



#ReconstrucciónAbierta



Summary on the fourth colloquium for an open world reconstruction: RESILIENCE AND DEMOCRACY

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Index

Presentation	3
Overview	4
Opening ceremony	6
Panel 1: The road of resilience: from people to community construction.	18
Panel 2: Democracy at risk and permanent citizenship construction.	24
Presentation of the Decalogue for an #OpenReconstruction	35
Decalogue for an #OpenWorldReconstruction	39



Presentation

Around the world, democracy is showing signs of erosion and regression. Institutions' legitimacy and capability of providing solutions to problems face increasingly more complex crises. Nevertheless, it is possible to also identify **good practices and tools supporting community-based regeneration**. The **Fourth Colloquium for an Open World Reconstruction: Resilience and Democracy** is focused on how **openness can make a contribution to resilience**, and thereon **strengthen democracy**.

The Colloquium for an #OpenReconstruction (#ReconstrucciónAbierta) 2022 is the fourth chapter from a series of annual forums focused on reflecting, proposing and innovating **public solutions aiming to regenerate resilience** and prevent opacity, widening the civic space, guaranteeing the full exercise of human rights, rebuilding counterweights, and recuperating democracy in a resilient manner, so to contribute to positive peace amongst society.

An **Open Reconstruction** implies the implementation of five openness-related elements with the aim of achieving a community-based reconfiguration. Those elements are: transparency and accountability, participation and co-creation, integrity and prevention of conflicts of interests, simple language and open and accessible formats, memory and archive. As openness elements are used daily, commons' regeneration and recovery foster reliability and sustainability.

During the [first Colloquium in 2019](#), we analyzed the role **institutional openness had in the earthquake response process** in Mexico City. For the [2020 edition](#), we worked targeting institutional openness in the world **sanitary emergency solutions design**. During the [third Colloquium in 2021](#), we directed the reflection on how to transition from **commons' reconstruction to regeneration and recovery**, holding openness as a core element to manage risks all of us are exposed to, and building an **open world with an ecosystem of knowledge** as a common asset.

In this fourth edition, we analyzed how **personal and community resilience** allows us to maintain and strengthen a democratic State based on the premise that **democracy is not built in the abstract, it is formed by all people**. We go from **reconstruction to regeneration on our way to resilience as a road towards restorative justice**: not only to repair damages, but to set up participation and response mechanisms for grievances lived on a daily basis. **Empowered communities make human rights compliance, enforceable and promote openness, transparency, and accountability**.

During the **Fourth Colloquium for an Open World Reconstruction: Resilience and Democracy**, we created the Open Reconstruction Decalogue, a collaborative **call to action** from plural and diverse perspectives, including concrete and possible **recommendations** aiming to strengthen public institutionalism to help **tackle new crises and comply with the 2030 Agenda** on Sustainable Development Objectives.

María del Carmen Nava Polina

Citizen Commissioner for Mexico City's Institute of Transparency, Access to Public Information, Personal Data Protection and Accountability.

Overview

The Fourth Colloquium for an Open World Reconstruction centered on Resilience and Democracy. It was carried out in a hybrid format; that is, with panelists and on-site audience attending on Monday the 3rd of October 2022 at Casa del Risco Museum –a residence from the 18th century located in Plaza San Jacinto, in the iconic neighborhood of San Ángel, in Mexico City¹. Other panelists and participants did so virtually through the Zoom platform, they followed the activities simultaneously and had the opportunity to participate in them.

This Colloquium was convened by the Open State Team from Mexico City's Institute of Transparency, Access to Public Information, Personal Data Protection and Accountability, with the collaboration of the Mediation Institute of Mexico, the National Center for Disaster Preparedness, the Women's Peace Circle, the Open Government Academic Network –Mexico and International chapters–, the International Open Justice Network, Colegio de México's Center for International Studies, the Open Government and Proactive Transparency Commission from the National Transparency System, and UNAM's University Seminar on Socio-Environmental Risks.

