

INTERVENCIÓN EN LA III CUMBRE DE LA DEMOCRACIA

Quito, 20 de marzo de 2024



Good morning everyone.

We meet today to talk about artificial intelligence, technology, and democracy; some time ago, these were three concepts that did not go together. Now we live in a society of rapid changes marked by the pace imposed by technology. In recent years, social interaction and the way we communicate have changed rapidly.

The massive use of cell phones, the Internet, social networks, and artificial intelligence is hugely transforming

our daily lives, offering us great opportunities for progress and well-being, but this also poses significant challenges in terms of security.

Cybercrime, cyberbullying and the spread of false information are problems that have a strong impact on society and put the very pillars of democracy at risk.

These rapid changes in technology also mean increasing threats to democracies; Ecuador has recently faced enormous challenges to our peace, posed by transnational organized crime, terrorism and just pure evil.

I am happy to share with you that the Ecuadorian people have united to face the forces that want to undermine our democratic system, by supporting a National Referendum that will take place on April 21. We are confident that the outcome of this process will provide new legal tools to strengthen our democracy.

We are also committed to facing the challenges with determination, and to do so, we have developed the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) as part of the Telecommunications Regulation and Control Agency.

This center is responsible for the prevention and management of information security incidents by monitoring and generating security warnings about malicious campaigns reported in Ecuador.

This problem requires articulated work and that is why CERT works at a national and international level with public and private sector institutions, as well as with other response teams against computer security incidents.

While building this New Ecuador, we firmly believe in the importance of promoting a global culture of digital security. Digital literacy is the way to citizen empowerment and the identification of misinformation.

My government recognizes and values international cooperation to fight crimes that do not respect borders, we must work together to obtain solid responses that consolidate our democratic aspirations and allow us to protect our citizens.

Collaboration between strong and resilient democracies is essential to build a more just, prosperous, and secure world, which is why we must promote transparency, effective regulation, and cooperation between governments, companies, and civil society to identify digital threats. Looking ahead is essential to continue, exchanging ideas and proposals that allow us to build a safer and more ethical future.

We must safeguard cyberspace from criminals and terrorists who seek to commit crimes or destabilize States and societies.

For this reason, Ecuador supports the initiative proposed by the UN Secretary-General regarding the importance of agreeing on a global framework that regulates and reinforces the supervision mechanisms for the use of databased technology, including AI (artificial intelligence), and not allowing, of course, this to become a tool to attack people's freedom of expression.

Taking into consideration the importance of trust, transparency, and accountability, it is desirable that progress and innovation in technologies, especially AI (artificial intelligence), be aligned with the UNESCO recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

The world needs defenders of democracy and Ecuador is committed to leading these efforts. I am sure that the exchange of ideas and proposals expressed in this Third Summit of Democracy will allow us to face the multiple challenges that our time demands.

Thank you very much.

DANIEL NOBOA AZIN

Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador