Hon. Adriano Espaillat - 117th U.S. Congress
AI Strategy for American Leadership

Fueled by extraordinary technological advances and driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) powers ongoing automation and digital transformation on a global scale. *Governments have a crucial role in accelerating this shift.* Although the U.S. has several factors working in our favor, there are grave threats to our leadership in the global development of Artificial Intelligence, potentially leaving us behind in second place; and jeopardizing the US agenda to "build and sustain a more democratic, secure, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community", in the XXI Century.

Acknowledging the opportunity to champion the rise of next-generation technologies that will determine the future of humanity, and the vital need for inclusion and representation of minority groups in the development of AI because of the lack of diversity in the AI industry, along with the absence of a comprehensive US-AI foreign policy, GENIA Latinoamérica supports the leadership of Honorable Congressman Adriano Espaillat on the introduction of AI legislation, inclusive of race, religion, sexual orientation, and national origin*,* through the promotion of a landmark XXI Century policy to safeguard American supremacy on Artificial Intelligence to ensure a free, democratic and equitable international order. Congressman Espaillat's office can take specific actions to introduce legislation that supports Federal programs to prioritize local inclusive AI development for a robust regional strategy, and smart foreign policy, that sustains American leadership in ongoing global affairs, as addressed below. GENIA stands ready to advise and support these actions:

I.   **New York's 13th Congressional District as the epicenter of regional AI integration:**

    A. Consolidating a minority-driven exponential tech hub, New York's 13th Congressional District leads the Nation toward a Regional AI Strategy that articulates an inclusive, prosperous and democratic world order based on principles that reflect American values.

    B. Creating a network of academic and scientific research institutions that serves as the heart of a diverse ecosystem for the knowledge economy, and training a future-proof workforce; District 13 cultivates cross-disciplinary technical skills that enhance labor capacity for the digital age.

C. Establishing ethical data governance standards, the District serves as a nation-wide model to ensure nondiscriminatory AI Technology, increasing trust for effective adoption.

D. Developing systems of innovation for Industry 4.0 strengthens technological competitiveness, and connects local startups and industries with financial capital to ensure vibrant economic activity in the district.

II. Congressman Espaillat: Introduction of Bills, Resolutions & other legislation:

A. Introduce a Resolution that calls on the U.S. government to address the impact of AI in foreign policy and diplomacy, and work with our Latin American partners to promote an AI Regional Strategy with democratic principles and Western values that secures technological supremacy for US and its allies, by leveraging the productive power of common markets and multilateral agreements.

B. Introduce a Bill to allocate Federal Funding to support an ecosystem of artificial intelligence research and development (R&D) in disenfranchised communities to create Federal Programs that ensure the inclusion of vulnerable populations, with the purpose of creating a nation-wide network of diverse tech hubs and equipping the workforce and youth talent. Promote government investment in majority-minority Districts for equitable economic growth, that ensures civil rights in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and improves technological infrastructure for sustained and long-term prosperity. This Bill would introduce the necessity of including women, immigrants, Latinos, Blacks, LGBTQ+, and other susceptible communities to the global conduit of AI development and implementation, with the explicit goal of narrowing the wealth and education gap to empower a diverse workforce in the digital economy; ensuring the Representation of marginalized communities in the creation of the systems that will drive the Nation to the future.

III. Roadmap - GENIA recommends this specific actions:

A. Convene congressional support to introduce legislation calling on the US government to work with LATAM partners on the creation of a Regional AI Strategy to secure democratic principles and Western values in AI development, and counter increasing authoritarianism in the region.

B. Mobilize key Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs officials in the State Department to structure a robust foreign policy to prioritize Artificial Intelligence and AI Governance in the Americas as a core strategic asset in the geopolitical race for global supremacy.

C. Champion policies referred to the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee in the Appropriations Committee to channel AI investment and economic aid in Latin America through the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and other agencies to influence regional affairs.

D. Introduce the aforementioned Resolution (US-LATAM Alliance on AI), seeking the support of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional AI Caucus.

E. Convoke a bipartisan Congressional Hearing to address the impact of AI in foreign policy and diplomacy, as well as, the advantages of working with Latin American partners to sustain a free and democratic international order.

F. Convoke the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus to gather support around the inclusion of underserved groups and communities into the AI Economy and Fourth Industrial Revolution.

G. Introduce Federal legislation to support artificial intelligence R&D that ensures the inclusion of women, immigrants, Latinos, Blacks, LGBTQ+, and other vulnerable communities to the digital economy by allocating government funding and fostering a more equitable integration of these communities to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

H. Formalize public intent to collaborate with our Latin American neighbors and partners in establishing regional AI cooperation, acknowledging the relevance of Hispanic influence on American culture, the close ties between the US and LATAM, the power of working together towards a common destiny, and the urgency to include diverse communities in the development and implementation of next-generation Artificial Intelligence with a strong commitment to civil rights and democracy.

We respectfully request your confirmation to represent our most vulnerable communities, by championing this AI Strategy for American Leadership in Congress. Looking forward to continuing our support and working with you toward this momentous policy.

About us:

GENIA is a US Public Benefit Corporation with the mission of including Latin America into the global development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Focusing on diversity and inclusion in AI, our company structures agreements across political ideologies, to secure equitable futures for all sectors of society. Conceived in Singularity University at NASA, GENIA hosts a broad network of global AI specialists and experts in Industry, Policy, Diplomacy, Academia, and Technology, from Silicon Valley to Washington, D.C., and throughout LATAM. The company has international implementation agreements with multi-national organizations and governments, managing an Inter-American Network of Artificial Intelligence R&D Laboratories and advising and training senior policymakers in the region. GENIA is collaboratively building the first international coalition for AI in the Americas, to ensure technological supremacy coupled with Western values.

Submitted: March 2021

Contact information:

Jean García Periche
Government Relations and Public Affairs

www.genia.ai
admin@lagenia.org