

Human Rights and Technology in Paraguay

UPR Info – Pre-sessions UPR 52

Organization: TEDIC

In coalition with: APC, Article 19, and Derechos Digitales de América Latina

Restriction of civic space and freedom of association



Implementation of previous recommendations

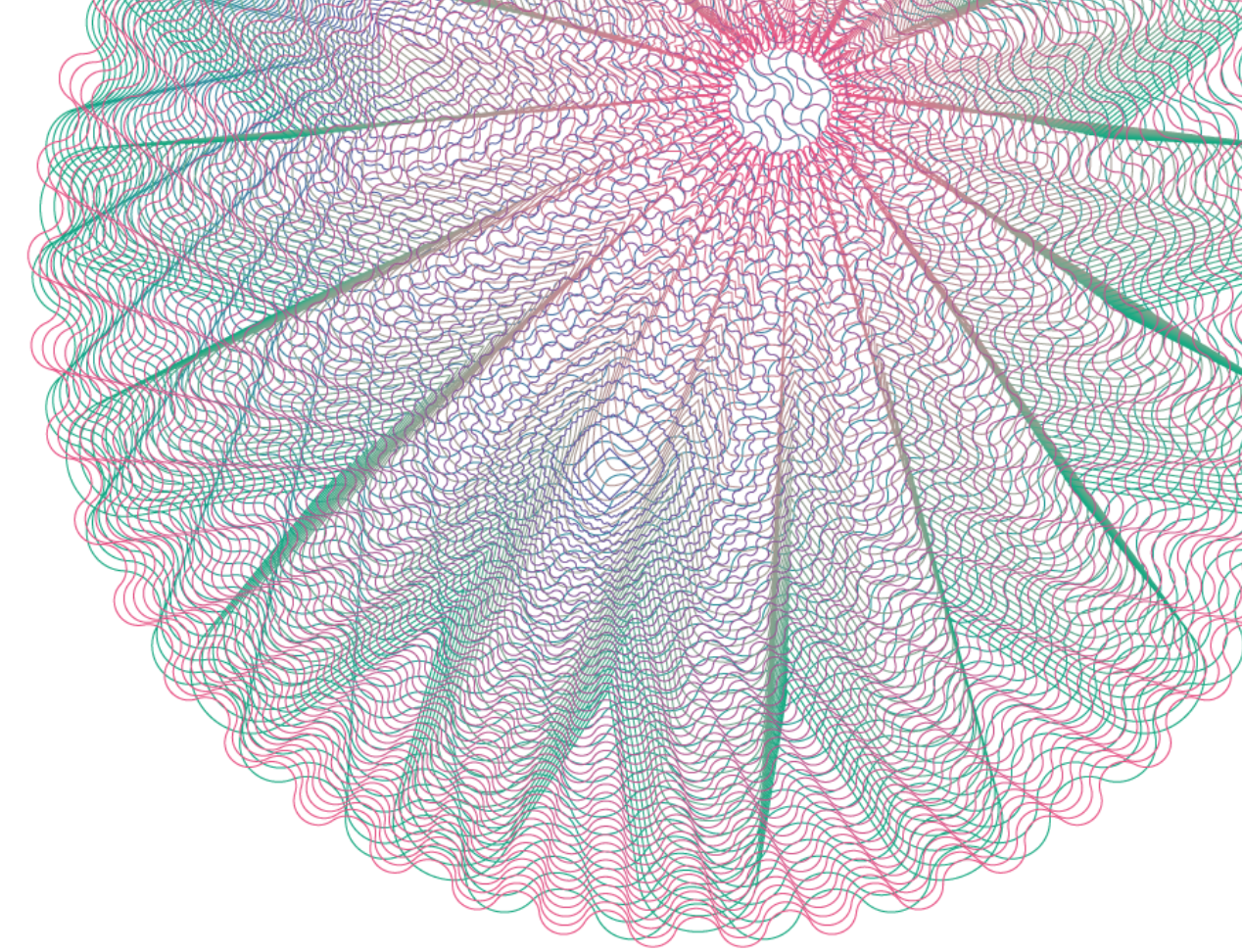
Paraguay received recommendations in previous cycles to guarantee freedom of association and protect civil society. These recommendations have not been effectively implemented.

New developments

In 2024, Law No. 7363/24 (“Anti-NGO Law”) was enacted, introducing ambiguous and punitive controls on non-profit organizations, including excessive reporting requirements, disproportionate penalties, and serious risks to the privacy of beneficiaries and human rights defenders.

New needs

Ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society, in accordance with international human rights standards.



Restriction of civic space and freedom of association

Recommendations

- Amend Law No. 7363/24 to bring it into line with international human rights standards.
- Guarantee the autonomy, independence, and security of civil society organizations.
- Refrain from using stigmatizing legal frameworks or rhetoric to intimidate or restrict the work of NGOs.



State surveillance and the right to privacy

Implementation of previous recommendations

During the 2016 and 2021 UPR cycles, Paraguay received recommendations on the protection of the right to privacy and the regulation of surveillance activities, including independent oversight of intelligence services (102.62, 102.63 - 2016).

New developments

The state has expanded the use of surveillance technologies—IMSI catchers, facial recognition, drones, spyware, and cyberpatrolling—without adequate legal frameworks, transparency, or independent oversight. These technologies have even been used to monitor peaceful protests.

New needs

A clear regulatory framework that limits state surveillance and guarantees judicial controls and accountability.





State surveillance and the right to privacy

Recommendations

- Adopt specific legislation regulating the use of surveillance technologies in accordance with the principles of legality, necessity, and proportionality.
- Ensure prior judicial authorization and independent oversight for any surveillance measures.
- Conduct human rights impact assessments before acquiring or implementing mass surveillance technologies.



