanal communities. Artificial intelligence and blockchain were framed as complementary tools capable of supporting inclusion and the development of regenerative economic models.

LAB 10

Ethics, risks, and challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Originary Communities

Participants: Mino Hagino, Guadalupe Quedzul, Liliana Ceja, Luis Parra

This session focused on the risks of cultural assimilation linked to AI deployment, emphasizing the academic responsibility. Participants highlighted the urgency of co-designed ethical frameworks that preserve indigenous agency and cultural identity.

LAB 11

Regenerating from the Roots: Artisans, Technology, and Circular Economy for an Inclusive Future

Participants: Marcos Carrillo, Jess Arana, Gladis Rojas, moderated by Isabela Villegas

Artisans from the Global South shared lived experiences of regeneration grounded in ancestral knowledge. The discussion highlighted persistent barriers such as limited digital access and the need for foundational digital training.

LAB 12

Catalyst from Fear to Encounter: Reimagining AI as Generational Bridge

Participants: Soleir Valecillos, Salomón Raydan, Karol Chinchilla, Mauricio Canedo, Victor Manrique, Elisabetta McKena, Paula Peña

This lab highlighted how conversational AI and inclusive technologies can contribute to the preservation of collective memory, strengthen intergenerational bonds, and foster shared knowledge creation. Aging was reframed not as a limitation, but as a powerful stage for continued contribution.

LAB 13

Integrating Technology Solutions for the Protection of Camelid Populations and Sustainable Production of Camelid Products in the South American Context

Participants: Patricia Larios, Gustavo Roldán, Enrique Concha

The discussion addressed structural challenges within Andean camelid fiber value chains, including environmental vulnerability, poor remuneration for producers, and pressures linked to export-oriented markets. Participants emphasized the role of local innovation and accessible low-cost technologies.

LAB 14

Systematic Change in Fashion via Regenerative Models

Participants: Carola Moya, Romina DiGiovanni, Luna Perich

This session analyzed Chile's REP Law, alongside broader barriers to the adoption of circular fashion models, including greenwashing practices. Key takeaways underscored the importance of robust legal frameworks, cross-sector collaboration, and clearer, more transparent communication around sustainability practices.

Second World Summit for Social Development

November 5, 2025

Artificial Intelligence and Artisanal Intelligence Synergizing for Sustainable Living

Organized by: Hecho por Nosotros and animaná

Event Focus

The specific objectives of the initiative include promoting social inclusion and cultural resilience by demonstrating how the integration of ancestral knowledge and ethical digital tools can bridge the digital divide and empower marginalized communities to co-create social protection mechanisms aligned with their cultural identities (SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities).

In addition, the initiative seeks to advance decent work and economic inclusion by presenting practical models for transitioning artisans from informal to formal economies, equipping them with regenerative, digital, and entrepreneurial skills, thereby promoting dignified employment and broader economic opportunities (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth).

Furthermore, it aims to embed ancestral innovation into inclusive value chains to eradicate poverty, exploring how Artisanal Intelligence can be incorporated into ethical and circular value chains to generate stable, long-term income for Indigenous and rural communities (SDG 1: No Poverty).

Finally, the initiative addresses cross-cutting priorities by highlighting community-driven efforts that integrate women and underrepresented groups into decision-making processes, thereby tackling gender disparities, climate vulnerability, and digital exclusion (SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 9: Innovation; SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities; SDG 13: Climate Action).

Event Summary

In a rapidly changing world, Hecho por Nosotros (HxN) addressed the risk of losing invaluable ancestral wisdom by demonstrating a unique approach: merging ethical AI with the "Artisanal Intelligence" of Indigenous communities. This side event showcased how this fusion enabled vulnerable populations to co-create regenerative social protection systems and dignified work rooted in identity and territory.

By positioning communities not only as beneficiaries but as knowledge-holders and innovators, the model highlighted how ancestral practices, when combined with cutting-edge technologies, could inspire systemic solutions to global challenges. This approach strengthened cultural heritage, created inclusive economic opportunities, and fostered resilience in the face of climate, economic, and social disruptions.

Ultimately, it provided a practical and scalable model of how ancestral knowledge and digital tools could converge to generate equitable futures—where sustainability, cultural identity, and social justice were at the core of regenerative development

Participants

- Adriana Marina, Hecho por Nosotros & animaná, Founder
- Diego Bermúdez, Expert in Circular and Digital Innovation. University Hecho por Nosotros
- Nicola Guerini, Director at IIFM Milano; Alliance with Hecho por Nosotros
- Jenny Ayman, WISE Project Manager
- Christopher Hoffman, Humanitarian Innovation Advisor and Digital Transformation Catalyst
- Maya Márquez, Programme Specialist; UN Joint SDG Fund; Leader of LNOB, SIDS
- Radhika Shah, Stanford A&E CoPresident; Founding CoChair UN; Joint SDG Fund; Breakthrough Alliance
- Pavel Luksha, Founder and director of Global Education Futures initiative; Creating learning ecosystems for regenerative futures
- Clara Hawking, Executive Director at Kompass Education; Specialist in AI governance and ethics; advisor on global education policy and responsible technology
- Marisol Rodriguez, Youth Advocacy Leader at Hecho por Nosotros

Main Report

Adriana Marina welcomed all attendees with warmth and reflected on the importance of fostering systemic change through collaboration. She highlighted the potential of aligning artificial intelligence with artisanal knowledge to promote regenerative models that respect both culture and the environment. Adriana underscored the ongoing work of Hecho por Nosotros, noting how the integration of traditional wisdom and technological innovation can inspire solutions to global challenges while strengthening local communities and preserving cultural heritage.

