High–Level Political Forum
"Crafting Change: AI & Artisanal Intelligence for Inclusive and Regenerative Economies"
14th July, 2025

Report of the Plenary Session and Laboratories

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Side Event hosted by Hecho por Nosotros & animaná at the High Level Political Forum On Sustainable Development 2025

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

Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind

Louise Lee
Especialista en educación superior y transformación digital.

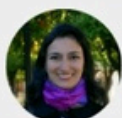**Gaby Arenas**
Co-Chief Facilitator

Adriana Marina
Founder of animaná & Hecho por Nosotros

Radhika Shah
Stanford Angels & Entrepreneurs CoPresident-Founding CoChair UN Joint SDG Fund Breakthrough Alliance
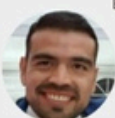
Trish Langman
Managing Partner Hecho por Nosotros

Nelly García
Professor Universidad de los Andes Stanford Fellow

Laura Benbenaste
Entrepreneurship, Social Impact, and Technology

Diego Bermudez
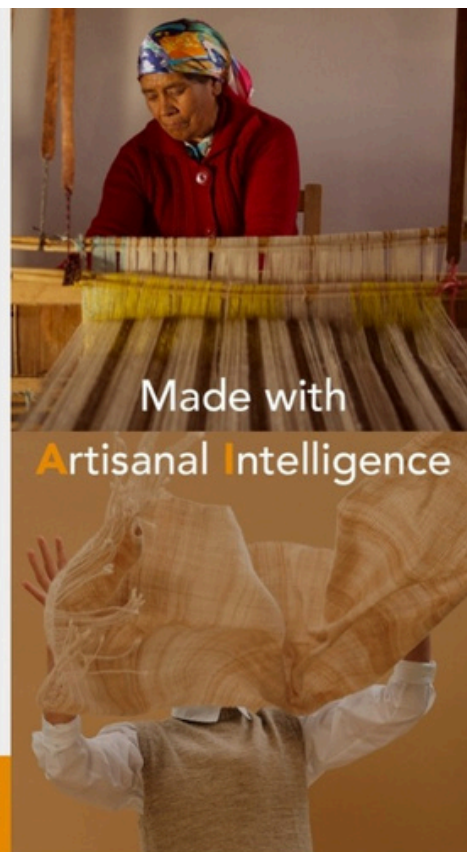Circular Economy and Digital innovation Expert

Wakanyi Hoffman
Head of Sustainable AI Africa Research at Inclusive AI Lab (Utrecht Uni)

July 14th 1PM NY Time

Made with Artisanal Intelligence

Event Summary:

The session examined the potential for a symbiotic relationship between artisanal communities and artificial intelligence (AI). Participants explored how AI tools and insights can empower craftspeople, improving production methods, optimizing supply chains, expanding ethical market access, and preserving traditional techniques, while fostering innovation in design. A central thread was the need to bridge technological disparities through capacity building and to ensure that any AI integration is culturally grounded, ethically designed, and respectful of artisans' knowledge and heritage.

The session's outcomes contribute to SDG 1 (No Poverty), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The event advanced a shared vision in which AI, guided by public–private collaboration and cultural stewardship, becomes a catalyst for long-term sustainability and economic empowerment in artisanal communities. By honoring ancestral knowledge and building inclusive digital capacity, stakeholders can ensure technology strengthens–rather than supplants–living traditions and regenerative, circular economies.

Event Focus:

Ultimately, this event aimed to foster a collaborative dialogue on how strategic integration of AI, supported by both public and private initiatives and stakeholders, can contribute to the long-term sustainability and economic empowerment of artisanal communities. We seek to envision a future where AI serves as a powerful enabler for the flourishing of artisanal traditions in the digital age.

Event Objectives:

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 AI tools. This ensures that AI solutions are culturally relevant, ethically sound, and genuinely address the needs and aspirations of local craftspeople, fostering responsible innovation and production practices that build upon existing sustainable methods.

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, connecting them directly with broader markets, facilitating fair trade, and providing access to crucial information and resources. This includes addressing disparities in technology access by exploring user-friendly AI applications and training initiatives that empower artisans to benefit from digital advancements without undermining their traditional practices or cultural identity.

Utilizing AI to Bridge Capacity Gaps and Promote Inclusive Economic Growth: To identify how AI can help bridge existing capacity gaps within artisanal communities, particularly in areas such as design innovation, quality control, supply chain management, and market access. This involves exploring inclusive financing models that support the adoption of appropriate AI technologies and foster sustainable economic growth
within these creative economies, ensuring that technological advancements lead to tangible improvements in livelihoods and skills development.

Fostering Equitable Partnerships, De-risking Investment and Ensuring Access of AI for Artisanal Development: To foste collaborative partnerships between AI developers, policymakers, investors, and artisanal communities to ensure that the development and deployment of AI are equitable and context-specific. This includes working to de-risk investments in AI-driven solutions for grassroots artisanal organizations by demonstrating their potential for positive social, economic, and environmental impact, thereby removing barriers to sustainable development and promoting the long-term flourishing of these marginalized communities.

