

Exhibition on women in science, technology, and innovation for sustainable and inclusive development

7 – 9 April 2025

Gallery space, 3rd Floor of the E-Building, Palais des Nations

Name of Exhibitor: Permanent Mission of Chile to the WTO, UNCTAD, WIPO and ITC and Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Country: Chile

Introduction of the Exhibitor

Chile, as a developing country committed to human rights and equality, has adopted an international approach centered on gender equality through its Feminist Foreign Policy. This policy has the objective of transforming international relations towards a more inclusive and just model, incorporating the gender perspective in all action areas, including science, technology and innovation.

Chile's participation in this exhibition aimed to show national initiatives that foster the participation of women in areas of science, technology and innovation, highlighting Chile's commitment with inclusive and sustainable development, reflected in the Feminist Foreign Policy, and give visibility to the work of women in disciplines such as STEM, Antarctic research and astronomy.

Description of the Initiative/Proposal

Work of the Chilean Antarctic Institute on the participation of women in the Antarctic Scientific Expedition, sparking interest of girls through the Antarctic School Fair and Expedition; and the [Purple Antarctic Passport](#).

Referring to the General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union to be held in Santiago in 2030, the election of Mónica Rubio as Vice President of the IAU was highlighted, along with the 2025 Gender Radiography and the Gender Equity Policy of the National Agency for Research and Development.

In the area of STEM the "[Inspiradoras](#)" program, "InES Gender" contest and Chile's perspective on key elements for an inclusive AI.

Potential Collaboration:

Chile is interested in exploring opportunities to cooperate in the organization of activities, such as panels and side events, that allow the exchange of experiences, strengthening of networks and further the visibility of women's participation in science, technology and innovation.

Website: <https://politicaexteriorfeminista.minrel.gob.cl/home>

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Feminist Foreign Policy

Feminist Foreign Policy and Chile's Digital, Science, Technology, and Innovation Agenda

Chile has been promoting a Feminist Foreign Policy since 2022, an initiative aimed at integrating a gender perspective across all areas of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' work, including the digital, science, technology, and innovation agenda, which serves as one of the policy's key pillars.

The inclusion of women, girls, and diverse gender identities in this field is crucial for developing an inclusive and participatory ecosystem that helps bridge gaps and ensures that progress does not perpetuate or amplify pre-existing inequalities.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Science and Technology

Ministry of Education

Antarctic science with a gender perspective

Women at the forefront of science in Antarctica

Each year, the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH) by its Spanish acronym organizes the Antarctic Scientific Expedition, which facilitates various research projects in the Chilean Antarctic Territory, particularly in spring and summer. During these expeditions, researchers collect samples that contribute to studies in various fields, helping to better understand Antarctica and its global significance. Key research areas include ocean acidification and warming, Antarctic pollutants, black carbon footprints, and emerging viruses in birds, among others.

Inspiring Career Paths
Out of the 119 participating members of the Antarctic Scientific Expedition this year, 56 were women. Women also made up 50% of the logistical personnel hired to support the Expedition's activities, 18 in total.

"When I started, there were very few women. Now, there are many more, and they are younger. Women in science are becoming empowered at an early stage."

Ingrid Huelmo is a professor at the University of Magalhães and holds a Ph.D. in Natural Sciences with a specialization in Genetics from the University of Chile. She is currently a research fellow at INACH, studying the genetic diversity of penguins and the impact of climate change on their populations. She is also a member of the Chilean Antarctic Scientific Expedition, participating in research projects in Antarctica.

"I must acknowledge that when I started, other women had already paved the way. I may have faced some cultural challenges, but today, women have gained strength in Antarctica and are doing many things they didn't do before. We've camped, dived, explored different bases, and worked aboard ships. We do it all."

Esther López is a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Climate Research at the University of Chile, specializing in the study of climate change and its impact on the environment. She is also a member of the Chilean Antarctic Scientific Expedition, participating in research projects in Antarctica, particularly concerning the increasing number of birds and marine mammals.

Sparking girls' interest in science

Antarctic School Expedition

The Antarctic School Fair is a one-of-a-kind competition where students and teachers from all over Chile have the opportunity to present their research proposals. The prize is participation in the Antarctic School Expedition, which takes place at the INACH scientific base "Professor Julio Escudero" on King George Island, Antarctica.

For over 20 years, the Antarctic School Fair has allowed hundreds of students and teachers to learn about and protect Antarctica. Female participation has been remarkable, with a significant increase at all stages, reaching 82% among winning teams. Among teachers leading participating teams, this number exceeds 50% in the early stages of the competition.

"The Antarctic School Expedition allows students to experience firsthand how Antarctic science is conducted. Experienced polar researchers share their knowledge and support activities in the laboratories, at the base, or in the field."