Marisol Rodriguez greeted all participants and expressed her gratitude for being part of this side event. She emphasized the honor of moderating the discussion on "Artificial Intelligence and Artisanal Intelligence Synergizing for Sustainable Living" and acknowledged the dedication of the Hecho por Nosotros team and partners who made the gathering possible.

Representing the youth of Hecho por Nosotros, Marisol highlighted the organization's commitment to listening and learning from communities, the Earth, and the ancestral knowledge embedded in artisanal practices. She outlined how Hecho por Nosotros works alongside Indigenous and rural artisans across Latin America, Africa, and Asia to strengthen value chains, expand fair market access, and co-create spaces where ancestral wisdom meets ethical innovation.

Marisol framed "Artisanal Intelligence" as the living knowledge that guides sustainable creation and innovation without loss of heritage. She invited reflection on how artificial intelligence can learn from this wisdom to amplify, rather than replace, the voices of those preserving life through their crafts. She concluded by reinforcing that true innovation emerges through co-creation, uniting technology and ancestral knowledge to design regenerative models of living, producing, and coexisting, and called on all participants to continue weaving a future grounded in dignity, solidarity, and shared cultural and social development.

The session began with interventions from the main speakers, who shared their expertise and perspectives on the synergy between Artificial Intelligence and Indigenous Artisanal Intelligence. The speakers included Adriana Marina, Diego Bermúdez, Nicola Guerini, Jenny Ayman, Christopher Hoffman, Maya Márquez, Radhika Shah, Pavel Luksha, and Clara Hawking.

Following the panel discussion, the session proceeded with Breakout Room discussions. In these sessions, academics, sustainability leaders, policymakers, technology experts, and Indigenous representatives presented their initiatives in a series of lab rounds, exploring how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Indigenous Artisanal Intelligence can synergize to foster regenerative and inclusive development models.

Subsequently, participants reconvened in the plenary, where the moderators from each breakout group were invited to share the key insights and innovative ideas that emerged from their respective labs. Each moderator was asked to provide a concise and focused synthesis, ensuring that the contributions remained clear and actionable.

The session concluded with Adriana Marina delivering a heartfelt note of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants for their engagement, collaboration, and dedication to advancing inclusive and sustainable innovation.

Laboratories

Following the main panel discussions, the event transitioned into 12 "Living Room" sessions, or breakout rooms, designed to delve deeper into the topics previously covered. These sessions provided a platform for academics, sustainability leaders, policymakers, technology experts, indigenous people to present their initiatives in a lab round covering various areas related to how Artificial

Intelligence (AI) and Indigenous Artisanal Intelligence can synergize to create regenerative and inclusive development models.

These areas include fostering creative industries, driving innovation and development, adopting regenerative models, promoting inclusive finances, leveraging technology and digital tools, and other relevant topics such as gender equality and women empowerment, the role of indigenous communities, impact investment towards bringing circularity to global value chains, and the exchange of textile knowledge and ancestral craftsmanship across global regions, fostering cross-cultural collaboration and sustainable innovation.

LAB 1

Impact Investing Challenges for Sustainable Systemic Change using AI

Participants: Christopher Hoffman, Diego Bermudez, Radhika Sha, Shobha Ramani

The discussions highlighted several interrelated themes and contributions that underscored the potential of AI to foster inclusive and sustainable development. Participants first explored inclusive and blended investment models, proposing approaches where communities contribute through crowdsourcing or co-funding, thereby increasing ownership and enhancing project sustainability. It was noted that impact investors often underfund MVPs or pilot projects, treating them as peripheral; thus, educating investors on the socio-economic imperatives of SDG-driven initiatives could build confidence and channel early-stage investment into social innovation.

The group then emphasized the importance of appropriate and sustainable technology. They argued that social-good AI does not require costly or complex systems, and that Small Language Models (SLMs), no-code solutions, and lightweight architectures can generate powerful, low-cost tools. Such models not only reduce environmental impact but also foster accessibility and innovation autonomy within local ecosystems.

Policy innovation and public AI infrastructure were also highlighted as crucial, particularly in Latin America, where there is an urgent need to educate policymakers and facilitate public access to AI for vulnerable communities. Open-source and community-led models were seen as essential alternatives to corporate platforms. Drawing lessons from India, participants referenced the country's investment in Digital Public Infrastructure—such as digital ID systems and payment platforms—as a replicable model, emphasizing a "step-change approach" that sequentially develops infrastructure from electricity to healthcare, to digital payments, and ultimately digital commerce.

Empowering communities through AI emerged as another central theme. AI can restore agency, dignity, and voice to indigenous and artisanal communities by positioning them as co-creators in the digital economy. Participants underscored the significance of collective bargaining over cultural knowledge, land, and resources, noting that collaboratively designed AI can amplify traditional wisdom while respecting cultural sovereignty.