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

Convented by

Adriana Marina
Founder of HxN
& animaná

Participants

Adriana Marina Founder of Hecho por Nosotros and animaná

Diego Bermúdez Hecho por Nosotros leader/ Expert in digital innovation and circular economy

Trish Langman Hecho por Nosotros partner

Cristina García-Mochales,Hecho por Nosotros/ Business model innovator

Radhika Shah CoPresident Stanford A&E/Tech+Impact Investor

Gabriela Arenas Co-Founder and Co-Chief Facilitator at Catalyst Now, global social innovation leader and UN Peace Ambassador for Latin America

Nicola Guerini Director at IIFM Milano

Laura Benbenaste Specialist in Social Innovation and Impact Projects

Louise Lee Consultant, educator designer

Wakanyi hoffman Specialist in Indigenous knowledge and ethical technology (3 minutos)

Nelly García Specialist in process management and technology, focused on reinventing the industry through AI

Radhika Shah

Fran Fachimi

Ana Milena Vera

Shobha

Nelly García

Matías Baglieri

Camilla Tettoni

Rozela Franco

Giovanni Conti

Olga Tolstaia

Sebastián Feinsilber

Luciana Gonzalez Franco

Fernando Basch

Matías Figliosi

Anabella Weber

Belén Papola

Ignacio Concha

Gustavo Roldán

Romina Di Giovani

Luna Perich

Cecilia Grigio

Isabella Ortiz

Patricia Porreca

Paola Álvarez

Martha Castellanos

Minjeong Bae

Makadunyiswe Mia Mtembu

Brenda Lee

Alejandra Nava

Genny Metani

Andrea Guevara

Isabella Gómez

Montserrat López

Radhika Machetti

Jess Maina

Airish Castillo

Silvia Sorzano

Sharika Nandan

Cris García-Mochales

Heidy Herrera

Liliana Ceja

Guadalupe Quedzul

Miho Hagino

Arturo Ponce de León

Luis Parra

Isabela Villegas

Jess Arana

Gladis Rojas

Marcos Murillo

Felipe Benegas

Javier

Gabriela Samaniego

Vanesa Guajardo Molina

Salomon Raydan

Karol Chinchilla

Mauricio Canedo

Soleir Valecillos

Victor Manrique

Chiara Vera

Patricia Larios

David Luján

Carola Moya

Ada Rodríguez

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Made with
Artisanal Intelligence

Main Report

The main event of the High-Level Political Forum focused on propelling systemic change through the integration of AI and artisanal intelligence for inclusive and regenerative economies. We had the honor of featuring valuable speakers who discussed themes such as fair trade, AI design, and support for indigenous communities. Discussions emphasized the need for collaboration, innovative funding models, the role of education in bridging the gap between traditional knowledge and modern technology, and mainly the role of AI in powering this transformation. Challenges such as cultural appropriation, the need for systemic change in the fashion industry, and the importance of youth engagement were highlighted as barriers to overcome in the pathway towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Action items included exploring blended finance models, leveraging blockchain for transparency, and enhancing educational initiatives to support grassroots communities. This event centered on a shared exploration of how AI, when guided by collaborative public-private partnerships, can drive lasting sustainability and economic opportunity within artisanal communities. It aimed to examine AI's capacity to reinforce advanced eco-friendly production methods and expand market access for artisans worldwide. Our goal was to imagine a digital future in which AI acts as a catalyst for preserving and revitalizing traditional craftsmanship.

The main panel started with Adriana Marina, founder of Hecho por Nosotros and animaná, highlighting the importance of collaborative spaces to stimulate systemic change. She remarked on the work done at Hecho por Nosotros through advocacy, research, and collaboration to foster a more inclusive, ethical, and sustainable fashion industry. And emphasized that integrating regenerative business models, traditional knowledge, and technological innovation were the fundamental values of the discussion. Andrea Guevara, HxN collaborator and leader of the YouthxYouth programme, underscored the power of youth to catalyze this synergy, between ancestral knowledge and emerging technologies. She emphasized youth leadership in co-creation processes, the need to equip young changemakers with ethical, interdisciplinary tools, and the importance of ensuring their voices help shape AI design, education pathways, and financing models that serve communities. Complementing this perspective, Sausalito artisan leader Marcos Murillo shared his personal and professional experience.

He described how his collaboration with organizations like Animaná and Hecho por Nosotros has enhanced his artisanal work. Marcos also mentioned the challenges and barriers that artisans in his community face and how digital innovation could help overcome these obstacles, improving both the production and marketing of their products.

Diego Bermúdez, Hecho por Nosotros leader, former Senior Research Analyst at Ellen MacArthur Foundation and expert in digital innovation and circular economy, opened as the first speaker, focusing on the importance of transformation within the creative economy, particularly in the fashion industry, driven by the powerful convergence of cutting-edge technologies and ancestral knowledge systems. He stated that current system of production reinforces issues like overproduction, over consumption and unsustainable practices while also creating significant barriers for Indigenous economies in the Global south, rooted in traditional artisanal intelligence, namely; limited access to finance, fragmented value chains and generalization in global markets, lack access to knowledge and digital tools to understand foreign market dynamics and regulations. Diego supported the idea that what is needed is a shift from competition to collaboration and succession, building transparent and traceable supply chains. Reinforcing that true transformation begins within the creative economy and with digital artisanal intelligence.

Trish Langman, Hecho por Nosotros partner, followed and talked about Hecho por Nosotros educational initiatives, mostly about the Toolkit. The Toolkit is a global educational initiative supporting sustainable and regenerative emerging technologies and practices for artisans, entrepreneurs, and SME's. Co-created to promote equity, sustainability, and emerging technologies in underserved communities around the world. Trish declared that the goal of the Toolkit is to get access for everyone. Trish also mentioned alternative supporting materials provided by Hecho por Nosotros, like a dynamic materials index which connects users to companies developing new biomaterials, and also traditional artisanal materials. Finally highlighted the role of emerging technologies like blockchain and AI, supporting designers, artisans, and SME's.