We had a total of 17 exhibitors –10 women and 7 men– from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Spain, the United States, Guatemala and Mexico, from several communities such as openness, mediation, peace circles, comprehensive risk management, transparency, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

The Colloquium's reception was wide among people interested in openness, democracy and resilience. 263 people from 7 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Spain, the United States, Panama and Peru) registered online. 126 people attended via Zoom, 35 through YouTube live –where the colloquium's video has accrued 452 views so far. 68 messages (tweets) were posted on Twitter, and 8,846 impressions have been obtained to date. On Facebook, it reached 148 accounts and has been shared twice. By the end of the Colloquium, it had reached 496 accounts.

The Colloquium's general program is presented next.

¹ For further reference, please click on the Casa del Risco Museum link:
<https://www.museocasadelrisco.org.mx/>

4° COLOQUIO POR UNA RECONSTRUCCIÓN ABIERTA MUNDIAL

Lunes 3 de octubre 2022

Museo Casa del Risco

09:00 a 14:00 h (CDMX)

Resiliencia y DEMOCRACIA

09:30 - 10:00 hr. | APERTURA

- * María del Carmen Nava Polina, *Comisionada Ciudadana INFO CDMX* *
- * Aristides Rodrigo Guerrero García, *Comisionado Presidente INFO CDMX* *
- * Edgar Ruvalcaba, *Red Académica de Gobierno Abierto Internacional y capítulo de México* *
- * Blanca Lilia Ibarra Cadena, *Comisionada Presidenta INAI* *
- * Enrique Guevara Ortiz, *Director General del CENAPRED* *
- * Luz María Mariscal Cárdenas, *Comisionada Presidenta del IDAIP y Coordinadora de los Organismos Garantes de las Entidades Federativas del SNT* *
- * Laura Lizette Enriquez Rodríguez, *Comisionada Ciudadana INFO CDMX* *
- * Julio César Bonilla Gutiérrez, *Comisionado Ciudadano* *
- * María Teresa Treviño, *Comisionada de COTAI y Coordinadora de la CGAyTP del SNT* *
- * Marina Alicia San Martín Rebolloso, *Comisionada Ciudadana INFO CDMX* *

10:00 - 11:00 hr. | MESA 1: EL CAMINO DE LA RESILIENCIA: DE LAS PERSONAS A LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DE COMUNIDAD.

- * Malely Linares, *Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas* | México *
 - * María Teresa Muñoz, *Centro de Estudios e Investigación para la Paz* | Argentina *
 - * Martha Galicia, *Clínica de Medios Alternativos de Solución de Conflictos* | México *
 - * Sofía Villatoro, *The Carter Center* | Guatemala *
- Modera: Georgina Olson, *Excelsior* | México.

11:15 - 12:15 hr. | MESA 2: LA DEMOCRACIA EN RIESGO Y PERMANENTE CONSTRUCCIÓN DE CIUDADANÍA.

- * Aideé Zamorano, *Z. Zurich Foundation* | México *
 - * Ann Miller Ravel, *UC Berkeley School of Law* | Estados Unidos *
 - * César Rojas, *Fundación Unir* | Bolivia *
 - * Mario Tascón, *Prodigioso Volcán* | España *
 - * Rafael Ayala, *Gobierno Transparente* | España *
- Modera: Ernesto Núñez, *Aristegui Noticias y Pie de Página* | México.

12:50 - 13:30 hr. | DINÁMICA PARA LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DE DECÁLOGO POR UNA #ReconstrucciónAbierta

Facilitadora: Naxhelli Ruiz, *SURSA UNAM* | México.

13:45 - 14:00 hr. | PRESENTACIÓN DEL DECÁLOGO Y CIERRE DEL EVENTO.