Additional insights enriched the discussion. **Adriana Marina** emphasized that the crisis of values in current systems hinders equitable growth, pointing to Latin America's paradox of being rich in resources and culture yet home to some of the world's poorest populations. She stressed the need for ethical economies grounded in community, culture, and sustainability.

Participants further examined lessons from India and the Global South, highlighting the transformative potential of accessible, government-backed innovation and the importance of open innovation and South-South collaboration in creating digital ecosystems designed for and by the Global Majority. Intellectual property and indigenous rights were also emphasized, with speakers advocating for fair governance and partnerships to protect indigenous knowledge. The role of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) was noted as pivotal in balancing innovation with the protection of traditional knowledge within global AI frameworks.

Key takeaways from the lab included the value of blended finance to foster inclusion, the importance of educating impact investors to unlock mission-aligned investment, the need for sustainable and accessible tech design, and the critical role of policy leadership through public AI infrastructure and open-source ecosystems. Ethical co-design, prioritizing cultural values, data sovereignty, and indigenous agency, was identified as essential, alongside the empowerment of communities to build bargaining power over their land, skills, and ancestral knowledge.

In conclusion, the lab reaffirmed that the convergence of Artificial and Artisanal Intelligence represents a pathway to inclusive and sustainable innovation. Participants called for strengthened partnerships connecting policy, investment, and community leadership to ensure that the digital revolution uplifts, rather than displaces, the voices and agency of indigenous and artisanal peoples.

LAB 2

Educación Textil con Propósito: Capacitación como Herramienta de Empoderamiento Femenino en Contextos Vulnerables

Participants: Jess Arana, Santiago Sanchez, Marcos Castillos, Pilar Cina

Marcos Castillos participated from the Puna region of Jujuy, representing the community of Sausalito. He is an artisan working with llama and sheep wool and is also engaged in livestock farming. Marcos highlighted that one of the main challenges his community faces is limited access to the internet and training opportunities, which are essential for organizational development and achieving higher-quality finishes in their work.

Santiago Sanchez, who works in Buenos Aires with artisans employing ancestral techniques, echoed Marcos' observations regarding the difficulties related to internet access and community organization.

Marcos further noted the challenge of understanding garment sizing, as sizes in the northern region tend to be smaller, and expressed a desire for additional knowledge in marketing strategies.

Jess Arana then provided an explanation of the programs and support available through Hecho por Nosotros, detailing the organization's commitment to offering workshops and contributing to artisanal capacity building. She presented a PowerPoint showcasing projects conducted as part of the Capacity Building initiative in Santiago del Estero, emphasizing that HxN's objective is to foster dialogue, co-create, and actively involve communities in the learning process.

LAB 3

Bridges of Wisdom: Ancestral Textile Exchange between Latam & China

Participants: Marisol Rodriguez, Violet Zi, Professor Li Zhe, Sara Di Lorenzo, Jessica Lu

Marisol Rodriguez opened the session by introducing the "Bridges of Wisdom" Project, emphasizing its goal of establishing a direct collaboration network between rural textile communities in Latin America and China. She highlighted that the initiative seeks to preserve ancestral knowledge while improving the environmental sustainability of textile processes, noting that both regions face shared challenges such as pollution, loss of traditional knowledge, and regional inequality within the textile sector.

The project's specific objectives include mapping and documenting ancestral knowledge and sustainable practices in selected communities, designing and implementing virtual bilateral workshops focused on innovation in natural fibers and sustainable techniques, co-developing best practices that integrate ancestral methods with technological advances, and promoting an intercultural South-South cooperation network to drive fair trade and sustainable development. Ultimately, the project aims to create an intercultural network that links ancestral textile knowledge with contemporary scientific and technological approaches, fostering innovative and culturally sensitive solutions.

Following this, **Violet Zi** presented her perspective on ancestral knowledge as a living system, emphasizing that craft is not outdated knowledge but a form of intelligence that is embodied and transmitted through repetition, gesture, and skill practice. She stressed the deep connection between textile knowledge and the local environment, explaining that colors are derived from local plants and river water, and that losing access to the land endangers the entire knowledge system. Textiles, she explained, function as living databases, carrying memories, mythology, religion, and history, thus representing both identity and ownership. In this context, she underscored that any heritage exchange or integration with AI must be conducted ethically and respectfully. Violet concluded by highlighting that heritage must evolve, illustrating how the sight of a grandmother teaching a young woman ensures the continuation of life and tradition, emphasizing that the objective is not to preserve craft in stasis but to enable its regeneration for a shared and artistic future.

Professor **Li Zhe** followed with a presentation on the evolution of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in China, focusing on Chinese embroidery and brocade and the relationship between ethnic minority crafts and ICH. He discussed the pivotal role of the Chinese government in shaping local craft practices through workshops and direct support for local artisans.

She explained that China's approach to ICH protection has transformed from emergency documentation to a comprehensive top-down national campaign, restructuring laws, institutions, and cultural understanding. Six key dimensions characterized this system, including a robust legal framework, permanent management structures staffed with thousands of officials, significant funding and project coverage reaching over 100,000 projects and 900,000 inheritors, educational initiatives expanding from traditional apprenticeships to university programs and national certifications, industry and technology integration through 3D modeling and blockchain, and a shift in cultural perception recognizing ICH as a core component of cultural strength and modern civilization rather than "backward folklore".

The session concluded with a discussion on key takeaways and actionable insights. Violet Zi emphasized that knowledge sharing must move from discussion to co-creation, advocating for sustained peer groups where Chinese and Latin American artisans collaborate to solve problems and innovate together. She highlighted the importance of empowering artisans to document their own knowledge and to co-design products that convey stories and values, ensuring that market opportunities are ethical and that the value of craft is recognized within the community.

The main concepts underscored throughout the session, as highlighted by Marisol Rodriguez, included building direct bridges between rural textile communities, connecting artisans with researchers and innovators, and co-creating spaces of dialogue where ancestral knowledge is valued as a source of innovation and not merely as heritage, thereby fostering sustainable, culturally sensitive, and collaborative development.

LAB 4

Designing Tomorrow with Yesterday's Wisdom: Technology and Africa's Global Sustainability Journey

Participants: Tricia Langman, Mphoentle Mongale, Juliana Loshiro

The lab explored Africa's journey toward sustainability through the integration of technology, culture, and ancestral wisdom, guided by the central question: how can technology coexist with—and amplify—traditional knowledge systems to build a regenerative and inclusive future?

The objective of the session was to highlight African perspectives on sustainability and inclusion, and to explore how digital tools can strengthen communities while preserving identity and ecological balance.

Tricia Langman opened the conversation by framing Africa's creative industries as a key force for global

transformation, drawing from her South African roots and work in fashion innovation. She reflected on how heritage and sustainability are deeply intertwined, emphasizing that ancestral African practices already embody principles of circular design, community economy, and respect for nature long before these concepts were formalized as global sustainability goals. Tricia stressed that technology should serve to tell these stories, not replace them, and invited reflection on how creative education and technological tools can empower the next generation of African designers to preserve their roots while driving innovation.

Building on this perspective, **Mpoenthle Mongale** from South Africa shared insights on how technology and social innovation are reshaping youth participation in sustainability. He emphasized that digital access and entrepreneurship can become instruments of empowerment when connected to local traditions and social impact, highlighting youth leadership and the importance of designing technologies that serve communities rather than corporate agendas. He further noted the potential of African startups and creative hubs to lead inclusive development through collaboration between traditional artisans and young innovators.

Complementing these contributions**, Juliana Loshiro**, founder of the Language Culture Initiative (LCI) in Mukogodo Forest, Kenya, presented her work combining cultural revival and sustainability, focusing on reviving the endangered Yaakunte language while empowering women through beekeeping and ecological education.

Juliana demonstrated how technology, when applied thoughtfully, helps document oral histories, ecological knowledge, and craft traditions, making them accessible to future generations and connecting local stories to global audiences. She emphasized that language is integral to understanding the forest, the bees, and cultural identity, asserting that reviving it rebuilds the link between people and nature. Her initiative exemplifies the concept of Artisanal Intelligence, where human creativity, community knowledge, and ancestral connection coexist with Artificial Intelligence to foster regenerative innovation.

The discussion further underscored that Africa's sustainability journey offers universal lessons for a regenerative global economy, emphasizing that technology must serve inclusion, that cultural knowledge is a form of innovation deserving investment and policy support, and that women and youth are central to translating sustainability narratives into action. Comparative reflections highlighted parallels between African and Latin American contexts, recognizing a shared mission of reclaiming cultural identity as a foundation for innovation, as well as the importance of South–South cooperation through knowledge exchange, sustainable design, and circular economy practices.

Key takeaways emphasized that digital tools should act as bridges connecting communities to their heritage, that women and youth play pivotal roles in redefining sustainability in Africa, that ancestral knowledge provides practical and ethical foundations for innovation, and that education and cross-regional collaboration are essential to fostering shared progress while ensuring that language, identity, and ecological balance remain at the center of technological development.

In conclusion, the session reaffirmed that "Designing Tomorrow with Yesterday's Wisdom" functions both as a philosophy and an actionable framework, demonstrating that Africa's experience shows how innovation rooted in culture and community can guide the world toward more sustainable, inclusive systems, and that integrating technology with ancestral knowledge not only preserves heritage but also shapes a global narrative of regeneration and equity.

LAB 5

Theory of Change and Fair Trade: Regenerative and Inclusive Economic Models and Digital Integration for Sustainable Fashion and Responsible Consumption

Participants: Olga Tolstaia, Jade Minkyung Kim, Vanessa Tello, Miguel Angulo

The session on sustainable fashion production opened with **Olga Tolstaia** providing an overview of the current impacts of fashion production, including waste generation, climate change, biodiversity loss, animal cruelty, and social unfairness, highlighting the urgent need to transition toward fully sustainable production across every stage of the value chain.

She introduced sustainability processes in the wool industry, encompassing animal welfare, regenerative agricultural models, sustainable practices at textile and clothing production levels, and zero-waste initiatives at the post-production stage.

Emphasizing the role of digital tools, including AI applications, Olga illustrated how smart cutting techniques and various apps can enable low-waste production and the reuse of old clothing, thereby aligning production with environmentally responsible practices.