Cristina García-Mochales, Hecho por Nosotros Business model innovator, focused on collaboration as a tool, which she considered to be the single most important ingredient

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for creating systemic change, as she stated, "lasting impact is only born when we build ecosystems that bring together all of these voices and expertise". Then mentioned a project of Hecho por Nosotros to create an AI powered platform to safeguard ancestral knowledge which is being built with partners like an AWAKE University, other ngo's in Mexico and on the ground expertise and AI experts all over the world, from Finland to India and other partners and programs like Ashoka and Lenovo, as an example of the power of collaborative spirit. Then proceeded to make a call to action to collaborate on solutions and to create new ecosystems of innovation.

Afterwards, Adriana Marina recalled the journey of sixteen years of Animana and Hecho por Nosotros co-creating and collaborating with artisans, producers, policymakers, researchers, and students. But foremost, observed the power in not only creating solutions but also in sharing those good practices with the global community to be implemented. Adriana weighed up on the idea of an awakening as a society, that is becoming more aware of the current state of fragmentation, where, ironically, indigenous communities that are at the root of our culture, of our society, our textile and fashion industry, are at the same time totally apart from the system. In that matter, artisanal intelligence can be an answer, because it opposes fragmentation with profound connections to Earth and the environment. Adriana declared that going forward, to reconnect with that wisdom, artificial intelligence is key. Artificial Intelligence is created as a result of what is fed into it, and she strongly believes that if we enhance the grassroots of artisan indigenous in AI, it can be a powerful tool to help them appropriate their culture, and promote their enormous capacity of coexistence with Earth and biodiversity. Adriana closed, stating that to overcome fragmentation, collaboration, comprehension, and the presence of all of us is needed. At that point, she invited Marcos Carricho to tell his story and how the support of Hecho por Nosotros helped artisans, producers, and heads of households to conserve their way of life and income.

We were privileged to have Radhika Shah, Co-President of Stanford Angels & Entrepreneurs and Initiative Founding Co-Chair of the SDG Digital Transformation. For Radhika to truly shift systems towards sustainability, it is imperative to co-create globally and also, at this particular time, build and fund AI-powered solutions and academic initiatives that not only advance sustainability but also bend the arc of the AI

transformation towards artisanal knowledge and indigenous wisdom to promote regenerative, inclusive economies. She identified that to achieve the systems change needed to accelerate the SDGs, it is fundamental to recognize the interconnectedness of not just people and communities, but of economic, environmental, and social challenges. It is necessary to bridge artisanal knowledge with AI innovation and embrace regenerative models.

Radhika shed light on something crucial: for her, "The power is in the synergies". In that way, AI solutions combined with artisanal intelligence and local cultural context could represent the artisan to customers in every part of the world, provide real-time input on demand for products, and suggestions on what makes it a better fit for customers while retaining cultural context and identity. This AI tool could potentially negotiate better prices for the artisan or groups of artisans and help the community share the heritage with the world and connect with other grassroots artisan communities, which is critical to decrease fragmentation. At last, she pointed out that integrating traditional artisanal knowledge with modern tech and business innovation while ensuring the local community as an agency is the catalytic approach needed to advance inclusive and regenerative economies and a sustainable future.

Gabriela Arenas, Co-Founder and Co-Chief Facilitator at Catalyst Now reflected that the main question about the topic is how to learn to live with AI, which is already present in everything we do. Gabriela presented some examples to illustrate the answer and concluded that it is of the highest relevance to consciously know what we are feeding the AI with. In this case, with information about the indigenous wisdom and the knowledge that the communities have, but also with all the initiatives that have been done. By sharing initiatives, AI allows one to reconnect or match with other groups doing the same work and collaborate, to share best practices, to allow the communities to interact with each other, and to see the best way to organize the information.

So fundamentally, Gabriela exposed how we can use AI for good, how we can use it to support the work that is being done, and how we can use it also to be better and faster connected with other networks. For Gabriela, "something that we have been missing for years, is that we don't need to invent the wheel. There are indigenous communities, artisans, and traditional communities that have been developing sustainable textiles, sustainable fabrics, they have

sustainable practices and a circular economy" and what we have to do is learn from them.

For Nicola Guerini, Director at IIFM Milano, examined that fashion and artisanal work may seem two different things. But in reality, they are strongly interconnected. For him, as an educator in fashion, there is a duty to teach that fashion is not just a product, but is also culture. Approaching fashion through this interdisciplinary lens allows us to understand that fashion means dealing with culture, people, and in particular, with language that connects not only through countries but also connects generations. Nicola believes that's why it's important to raise this awareness that dealing with a very multifaceted phenomenon like fashion implies dealing with culture. If this is ignored, it can incur several risks, like cultural appropriation. The biggest issue that he sees at the moment is the fact that artisans are speaking one language, and young designers in the same places are speaking a totally different language. So the first step is to connect these generations, these different mindsets, and these different cultures.

Laura Benbenaste, Specialist in Social Innovation and Impact Projects, talked about social entrepreneurs using tech to solve social issues and, what's more, the need to have a connection between social entrepreneurs and tech industries, to build tech made to change social realities. Laura mentioned that's why they created the first community of social entrepreneurs that use AI for social impact to bring the voice of a powerful and relevant ecosystem into the decision-making spaces. She also remarked on the work done by Ashoka in leading entrepreneurs, innovation, and powering social impact.