Jessica Perales,
Coordinator of the
Antarctic School Fair



A safe, respectful, and comfortable Antarctica for women

Antarctic Passport: promoting a culture of respect in scientific expeditions

The Chilean Antarctic Institute, with 60 years of continuous activity in Antarctica, has developed various "passports" to strengthen the identity and sense of belonging among participants in the Antarctic Scientific Expedition.

The first passport, white, was introduced in 2016 and contained general information about Antarctica.

The following year, the Green Passport was created to highlight the importance of proper environmental behavior.

Now, in the context of the fight against gender-based violence and discrimination in all forms, INACH has launched the Purple Passport. This initiative aims to reinforce the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' commitment to making Antarctica a safe place for everyone and to raise awareness of the responsibility each expedition member has in this effort.

INACH is a technical body of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with full autonomy in all scientific, technological, and outreach matters related to Antarctica. The Institute upholds the National Antarctic Policy by promoting excellence in research, actively participating in the Antarctic Treaty System and related forums, strengthening Magallanes as the gateway to the White Continent, and conducting public outreach on Antarctic knowledge. INACH also organizes Chile's National Antarctic Science Program.



Chile: Looking at the universe with equality

Astronomical leadership and commitment to gender equity

Chile is a natural laboratory with privileged skies and internationally significant scientific discoveries. This makes it the perfect host for the General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the world's largest astronomy event, which will take place in Santiago in 2030.

This event will bring together more than 3,000 experts, further solidifying the country's position as a global epicenter of astronomical research.

By the end of this decade, Chile is expected to host over 60% of the world's optical and radio astronomical observation capabilities.

In this context, the country not only stands out for its leadership in space science but also for fostering a more inclusive scientific environment. A milestone in this journey is the election of **Mónica Rubio** as Vice President of the IAU, making her the first woman to hold this role. Her appointment symbolizes the growing presence of Chilean women in the international scientific community and reinforces the importance of promoting female participation in astronomy. This achievement is part of the ongoing efforts of numerous researchers who have paved the way for future generations, contributing to a transformation within the scientific community.

Advancing toward equity

One key initiative is the 2025 Gender Radiography, a fundamental tool to measure and reduce gender gaps in the scientific field, including astronomy.

Additionally, the modification of **Law 14,908**, currently in its second legislative review, aims to ensure that individuals who fail to meet their child support obligations will be ineligible for public funding from the National Agency for Research and Development (ANID), reinforcing a socially responsible approach to research funding access.

In the field of astronomy, the **National Agency for Research and Development (ANID)** has strengthened its **Gender Equity Policy**, implementing measures in its funding programs to encourage women's participation in scientific research. These initiatives include:

- Extra evaluation points for projects led by women.
- Tie-breaking criteria favoring proposals led by female scientists.
- Special parental leave periods for researchers.
- Implementation of policies to prevent and sanction gender-based harassment and discrimination in institutions receiving funding.



Women in STEM and inclusive AI

Chile's gender equity policies reflect a strong commitment to equality at the national level. The National Policy on Gender Equality in Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation, launched under President Gabriel Boric's administration, aims to ensure equitable participation in the scientific ecosystem, eliminate gender biases and discrimination, promote inclusive scientific systems and strengthen state commitment to gender equality.

Key Initiatives

- **"Impulsoras" Program** - A collaboration between the Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, this initiative inspires children and teenagers to explore STEM fields through role model Chilean women excelling in these disciplines.
- **"INES Gender" Contest** - Led by the National Agency for Research and Development (ANID) by its Spanish acronym, this program funds projects at higher education institutions to reduce gender gaps in research, development, and innovation.

Challenges in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

AI is at the core of digital transformation, yet it poses challenges to human rights, including gender equality. AI language models (such as ChatGPT) have revealed how gender and racial biases can be embedded in algorithms, threatening progress in equity and introducing new forms of structural discrimination.

Chile's Perspective on Key Elements for Inclusive AI:

- **Equitable participation throughout AI's life cycle:** Women's involvement in AI design, development, and evaluation is crucial to prevent biases and foster fair, representative systems.
- **Chile's National AI Policy:** Launched in May 2024, it advocates for technological development that respects fundamental rights and adopts an inclusive approach.
- **Algorithmic transparency and explainability:** Understanding how AI systems operate, their objectives, and their results helps prevent discriminatory decisions.
- **Council for Transparency's AI Recommendations:** Launched in August 2024, it establishes principles to ensure responsible AI use in the public sector.
- **Data protection:** Privacy is essential for a safe and equitable digital environment. The new Data Protection Law 27,739, inspired by the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), establishes a robust legal framework for privacy and citizen control in Chile.