Building on this, **Vanessa Tello** addressed the challenge of promoting slow fashion in a fast fashion world, highlighting how the latter drives overproduction, labor exploitation, and clothing waste, disproportionately affecting women workers.

She underscored that slow fashion fosters durability, fair wages, eco-friendly materials, and respect for cultural traditions, while acknowledging barriers such as higher costs and the perception of limited style.

Vanessa noted, however, that younger consumers and digital traceability tools, including blockchain, are shifting market behaviors, citing Animaná's work with Indigenous artisans and women to revive ancestral techniques through ethical innovation as a practical example.

Jade Minkyung Kim subsequently explored the integration of Fair-Trade principles with digital empowerment to build inclusive value ecosystems, emphasizing the importance of fostering economic pathways for marginalized producers and mainstreaming equitable trade practices across the global fashion value chain. She elaborated on the need to fuse traditional craftsmanship with human-centered digital innovation and posed the critical question of how Indigenous artisans can be meaningfully integrated into ethical, digitally enabled value systems. Jade outlined four action pathways, including digital empowerment through ethical access to emerging technologies, revitalizing craftsmanship through industry synergies, cross-cultural co-creation between designers and artisans, and the digitization of ancestral knowledge under responsible governance, introducing the Hecho por Nosotros Toolkit as a practical bridge for artisans transitioning toward digital and circular economy models, and noting alignment with SDGs 8, 10, 12, 16, and 17.

Miguel Angulo addressed the challenges of greenwashing and ethical luxury, defining greenwashing as misleading communication that creates false environmental credibility and emphasizing its risks, including consumer distrust, erosion of legitimate sustainability efforts, and barriers to systemic transformation. He highlighted the need for regulatory compliance and verified traceability, citing luxury brands such as Loro Piana that claim sustainability without ensuring supply-chain accountability.

The open discussion focused on the question of how to motivate companies in the fashion industry to implement sustainable practices, with participants agreeing that multi-layered governance combining corporate commitment, academic engagement, Indigenous collaboration, and governmental incentives is necessary to drive systemic change.

Olga Tolstaia highlighted that short-term profit orientation and weak state control remain core barriers, emphasizing that a shift in mindsets among both corporations and communities is essential to prioritize social and environmental value overgrowth metrics.

Jade Minkyung Kim stressed that excluding Indigenous communities from sustainability discussions risks the loss of culture, compliance, and innovation, underscoring that Indigenous knowledge must be integrated into both value creation and digital governance to achieve truly fair systems.

Miguel Angulo reinforced that greenwashing is a harmful practice that must be actively countered, while Olga Tolstaia encouraged consumers to consider the production processes behind the clothing they purchase, noting that informed choices toward sustainable goods can empower brands to adopt nature-focused and socially oriented production strategies. The session concluded with

Olga Tolstaia summarizing the discussions, emphasizing the integration of digital and AI tools into sustainable production models, the empowerment of Indigenous communities, and the adoption of slow fashion and anti-greenwashing practices. Participants collectively agreed that systemic behavioral change across corporations, consumers, and governments is crucial for the transformation of the fashion industry toward sustainability, and Olga closed the session by inviting all attendees back to the main plenary.

LAB 7

When AI Supports a Craft: Empowering Artisans Through Technology

Participants: Ada Rodriguez, Teresa Solomon, Olga Fedorova, Nicola Guerini, Elio Brunetto

The session focused on the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and artisanal practices in fostering efficiency and circularity within the fashion industry. Central to the discussion was the potential of AI to assist small producers in optimizing processes, reducing costs, and enhancing sustainability across the value chain.

Digital tools enable improved pattern layout optimization, which minimizes textile waste, more efficient energy and resource management, and precise material planning, particularly critical for SMEs facing high raw-material costs. Frameworks such as the Return on Sustainable Investment (ROSI) framework were highlighted as vital instruments for SMEs to evaluate improved business practices and measure sustainable ROI.

The discussion also emphasized the strategic importance of Latin America as a hub for natural and renewable fibers, including alpaca, llama, vicuña, and guanaco, and how blockchain and digital product passports allow full traceability from agriculture to finished garments. Transparency, facilitated through these tools, fosters consumer trust and loyalty by validating both sustainable practices and dignified production conditions.

Marketing, communication, and market access were addressed as significant barriers for artisans, with AI offering cost-efficient solutions for content creation and storytelling, enhancing digital presence and connecting artisans with conscious consumers seeking authenticity, meaning, and responsible production.

Circular design initiatives, including repair programs, take-back systems, and local supplier networks, were discussed as integral to reinforcing local circular ecosystems, with AI and digital tools helping to map and strengthen these community-oriented practices, thereby economically and culturally empowering artisanal communities.

Speakers contributed specific insights that illustrated these themes in practice. **Teresa Salomon** elaborated on the ROSI framework and the role of digital innovation, noting how AI reduces textile waste through automated pattern placement and improved design workflows, while blockchain ensures transparency regarding raw material provenance, production stages, and labor conditions. AI-driven digital marketing enables small brands to create targeted, value-aligned content, and circular practices such as repair programs and take-back systems close material loops and strengthen local ecosystems.