LLouise, a consultant and educator designer, shared three frameworks and initiatives that Times Higher Education has to show how universities could be engaged to support the topics discussed at the event. First, the AI and Digital Maturity Index, a global survey with participation from nineteen hundred universities, where the idea is to provide universities benchmarking data so that they can compare to similar universities and somehow can mimic successful examples from their peers. Some areas of assessment of that index are AI governance, data policy, and ethical policies for data use, also measures whether they have the basic technology and infrastructure to allow researchers to do AI research. Secondly, explained the Technology Utilization Index, such an index shows that universities in poorer regions tend to

use technologies more fully, and that suggests perhaps more innovative use of those technologies. Thirdly, shared the Impact Rating, which rates universities to see whether they are contributing to SDGs or not, as a tool to mobilize colleges in aligning their goals, curriculum, or initiatives to the SDG agenda. Louise finalized the intervention, mentioning one last initiative that could be taken as an example of collaboration in Higher Education: the interdisciplinary Science ranking, funded by the Schmidt Foundation, that ranks universities based on their investment in interdisciplinary studies.

Wakanyi Hoffman, Specialist in Indigenous knowledge and ethical technology, briefly explained her work at the AI lab at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, where she primarily looks at the ethics of AI design, primarily for Africa, utilizing the framework of Ubuntu ethics as guiding principles for designing in any new technology. Wakanyi reassured that there exist real ethical considerations regarding indigenous issues, their knowledge, and how it is connected with technology. Then proceeded to invite the public to her breakout room to further discuss this topic.

This session examined the transformative possibilities that arise when artisanal communities and artificial intelligence collaborate. Participants discussed how AI can empower craftspeople—improving production techniques, streamlining supply chains, and opening access to new markets—while also preserving ancestral methods and inspiring design innovation.

The conversation further addressed how AI-driven capacity-building initiatives can close existing digital divides, and highlighted the need for ethical, culturally informed implementation that honors artisans' unique skills and heritage. By convening public and private stakeholders, the event fostered a shared vision for leveraging AI to reinforce fair trade, advance sustainable production, and connect artisans with global consumers. In doing so, it reinforced commitments to the UN 2030 Agenda, particularly SDGs 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, and 17, and invited all actors to co-create a future in which technology strengthens, rather than supplants, traditional craftsmanship.

As we look back on our discussions, it is crucial that we convert the ideas exchanged into tangible outcomes. The true measure of our event's success will be the extent to which each participant returns to their communities ready to apply these insights, from integrating AI tools in local

workshops to advocating for fair-trade policies at the municipal level. The SDGs offer a clear roadmap for this work, reminding us that economic advancement must go hand in hand with social justice and environmental stewardship.

Real change demands humility, open collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to putting inclusivity and sustainability at the heart of every project. By embracing co-creative leadership and leveraging the diverse strengths of public and private partners, we can build resilient networks capable of navigating complex challenges. Let us harness the momentum from this session, fostering new dialogues, forging strategic partnerships, and taking concrete steps toward the 2030 Agenda. Thank you for your dedication and for sharing your expertise. Together, we can ensure that AI becomes a force for preserving cultural heritage and driving regenerative growth across artisanal economies worldwide.

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LABS:

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.

The breakout rooms facilitated dynamic discussions on a wide range of topics, including the promotion of creative industries, the transformation of value chains, and the adoption of regenerative models. Participants also explored the use of design in innovative business models, the promotion of inclusive finance, and the role of technology and digital tools in driving sustainable development. Additionally, discussions addressed critical issues such as gender equality, women's empowerment, the role of indigenous communities, and impact investment aimed at introducing circularity into global value chains.

In these sessions, academics, sustainability leaders, policymakers, technology experts, and indigenous representatives shared their experiences and initiatives. The focus was on co-creating actionable solutions and strategies to tackle the pressing challenges faced by our global society in achieving sustainability. The following pages provide an in-depth look at the vibrant participation and insights generated during these breakout sessions, illustrating the collaborative efforts to advance a more inclusive and sustainable creative economy. The Labs are presented below.

LAB 1

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

During the session, Jade McLachlan emphasized the importance of bridging the often-disconnected spheres of education, entrepreneurship, philanthropy, finance, and community knowledge when designing solutions for social change. She highlighted trust-based funding as an organic approach that aligns more closely with the needs of Indigenous communities, arguing that young changemakers must be equipped not only with resources, but also with the tools, mindsets, and networks necessary to lead positive transformation within their own communities.

Building on this, Radhika Shah reflected on the crucial shift from top-down to bottom-up financing models. She argued that directing funds straight to grassroots initiatives, in structures such as blended finance, allows remote communities to bypass bureaucratic bottlenecks and receive support more efficiently. Francisco and Adriana Marina further underscored that true inclusivity in funding also requires providing communities with market-integration tools.

This dual focus on capital and capacity has driven both Animaná and Hecho por Nosotros to develop a diverse array of projects aimed at ensuring artisans and local producers can participate fully in global value chains.

Adriana noted that the fragmentation of current development systems signals their failure and insisted on the need to think beyond existing frameworks. By leveraging knowledge and technology (often already in the hands of communities) we can empower people to drive systemic change from the ground up. Francisco proposed that blockchain technologies hold decisive potential for enhancing transparency, credibility, and collaboration, and Radhika expanded this idea to suggest its use not only in financial transactions but also as a way to build trust and engage youth in community development.