- * María del Carmen Nava Polina, *Comisionada Ciudadana INFO CDMX* *
- * Jorge Pesqueira Leal, *Presidente del Instituto de Mediación de México* *
- * Jessica Malegarie, *Coordinadora del Grupo Participación Ciudadana y Acceso a Justicia de la Red Internacional de Justicia Abierta, RIJA* *
- * Lourdes Morales, *Coordinadora de la Red por la Rendición de Cuentas* *
- * Naxhelli Ruiz, *SURSA UNAM* *
- * Luciana Cataldi, *Red Internacional de Círculo Mujeres de Paz* *



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Microsite:

<https://infocdmx.org.mx/micrositios/2022/reconstruccionabiertaCDMX2022/inicio/>



Opening ceremony

The inaugural act was attended by InfoCDMX's Citizen Commissioner and the institute's openness agenda coordinator, María del Carmen Nava Polina; InfoCDMX's President Commissioner, Arístides Rodrigo Guerrero García; InfoCDMX's Citizen Commissioners, Marina Alicia San Martín Reboloso, Laura Lizette Enríquez Rodríguez, and Julio César Bonilla Gutiérrez; the President Commissioner for the Institute of Transparency, Access to Public Information, Personal Data Protection and Accountability, Blanca Lilia Ibarra Cadena; Commissioner, and Coordinator of the Local Guarantor Agencies in the National Transparency System, Luz María Mariscal Cárdenas; the Coordinator of the Open Government and Proactive Transparency Commission from the National Transparency System and President Commissioner for the Transparency and Access to Information Commission of Nuevo León, María Teresa Treviño; the Director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Enrique Guevara Ortiz and Dr. Edgar Ruvalcaba (representative for the Open Government Academic Network, Mexican and International chapters).

Firstly, Citizen Commissioner **María del Carmen Nava Polina** thanked speakers and co-conveners for their participation at this fourth Colloquium. She highlighted the three innovation elements present in this edition: visual support to convey ideas emerging from the exhibitions through a visual facilitator, using simple and accessible language, accompanied by images and drawings; application of open spaces methodology to work collaboratively with people who used their voice during the panels and those online from different communities; and finally, the articulation of a Decalogue with points manifesting what each resilience, peacebuilding, transparency, risk management, and open justice community can work on, in the mid and long term, in pursuit of an open reconstruction.



Citizen Commissioner María del Carmen Nava Polina. Photo: Info CDMX

Among the challenges presented in this colloquium, she highlighted building productivity between different communities and leveraging intelligence collectively to articulate governance, participation and risk management as great challenges for democracy, so that concrete actions and palpable results generate trust and legitimacy in lifesaving decisions and choices that guarantee the exercise of human rights in order to manage risks.

Arístides Rodrigo Guerrero García, President Commissioner of InfoCDMX, acknowledged the importance of laying the foundations for a culture of prevention in constructions and all daily life situations, in order to reduce the consequences of experiencing a disaster or catastrophe. He underscored the importance of having risk atlases to identify areas in Mexico City posing potential damage risks in the event of earthquakes, and reminded attendants that these atlases are public information which may be accessed from internet portals, so the right to access information may help us prevent potential risks derived from disasters.



President Commissioner Rodrigo Aristides Guerrero. Photo: Info CDMX.



Edgar Rubalcava, from Madrid, Spain, celebrated the participation of the **Open Government Academic Network** in this colloquium in Mexico, and thanked Ester Kaufman, Director at the **Network’s International Committee**. He considered this event represents a third generation of open government development. Also, it was stated that the first generation consisted of a conceptual development of open government pillars and values, to understand how these efforts –originating from the law enforcement bodies– are communicated, in order to reach a common agreement on open government. Furthermore, he considered that the second generation consisted on shaping open government actions based on transparency policies, citizen participation, accountability, forums for the development of open justice and open parliament practices, and transparency portals. As for the third generation, he indicated it consists of building a decalogue where the very definition of open government and its pillars have transcended to become a practice that adopts a model to design any public policy. In this third generation, public policies are created based on institutional and governmental openness.