Olga Fedorova presented Animaná's model of conscious commerce, positioning trade as a tool for positive transformation rather than mere economic exchange. She described collaborations with Andean and Patagonian artisans to preserve ancestral knowledge and promote ecological fibers, highlighting the use of natural, renewable materials aligned with local land management traditions. Digital Product Passports, developed through QR technology, were presented as a mechanism to

"make the invisible visible," granting dignity to artisans and transparency to consumers, with trust emphasized as a prerequisite for successful technological adoption in remote communities. Consumers' growing preference to "buy less, but better" reinforces the importance of education and storytelling, areas where Hecho por Nosotros has been actively connecting with artisan communities.

Nicola Guerini highlighted the moral imperative to preserve artisanal knowledge through education, stressing that systemic change in fashion begins with training programs that demonstrate how digital tools can complement traditional craftsmanship. Collaborations between IIFM Milano and Asian universities aim to link ancestral skills with digital innovation, fostering a sense of belonging and ownership among young artisans while ensuring that fashion heritage is preserved, communicated, and integrated with contemporary markets.

Elio Brunetto underscored the role of storytelling and human-centered AI, advocating for AI that amplifies rather than replaces human creativity. Digital storytelling was presented to transform data into emotion, preserving the cultural context behind crafts, while design acts as a bridge between ancestral traditions and contemporary audiences. AI is positioned as a tool to make visible the labor, dignity, and heritage inherent in artisanal products, protecting and expanding human creativity rather than supplanting it.

Final reflections reinforced that AI and artisanal intelligence are not opposing forces; rather, their convergence can generate sustainable, transparent, and culturally grounded value chains. The successful integration of technology depends on trust, education, and storytelling, while the empowerment of artisans requires digital tools developed with communities, not merely for them.

The session concluded that the future of sustainable fashion lies in reconnecting consumers, students, designers, and artisans through purpose-driven innovation.

LAB 8

Closing the Gap: AI Governance from an Ancestral Knowledge Perspective

Participants: Lily Xiao, Mara Bolis, Elisabetta

This lab examined the intersection of gender equality, cultural heritage, and ethical AI governance within Indigenous communities, with a focus on how technological advancement interacts with social inclusion.

The session opened with an introduction by Lily Xiao, who framed gender as a pivotal element in all social issues, including the development and deployment of artificial intelligence. She highlighted that AI is not neutral, as it inherently reflects the biases of the data it is trained on and the individuals who design and employ it. Consequently, existing social inequalities and the gender digital divide are often reproduced and amplified within AI systems.

Women, particularly in Indigenous and marginalized communities, face limited access to AI technologies, and when access is granted, the tools frequently embed gender and cultural biases, restricting their opportunities to fully participate in technological and social innovation. Lily emphasized that without inclusive governance and strong ethical oversight, AI systems risk reinforcing societal stereotypes, raising the critical question of whether human behavior must adapt to teach AI inclusivity, or whether AI itself will reshape societal understanding of inclusivity.

To address these challenges, she introduced **Mara Bolis**, founder of First Prompt, a movement dedicated to empowering communities, especially women, to engage as authors of technology rather than passive users.

Mara Bolis, with over twenty-five years of experience in women's empowerment and international development, shared insights from her research at Harvard, noting that most AI policy discussions neglect the gender dimensions of access and participation, particularly for Indigenous women.

She founded First Prompt to enable women to reclaim agency in the AI revolution by providing learning and awareness opportunities that bridge the gender-technology gap.

Mara emphasized the ambivalence that many individuals experience toward emerging technologies, where optimism and fear coexist, reflecting both the potential and the dangers of AI, including bias, privacy violations, lack of transparency, and environmental harm.

She highlighted the contradiction inherent in sustainability advocacy that relies on AI tools consuming significant energy and water resources, underscoring AI's environmental footprint and its impact on global sustainability.

Mara further explored how a feminist perspective can enrich AI discourse, ensuring respect for traditions and gender equality. She cited emerging movements among Indigenous women organizing around AI's use of ancestral knowledge, illustrating how intergenerational transmission of knowledge, such as learning from a grandmother, can coexist creatively with AI applications. She envisioned AI-assisted storytelling and educational tools, including digital archives and AI-generated recreations of traditional learning scenes, contingent on Indigenous feminists actively shaping these tools to support rather than exploit ancestral knowledge.

Lab participants contributed critical reflections that deepened the discussion. **Elisabetta Mc'Kena** raised concerns about the interaction between communities with differing timelines, interests, and traditions and the rapid pace of technological development, questioning whether framing Indigenous knowledge as something to "protect" risks redefining communities through external categories rather than on their own terms. She emphasized that Indigenous communities must retain control over their cultural data; however, the reliance of AI models on vast, often non-consensual datasets poses substantial challenges to safeguarding traditional knowledge. Even with privacy options, creators' data are frequently integrated into large-scale training sets, creating a fundamental tension between choosing to remain "on the grid," risking data exploitation, or staying "off the grid," risking exclusion from technological progress.

The discussion expanded to the environmental impact of AI, with Lily highlighting the immense energy and water demands of AI models, raising ethical questions about advocating sustainability while relying on ecologically costly technologies. Mara drew parallels with extractive industries, referencing data centers in Chile that deplete local resources, and stressed the potential threat to Indigenous women's rights to land, health, and sustainable livelihoods.