Finally, Daiana Ramírez introduced the idea of deploying AI to combat cultural appropriation in the textile industry and hold major brands accountable for misuse of Indigenous heritage. Adriana added that to achieve genuine impact, we must foster solutions outside the current system. ones in which extractive brands lose their influence. Both Jade and Adriana stressed that while securing funding is vital, immediate action with existing tools is equally urgent. They encouraged stakeholders to harness the attention economy strategically, engaging young audiences to create demand for ethical, community-centered products and practices.

LAB 2

Regenerative Education for Systemic Change. Articulating AI with ancestral knowledge

The discussion centered around exploring ways artificial intelligence could create solutions for articulating ancestral knowledge and integrating its teaching. Key solutions highlighted included the need to involve different actors and enhance human contribution. There was a strong emphasis on the importance of connecting indigenous knowledge with history and culture, as well as addressing the lack of documentation, an area where AI could support its spread and teaching.

Participants discussed the creation of an AI ecosystem that could help bridge communities by supporting language-specific connections.

This ecosystem would include multilanguage models to communicate with local communities, and focus on smaller models built for local-level application. These models would be trained with specific data for targeted use, aiming to make knowledge accessible and to make visible what has long been invisible. The discussion also underscored the importance of ethical considerations, emphasizing the need to work with communities and teachers to build technologies grounded in collective stories and respectful collaboration. The concept of "artisanal intelligence" was shared, suggesting that sustainability is embedded within the process itself, rather than being a goal to achieve. Policy implications were noted as essential.

LAB 3

AI Solutions to Preserve Fading Traditional Wisdom and Skills

This session explored how artificial intelligence can support the preservation, regeneration, and adaptation of traditional and artisanal knowledge systems. It focused particularly on sustainable construction practices, vernacular materials, and place-based techniques that are often displaced by industrialized models. The lab emphasized ethical design, inclusive data environments, and community-led innovation to ensure that AI supports visibility and continuity, not simplification or erasure.

Shobha Ramani opened the session by emphasizing that fragmented efforts are no longer enough to safeguard traditional knowledge. In a global context marked by rapid digitization and cultural erosion, she called for integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to ensure that ancestral knowledge systems remain visible, valued, and viable. She introduced the work of Nelly García López as an essential contribution to this shared objective, highlighting the importance of bridging traditional practice with innovative tools like AI.

Nelly García López presented a framework developed by her research group at Universidad de los Andes. It explores how AI can be used to preserve and expand traditional knowledge in the construction sector, particularly in relation to vernacular materials and artisanal techniques. he framework uses a systems-thinking approach to identify points where knowledge is being lost and proposes AI as a way to bridge regulatory, educational, and policy gaps.

One of the core challenges García López highlighted is the documentation bottleneck. Much of this knowledge is transmitted orally or through lived practice, making it vulnerable to being lost. In the short term, AI can help organize, classify, and make visible these techniques in ways that are accessible and adaptable. She described the framework as an open and evolving tool that must be developed in partnership with artisans, builders, and local communities.

Margherita Biagioli contributed a reflection on the design of data systems, arguing that ancestral knowledge must be treated as relational, not extractive. She emphasized that digitization should never reduce knowledge to neutral datasets. Instead, data environments must be co-created and flexible, preserving context, narrative, and emotional depth. She introduced the concept of "emotioning data" as a way of designing with care and recognition.

The lab positioned digitization not as a final step but as a starting point for regeneration. Nelly García López showed how AI could help translate, protect, and revive knowledge embedded in place-based building systems. This includes not only material methods, but also the cosmologies and environmental ethics that underpin them. When guided by local logic, AI can support continuity rather than disruption.

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LAB 4

Fair Trade and Theory of Change

The lab explored the urgent need for systemic change in the fashion industry, focusing on fair trade principles and sustainable development. The session aligned with key SDGs, including decent work, reduced inequalities, responsible production, and climate action.

The discussion examined the exploitative practices that continue to plague global fashion supply chains. From unfair wages and unsafe working conditions to environmental degradation, these persistent issues underscore the urgent need for systemic reform.

The group then turned to the challenges of scaling fair-trade models, identifying barriers such as limited access to capital, lack of regulatory support, and the difficulty of verifying ethical standards across complex, multi-tiered supply networks. Real-world examples of successful ethical fashion initiatives, ranging from cooperative producer groups to transparent digital traceability platforms, served to demonstrate both the possibilities and pitfalls of implementing fair-trade practices at scale.

Central to the conversation was the role of the Theory of Change framework in guiding the transition to more equitable and sustainable fashion models. By mapping out the logical steps from inputs and activities to long-term outcomes, stakeholders can better align their strategies, measure progress, and adapt interventions over time.

Finally, this lab explored how consumers, brands, and policymakers each bear responsibility for driving systemic shifts. Educated consumers can demand transparency and accountability, brands can embed ethical standards into their core business practices, and governments can enact legislation to level the playing field. Throughout, collaboration emerged as a recurring theme: only through coordinated efforts—uniting industry leaders, grassroots organizations, investors, and civil society—can the fair-trade movement achieve the scale and impact necessary to reshape the global fashion landscape.

The importance of moving beyond surface-level sustainability toward deeper structural transformation was emphasized. The Theory of Change approach was well-received as a practical tool to plan and evaluate long-term impact. The discussion highlighted both optimism and urgency - optimism from emerging sustainable models, and urgency due to the fashion industry's continued environmental and social toll. Strong interest was expressed in continuing the dialogue, sharing best practices, and co-creating actionable change.