Technology-facilitated gender-based violence, freedom of expression, and the digital divide

Implementation of previous recommendations

In the 2021 UPR cycle, Paraguay received recommendations related to violence against women and the guarantee of effective remedies and due process, with an emphasis on the protection of women, journalists, and human rights defenders, as well as access to justice and adequate reparation (118.38, 118.74, 118.75, 118.77, 118.81, 118.82, 118.83).

These recommendations on gender equality, freedom of expression, and Internet access have not been fully implemented

New developments

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence is widespread and disproportionately affects women, journalists, and female politicians. Law No. 5777/16 is insufficient and has been misused to censor critical expression. Deep digital divides persist, and Paraguay lacks a binding legal framework for net neutrality. In 2025, a personal data protection law was passed without an independent supervisory authority.

New needs

A comprehensive approach with a gender perspective, effective protection of freedom of expression, and closing the digital divide.

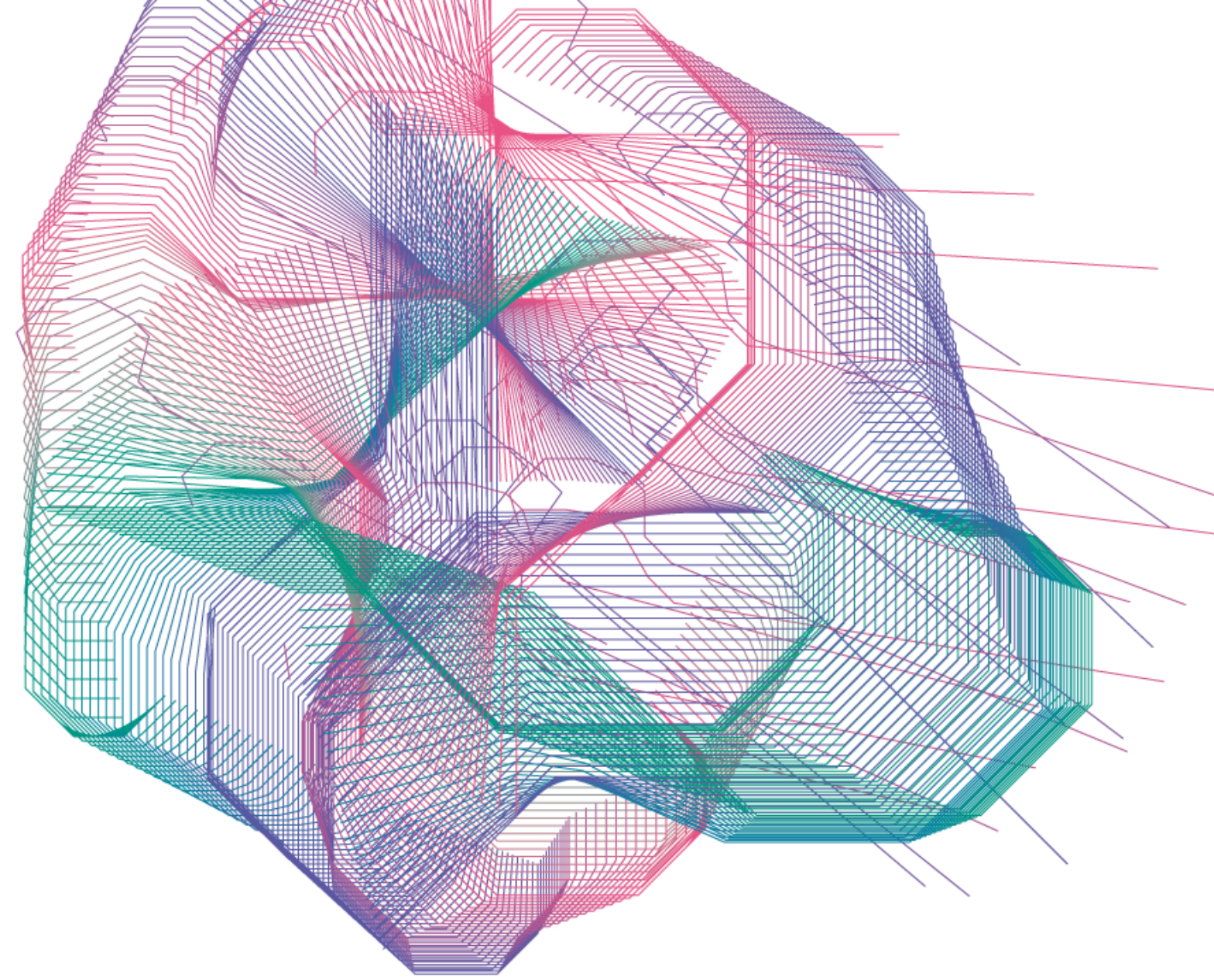


Technology-facilitated gender-based violence, freedom of expression, and the digital divide

Recommendations

- Reform Law No. 5777/16 to comprehensively address all forms of digital violence against women.
- Strengthen the judicial system's capabilities in the areas of digital evidence and access to justice.
- Ensure the effective implementation of the personal data protection law with an independent supervisory authority.
- Adopt a binding legal framework for net neutrality and ensure that public funds are allocated to closing the digital divide.

Thank you



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Tecnología
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Humanos

It is a non-profit organization that defends and promotes human rights in the use of technology with a gender perspective in Paraguay and around the world. The strategies it addresses are: political advocacy, strategic litigation, campaigns, research and content, community strengthening, and the development of civic technology for free culture on the Internet. Its public registration number is 246, folio 3059, dated April 2012.