The panel collectively underscored that Indigenous women must be central voices in developing regulatory frameworks and ethical guardrails, while cautioning that this responsibility should not fall solely on their shoulders.

The lab concluded with several key takeaways. Gender, while often overlooked in AI discussions, is fundamental to understanding how AI affects access, representation, and inclusion.

AI technologies inherently mirror human biases, necessitating careful governance when integrated into Indigenous contexts.

Participants emphasized the delicate balance between preserving traditional knowledge and engaging in digital innovation, highlighting the importance of empowering women to ensure that AI functions as a tool for inclusion rather than reinforcing inequality.

Mara's article, "The AI Gender Gap Paradox," was shared to provide further insight into the gendered and ethical dimensions of AI, reinforcing the session's overarching goal: to cultivate environments in which women, particularly from marginalized communities, are empowered through AI, ensuring that AI becomes a tool for inclusion, not inequality.

LAB 9

Reinventing AI through Indigenous Women's Knowledge and Leadership

Participants: Chiara Vera, Melannie Ramírez, Albana Schiffini, Carolina Manzano, Andrea Mezquita

The general focus of the session was to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can be designed from the knowledge, leadership, and perspectives of Indigenous women artisans, addressing systemic exclusion and the biases that perpetuate inequalities related to gender, territory, and ethnicity. The discussion emphasized the necessity of building AI that is truly participatory, pluralistic, community-centered, and regenerative.

Participants highlighted the structural inequalities embedded in AI, noting that the teams designing and training these systems are predominantly based in the Global North, which reproduces cultural, racial, and gender biases while systematically excluding women artisans from the Global South.

The conversation also addressed digital access gaps, emphasizing the barriers Indigenous women face in using basic technologies—from mobile devices to understanding digitalized public services—which renders them more vulnerable as public systems transition to digital platforms.

A critical theme was the invisibilization of ancestral knowledge, including indigenous languages, artisanal techniques, and cosmologies, which are often absent from the datasets that inform AI systems, representing a form of epistemic violence.

To counteract this, participants proposed co-creating a "Feminist-AI Charter of Principles" to establish ethical criteria for including Indigenous women in AI processes, emphasizing direct participation, knowledge protection, linguistic plurality, diversity within development teams, and an intersectional approach.

The session included territorial experiences, such as **Carolina Manzano**'s account of women who weave using techniques that are challenging to transmit orally, illustrating how AI could support the documentation and teaching of these practices.

Concerns were also raised regarding the risks of digital extractivism, often described as "digital colonialism," where communities are reduced to data or tradition providers without receiving tangible benefits. The discussion underscored the need for communities themselves to manage their data and decide what is shared.

Education and leadership initiatives originating within communities were highlighted, with Melanie presenting bilingual intercultural education programs and emphasizing the role of youth as digital guardians responsible for protecting intellectual property and cultural knowledge.

Final reflections reinforced that AI must not serve as an extractive or paternalistic tool but should be co-created with Indigenous communities, recognizing them as knowledge holders rather than mere beneficiaries. Social transformation begins not with external solutions but with acknowledging the dignity, autonomy, and leadership of women artisans.

The session concluded with a call to establish genuine participatory and decision-making infrastructure, ensuring that communities lead processes from design to technological implementation.

Plans were made to enhace HxN's Gender Working Group and to organize a future territorial meeting with communities to co-construct these tools rooted in cultural grounding rather than representation. These initiatives were framed not merely as technological innovations but as acts of historical justice and cultural reparation.

LAB 11

Tejido Vital: pensar – sentir – decir – HACER

Participants: Javier González Quintero, Michelle Ulloa Landívar, Felipe Benegas Lynch, Vanesa Enríquez.

This laboratory explored the living dialogue between ancestral knowledge and contemporary practices through textile art.

From Andean textiles to contemporary narratives, the session examined how weaving functions as a bridge between memory, emotion, and worldview, inviting participants to rethink their relationship with nature.

The central focus revolved around the concept of weaving as an integral act that involves thinking, feeling, expressing, and doing—a form of embodied knowledge that connects individuals with their environment, their communities, and their history.

Throughout the discussion, textiles were understood as carriers of memory and spirituality, extending beyond aesthetic or technical value, and as expressions of the inseparable relationship between nature and humanity within Andean worldviews, where weaving reflects harmony, reciprocity, and a deep bond with life.

The role of the weaver emerged as that of a storyteller whose practice does not merely produce objects but transmits narratives, emotions, and ways of understanding the world, while contemporary textile art was highlighted as a space for reflection and reconnection with ancestral practices.

Clothing was framed as a “second skin,” encouraging a critical perspective on consumption, a renewed appreciation for quality, and respect for the creative process, alongside a clear emphasis on avoiding shortcuts in artisanal creation, recognizing that responsible production requires time, care, enjoyment, and commitment.

In terms of forward-looking commitments, the laboratory underscored the importance of promoting education grounded in ancestral knowledge by integrating textile practices into holistic learning methodologies, strengthening interdisciplinary spaces for dialogue among artisans, artists, designers, educators, and academic communities, and advancing the protection and recognition of textile memory as living heritage that sustains cultural identities.

It also called for the incorporation of principles of care, slowness, and quality into sustainability strategies and responsible production models, as well as the encouragement of community-based projects that link textile practices with emotional well-being, identity, and territorial development, reinforcing the relationship between art, nature, and community through practices that honor harmony with the environment.

In conclusion, the laboratory highlighted weaving as a profound act of connection in which thinking, feeling, expressing, and doing transform thought into creation and creation into collective memory.

Textiles, as guardians of stories and symbols, remind us that nature is not a resource to be exploited but a living system with which we share existence, and the session ultimately invited participants to re-center the heart in everyday and creative practices, to honor artisanal processes, and to cultivate a more respectful, conscious, and sensitive relationship with what we wear and with the world we inhabit.

LAB 12

Hecho por Nosotros LATAM, Modelos Regenerativos e IA: "De la Semilla a la Mesa"

Participants: Sandra Mendoza, Gabriela Samaniego, Stefan Fiedler Alvarado

The laboratory addressed the integration of local producers through the recovery, conservation, and promotion of native seeds, ancestral agricultural practices, and contemporary scientific knowledge.

The session focused on how regenerative models, supported by advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, bioinformatics, phylogenetics, and bacterial microbiology, can strengthen food sovereignty, biodiversity, and sustainable value chains “from farm to table.”

The overall approach sought to articulate different knowledge systems—ancestral, scientific, and technological—in order to advance toward a regenerative, fair agri-food model aligned with ecosystem protection and food security.

Throughout the discussion, participants emphasized the need for integral regeneration across value chains, encompassing environmental,

socioeconomic, and biocultural dimensions, while ensuring ecological justice, economic fairness, and responsible data governance.

Regulatory and political compliance emerged as a key issue, particularly the importance of meeting phytosanitary requirements and food safety standards for both local consumption and export markets.

The conversation consistently returned to cosmovision as a starting point, highlighting the principle that "we are Nature" as a prerequisite for ethically and respectfully integrating technology. This perspective supported a critical use of technology, stressing the importance of avoiding the imposition of tools driven by trends and of asking not only "can we?" but also "should we?" when adopting new technologies. Interdisciplinary collaboration was described as a natural process, provided that economic and decision-making power remains balanced and that social impact is prioritized over extractive profit.

At the same time, potential tensions were acknowledged between the core principles of regenerative agriculture and the externalization of labor through AI, alongside the need to design minimum viable ecosystems for value chains capable of generating regenerative products at scale while maintaining sustainability.

Stefan Fiedler Alvarado's insights reinforced these themes, particularly through reflections on working territorially across the entire value chain, understanding environmental, social, and biocultural regeneration as foundational pillars of a fair enterprise, and ensuring compliance with commercial, phytosanitary, and food safety regulations to protect both consumers and export processes.

The integration of ancestral knowledge and AI was framed around cosmovision as the point of origin, underscoring that without recognizing humanity as part of nature, ethical integration is not possible. A strong critique was raised against the uncritical imposition of technologies, emphasizing that tools must respond to real, collectively agreed needs rather than external pressure or fashion, and that the question of whether technologies should be adopted must always accompany discussions of feasibility.

Interdisciplinary collaboration was recognized as emerging organically yet requiring safeguards to preserve power balance and to prioritize social impact over extractive economic gain.

Looking ahead, the discussion highlighted that the regenerative essence of agriculture may be incompatible with certain forms of labor externalization through AI, and that sustainable scalability depends on designing minimum viable ecosystems capable of articulating complete value chains and contributing to regeneration at the ecosystem level.

In terms of action-oriented commitments, the laboratory underscored the importance of strengthening community seed banks and native seed networks through the integration of ancestral practices and scientific knowledge, promoting regenerative production models that are both ecologically and socioeconomically sustainable and grounded in fair biocultural governance, and developing AI and bioinformatics technologies guided by cosmovision, real use cases, and informed consent. It also emphasized the need to create minimum viable agri-food ecosystems that ensure traceability, food safety, value addition, and systemic regeneration, to foster interdisciplinary alliances among communities, scientists, technologists, agro-industries, and policymakers, and to guarantee robust local and international regulatory frameworks that support export, fair trade, and food security.

In conclusion, the laboratory highlighted that regenerative agriculture is not merely a production method but a cosmovision that unites territory, culture, science, and technology. Integrating AI and advanced tools requires sensitivity, ethics, and consensus, with life, biodiversity, and community well-being as constant priorities, and scaling these practices demands the design of agri-food ecosystems that regenerate rather than deplete the natural and cultural foundations sustaining the food systems of the future.

Special Thanks

As this report concludes, the collective work reflected across the seven sessions reaffirms a shared conviction: transformative solutions emerge when knowledge systems are approached with humility, collaboration, and long-term commitment. The dialogues, labs, and exchanges documented here demonstrate that innovation is not only technological, but deeply human, relational, and rooted in territory, culture, and lived experience.

Looking ahead to 2026, on behalf of Hecho x Nosotros, this collective journey—made by us, with communities, and for shared futures—calls for sustained engagement, trust-based partnerships, and continued co-creation with communities as equal leaders in shaping inclusive, regenerative futures. We extend our sincere gratitude to all participants for their commitment, generosity, and shared vision, which continue to guide this work beyond the report itself.