LAB 5

AI in SMEs awarded the Argentine Seal of Good Design

LThis lab was coordinated by Sebastián Feinsilber and brought together experiences from SMEs in the textile sector awarded the Argentine Seal of Good Design. The session focused on how these companies integrate sustainability and innovation, including the use of AI, from an ethical, social, and environmental perspective. The question that prompted this lab was: How do they think about innovation within the framework of sustainability in each project?

Luciana González Franco shared experiences of production based on remnants and discards, demonstrating how processes were redesigned using available materials, developing recycled fabrics without dyeing and zero-waste packaging. She also highlighted partnerships with other sectors such as construction to reuse inputs, demonstrating how waste can be converted into value without needing to be automatically discarded. Fernando Bach talked about his experience with weavers in northern Argentina and the

creation of commercial channels that respect local knowledge. He noted that current technology, such as the internet and messaging, allows for connection without distorting these traditional techniques. He emphasized the importance of ethical contact between market and producer, preventing migration and cultural loss.

Matías Figliozzi explained a logic of co-creation with communities, focused on preserving ancestral knowledge, presenting training tools for more than 8,000 artisans, adapted to their needs. He proposed that AI can help systematize and scale knowledge without altering languages, techniques, or cultures.

Moreover, Sebastián Feinsilber emphasized the importance of collaborative work between SMEs, designers,

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communities, and academia, as it requires everyone to progress. Fernando Bach added that consumers must be educated about the ethical value behind the product. Finally, the participants agreed on the need to rethink manufacturing, materials, and the relationship with the environment.

LAB 6

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

This lab explored gender equality in creative economies as a key enabler of the 2030 Agenda focusing on the experience of the Wayuu community. It will provide a space to examine the systemic barriers faced by women and gender-diverse creatives and co-create strategies that center equity, digital inclusion, and circular innovation in cultural and artisanal sectors.

The panel focused on an innovative educational project led by Martha Castellanos, which brings university-level pedagogy programs directly to Wayuu communities in northern Colombia. The initiative aims to empower Wayuu women by combining formal education with cultural preservation and economic autonomy.

Martha Castellanos presented the key elements of the program, highlighting how it was designed to respect the rhythms of community life and recognize the multiple roles Wayuu women hold, as mothers, artisans, and leaders. A central concept of the project is the idea of "using the external to reclaim the internal," referring to how higher

education can be used to strengthen indigenous identity and leadership.

She also emphasized the role of pedagogy as a tool for cultural transformation, noting that forming women as educators in their own language and context is a strategic way to ensure long-term community development. Additionally, Martha addressed the economic exploitation surrounding the iconic Wayuu mochilas, stressing the need for fair trade practices that return value and agency to the women who create them.

Martha closed the panel by reflecting on the deep potential of education rooted in territory and identity. She underscored that empowerment is not about adapting to dominant systems, but about transforming them from within. The project serves as a model for how education can be offering not just knowledge, but dignity and collective strength.

LAB 7

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

This session examined how youth are reimagining consumption and digital culture by drawing on ancestral values, emotional awareness, and ethical innovation. The lab focused on how young people are not only adapting to sustainability challenges but are actively proposing solutions through technology, community engagement, and education. The discussion highlighted youth-led initiatives that integrate cultural preservation with digital inclusion.

Alejandra Nava emphasized that many young people today face emotional pressure from hyper-consumerist culture,

often shaped by influencers and social media. Consumption is not only economic, but also emotional. She explained that youth must learn to see the social and environmental impact of their choices, and that education is central to developing conscious habits. She stated that responsible consumption depends on informed decision-making and intergenerational learning. The lab redefined technology not just as digital tools but as systems that support community well-being. Alejandra Nava explained that Technovation Girls trains young women to develop apps and tech projects that solve local problems.

She stressed that innovation should not be driven by prestige or profit, but by ethics, inclusion, and real community needs. "Technology should be a tool for positive change, not just a trend," she noted.

Minjeong Bae and Alejandra Nava discussed how role models and peer communities are powerful influences in shaping sustainable behaviours. Nava emphasized that mentorship is not just about technical skills, but about emotional support and confidence-building. Through her work, she has seen how youth, especially girls, become change agents when given the right tools and trust.

The session addressed how digital platforms can either reinforce inequality or empower youth. Alejandra Nava called attention to the information gaps experienced by marginalized communities. When youth are not given access to meaningful content or spaces to express themselves, their potential is silenced. She advocated for using platforms like TikTok and Instagram not only to share sustainable messages, but to listen to youth voices and promote agency.

When asked about evaluating success, Nava explained that Technovation Girls measures impact through engagement, participation, and especially life stories. She underlined the importance of focusing not only on numbers but on how many young women choose technology careers, grow in confidence, and become mentors themselves. "Success is not just in coding. It is in transforming lives and creating ripple effects in communities," she said.

LAB 8

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

The lab explored how digital tools impact migrant communities in Latin America, focusing on decent work, mobility, and rights.
Participants noted that migrants rely on technology at every stage. Pre-departure, digital platforms support route research, community connections, and crowdfunding. At borders, apps facilitate documentation and case processing. Post-arrival, online services help newcomers access health care, education, legal assistance, and digital-inclusion programs that enable participation in local economies.

Heavy reliance on social media and informal channels can fuel misinformation, scams, and exploitation. Unequal access to connectivity, devices, and digital literacy widens the inclusion gap, disproportionately affecting those in precarious situations and limiting access to rights and services.

Examples shared included information and support platforms (e.g., MigApp), regional guidance portals (e.g., Open South America Portal), and digital-inclusion pilots (e.g., Migrant

E-nclusion Project). These efforts illustrate how well-designed tools can orient, connect, and protect people on the move. The discussion emphasized the need to advance fair recruitment (e.g., ILO-aligned practices) to curb abuse along hiring chains, regulate digital platforms to uphold labor standards and transparency and strengthen worker voice and organization, including unionization models for platform workers.

High informality rates, lack of social protection, and underemployment–even among highly educated migrants–remain common. Barriers linked to irregular status continue to constrain access to decent work and services.

Digital solutions can bridge gaps through online training, alternative/low-barrier financial services, and remote work opportunities. However, they must be intentionally inclusive to avoid reinforcing existing inequalities. A noted positive step is the development of regional frameworks for cross-border skills recognition, facilitating fairer labor mobility.

LAB 9

Blockchain & Ethical AI for Artisanal Communities

How can blockchain-enabled digital trust and intelligence be leveraged to preserve craft heritage while advancing sustainable, inclusive, and evidence-based solutions for the SDGs, ensuring no one is left behind?

We discussed the collaborative spirit and co-creative insights emerging from AI-artisan partnerships that show how we can

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blend technology with tradition to drive sustainable. We discussed the collaborative spirit and co-creative insights emerging from AI-artisan partnerships that show how we can blend technology with tradition to drive sustainable development.

Participants were eager to explore the concept of the Digital Product Passport, prompting a focused discussion on its features and implications. It was explained that a Digital Product Passport is essentially a digital twin of a physical product, containing comprehensive information about its journey from raw materials to the end consumer. It helps consumers understand the product's origin, materials, and

craftsmanship, while also supporting the livelihoods of artisans and preserving traditional crafts.

By using blockchain, we're seeing evidence-based solutions that protect artisans' cultural heritage, ensure fair pay, and build trust through transparent supply chains. Since blockchain is immutable and tamper-proof, this model doesn't just preserve culture – it opens up global markets and strengthens local economies. It offers a clear example of how innovation can support the SDGs, showing that when we put people and their knowledge at the centre, technology becomes a true enabler of inclusion and shared prosperity.

LAB 10

Ethics, risks and challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Originary Communities

This lab addressed a highly relevant topic: Indigenous Peoples and the growing impact of artificial intelligence (AI). The session, held and sponsored by Anáhuac University, focused on the need to promote responsible use of AI, thereby protecting the social and ethical competencies of communities. Experts participated in this workshop, contributing their knowledge on this topic.

Mino Hagino focused on the need to critically reflect on the introduction of AI in indigenous cultures. From this perspective, he analyzed the risk of reproducing processes of cultural assimilation. He based this risk on vivid examples, such as the cases of the AINU peoples (Japan) and the SAMI peoples (Norway), whose languages and traditions were relegated by state policies.
One of the key themes was the use of indigenous textiles as visual languages that convey identity and history. Mino raised the complex challenge of integrating these codes into AI without losing their authenticity or their symbolic and cultural value. The Maori case in New Zealand is a real-life example of the complexity of this challenge, where a company sought to rescue the language for commercial purposes.

Guadalupe Quedzul offered a perspective from the communities' own experience, referring to the approach of

Indigenous peoples to the radio spectrum and information technologies, which has been going on for more than 20 years. She noted that this requires collaborative work with academia, the state, and civil society to ensure its development with inclusion and respect.

Liliana Ceja focused on the historical challenges of marginalization and the loss of ancestral knowledge, noting that AI can be a powerful tool for democratizing knowledge, but it also carries risks: the loss of sensitive and intuitive dimensions, and the amplification of biases if it is not designed ethically. Liliana specified the key role of academic institutions as actors who must guarantee the construction of critical and ethical thinking around the design and use of technologies. Luis Parra emphasized the importance of applying AI with methodological rigor and cultural respect, to avoid its use as a tool for appropriation or misrepresentation.

This workshop made it clear that technological appropriation must be built on respect, active participation, and the protection of human rights. Academic, governmental, and social collaboration is essential to generating fair, sustainable, and truly inclusive projects.

LAB 11

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

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This lab explored how artisan communities can play a leading role in the transition toward regenerative, inclusive, and sustainable economic models. Through open dialogue, the lab centred on two thematic pillars: ancestral knowledge and technology. Participants reflected on what it means to "regenerate from the roots," emphasizing the need to balance environmental and economic sustainability while reclaiming cultural identity and collective knowledge.

They shared experiences from their communities in the Global South, where regeneration already takes form through culturally grounded practices, collaborative work, and growth with purpose. Rooted in identity, these practices are reshaping local economies from within, fostering inclusion and resilience.

The second pillar addressed the role of technology in artisan production—not as a replacement, but as a supportive tool to enhance craftsmanship.

Opportunities identified included improving product finishes, standardizing sizes, and managing larger order volumes. However, structural barriers such as limited digital access and infrastructure remain significant challenges. The group highlighted the importance of digital literacy and training in platforms like Zoom, Meet, and Canva, underscoring the value of empowering artisans to use technology autonomously and intentionally. In final reflections, participants agreed that regenerating from the roots is not a metaphor but a living practice. AI, when guided ethically and used with respect for cultural diversity, can be an ally in sustaining traditional knowledge. True sustainable development, they concluded, must be co-created with those who have lived it for generations. While challenges in education, infrastructure, and access remain, this lab reinforced the importance of recognizing and addressing them collectively. Above all, it opened a broader conversation—one that invites continued weaving of networks, exchange of knowledge systems, and construction of futures where all forms of wisdom are valued.

LAB 12

Catalyst From Fear To Encounter: Reimagining Ai As Generational Bridge

The laboratory seeks to examine how technology and artificial intelligence can serve as key tools to bridge generational gaps, create collaborative spaces, and facilitate meaningful interactions between generations. While tech is not the only enabler, the goal is to understand how it can contribute to deeper connection and cooperation across age groups.

Participants, who are all social entrepreneurs and innovators, were invited to share their experiences, strategies, and tools for overcoming generational divides within their organisations. A central question is whether and how technology has helped them achieve greater intergenerational integration in their projects.

The speakers emphasised the importance of integrating technology, especially AI, into intergenerational initiatives. This integration serves both educational and social purposes, bridging the digital gap between generations, especially between youth and older adults.

It was discussed that AI is not only a digital tool but also a means to capture and share the lived experiences and ancestral knowledge of older generations. This contributes to building a collective, inclusive memory and promotes sustainable social practices.

AI can facilitate interaction across generations, especially for older adults who are not native to the digital world. Tools like conversational AI can simplify interfaces, making technology more accessible. Moreover, AI offers the potential to preserve the wisdom and stories of elders, ensuring this valuable knowledge is not lost over time.

The speakers highlight the importance of fostering intergenerational collaboration by leveraging technology not just to bridge the digital divide, but to amplify the knowledge and lived experiences of older adults.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) was framed not as a threat, but as a powerful tool to support inclusive learning, dialogue, and knowledge preservation across generations. Speakers stressed that ageing should no longer be associated with obsolescence but seen as a transformative stage of life, rich in wisdom and contribution. Re-education is key: both younger and older generations must unlearn stereotypes and co-create new forms of mutual support, learning, and value creation. The lab called for a circular knowledge economy— where memory, ancestral wisdom, and technological innovation feed into one another to build more equitable, sustainable, and connected societies.

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LAB 13

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

This lab addressed the intersection of biodiversity conservation, local economies, and technological inclusion in the context of camelid populations, llamas, alpacas, and vicuñas in South America. The objective was to explore how traditional practices, environmental management, and appropriate innovation can contribute to sustainable production chains rooted in territorial realities.

Patricia Larios described how highland communities in regions such as Puno and Cusco are experiencing the depletion of natural water sources, driven by glacial retreat and a lack of infrastructure. She emphasized that above 3,800 meters, many producers face extreme conditions with minimal state support: "There is no electricity, no internet, and only limited access to water. People rely on solar energy for basic needs."

Gustavo Roldán noted that while vicuña fiber can reach international prices of up to 500 dollars per kilo, most camelid producers receive only 3 to 4 dollars for raw alpaca fiber. He stated, "The added value remains with the industry. Producers are paid flat rates for unclassified fiber because buyers don't want to pay for quality." He also explained how artisanal producers are turning to tourism to supplement their income, especially in regions like Catamarca and Jujuy.

Enrique Concha reflected on the global visibility of camelid fibers and the paradox of disconnection in their places of origin: "These fibers are respected in international markets,

but the communities who produce them remain excluded." He stressed the importance of creating digital and economic bridges that empower local actors and protect ancestral traditions.

Roldán also described efforts to improve animal health using low-cost veterinary technologies, including field-based rapid testing for brucellosis. He underscored the importance of simple, community-led tools that can support both productivity and animal welfare, especially in areas where formal veterinary support is scarce.

Larios raised concerns about the export of alpaca stock to Australia and New Zealand, where advanced research is being developed. She warned that without coordinated national investment in genetic resilience, local animals are increasingly vulnerable to climate stress, leading to high mortality rates during cold seasons and droughts.

The lab concluded with a shared message: protecting camelids is inseparable from protecting the people, cultures, and territories that sustain them. Fiber value chains must be restructured to reward knowledge, care, and local classification. Technological innovation must be rooted in accessibility and relevance, not imposed from outside. And public institutions must play an active role in recognizing camelids not only as economic resources, but as keystone species for cultural identity, ecological balance, and rural sustainability.

LAB 14

Systemic Change in Fashion via Regenerative Models

This lab explored systemic transformation in the fashion industry through circular and regenerative approaches.

The session examined the intersections of public policy, consumer behaviour, and business practices in shaping sustainable fashion. Key discussions focused on Chile's Extended Producer Responsibility Law (Ley REP), seen as a tool for encouraging more circular design, though

participants emphasized that regulation alone is not enough without innovation and collaborative implementation.

The group also explored the growing strain on second-hand clothing markets and the failure of existing recycling infrastructure to meet the volume and complexity of textile waste. These challenges highlighted the urgent need for

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calable, systemic solutions that involve cross-sector partnerships and investment in recycling technologies.

The conversation further delved into the barriers preventing widespread adoption of the circular economy, noting that only 48% of consumers are familiar with the concept. Participants questioned why circularity has not become mainstream, pointing to cultural, structural, and educational gaps. A particularly compelling segment centred on greenwashing—not as an isolated communication error, but as a strategic model embedded in business practices, consumer psychology, and investor behaviour. Moya reflected on how convenience and narrative appeal often drive sustainability claims, making it difficult to distinguish genuine efforts from marketing tactics.

The lab concluded with three core takeaways: the importance of building alliances across public and private sectors, the need for clear and accessible communication around sustainability strategies, and the role of stronger, globally aligned legal frameworks to guide long-term change. Collectively, these elements were seen as essential to transforming the fashion system and shaping more informed consumer decision-making in the years ahead.

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