Edgar Rubalcava. Photo: Zoom.



Blanca Lilia Ibarra Cadena, President Commissioner for the INAI, made a call for debates and workshops discussing relevant and necessary issues in the country's democratic agenda. She stated that transparency and access to information have been key in the construction of a democratic world by exercising the rights protected by law enforcement bodies, because they strengthen democracy and underpin the possibility of democracy under three conditions: popular election mechanisms, plurality of options that represent the different social sectors, and availability of sufficient information on who can be elected, their trajectory and proposals. The latter condition is important because it prevents secrecy and allows public information to be accessible. She considered that these are citizen control instruments and mechanisms, given that both access to information and the protection of personal data enhance our societies' resilience in the face of scenarios such as those posed by natural disasters or health crises –like the ones we have recently experienced.



President Commissioner Blanca Lilia Ibarra. Photo: Zoom.



Enrique Guevara Ortiz, head of CENAPRED, stressed that this is a space for reflection and exchange of knowledge and proposals to solve issues which generate uncertainty among the population, in the three stages of risk management, and in the presence of a disturbing phenomenon or threat that can be of natural or anthropogenic origin. In this space, the current worldwide situation has increased social concern surrounding the stability and functioning of a democratic society, where situations such as war, pandemics or economic crises seem to erode social coexistence, coupled with natural phenomena and vulnerability conditions that have not stopped impacting countries in the world, including Mexico.

He pointed out that the risk management process must be carried out at all times, ensuring the reduction of vulnerability in societies, and generating the minimum level of social welfare needed for human and economic development. As an example, he set the formation of community committees based mainly on access to information, in order to build resilient communities, in the spirit of contributing to reducing risks by improving openness and transparency mechanisms. In turn, said optimization allows for effective access to information, which fosters informed decision-making, and certainly empowers communities so they become protagonists of the relative change in their vulnerability levels, as the only way to ensure resilience in communities.



Enrique Guevara Ortiz. Photo: Info CDMX



Luz María Mariscal Cárdenas, President Commissioner for the Guarantor Body of Durango and Coordinator for the Local Guarantor Commissions in the National Transparency System, mentioned that when we talk about democracy, we generally refer to the competition between parties and candidates for a position, proposals and participation in the polls, but that the value of democracy goes beyond votes and winners. She stated that, according to the 2021 Americas Barometer, 13 Latin American countries (including Mexico) reported being dissatisfied with their democracy. Additionally, democracy does not end with voting, but has to do with an institutional and permanent commitment to work under an open and transparent state model, which yields results and is sensitive to the urgency of building a peaceful society with solid institutions inspiring citizens with confidence, and which strengthens participatory resilience in contribution to institutional openness and democracy, with the aim of managing risks in a comprehensive, kind and sensitive manner towards the realities in the communities.



President Commissioner Luz María Mariscal Cárdenas. Photo Youtube.



Laura Lizette Enríquez Rodríguez, Citizen Commissioner for InfoCDMX, acknowledged the effort invested into the colloquium as it provides a platform for broad and frank reflection. It is also a space for proposals surrounding the importance of institutional openness in the face of a variety of risk situations. On the decline of democracy, she cited the ENCIVICA 2020 results, where 65% of the surveyed people preferred democracy over other forms of government, and 47% were dissatisfied with it. She pointed out the current institutional crisis that has accentuated over the years, and the great loss of confidence citizens have had towards their institutions, which this survey captures. Furthermore, she highlighted the new governance paradigm in which governance had previously intended for the government to provide us with solutions to problems, and to meet basic needs; however, a sort of governance emerged, in which co-creation and openness are highly relevant because citizenship along with government collaborate to find the best solutions. She added that risks must be managed prior to the problem, timely decisions must be made when emergencies arise, and subsequent decisions must also be made for reconstruction.



Citizen Commissioner Laura Lizette Enríquez Rodríguez. Photo: Info CDMX.



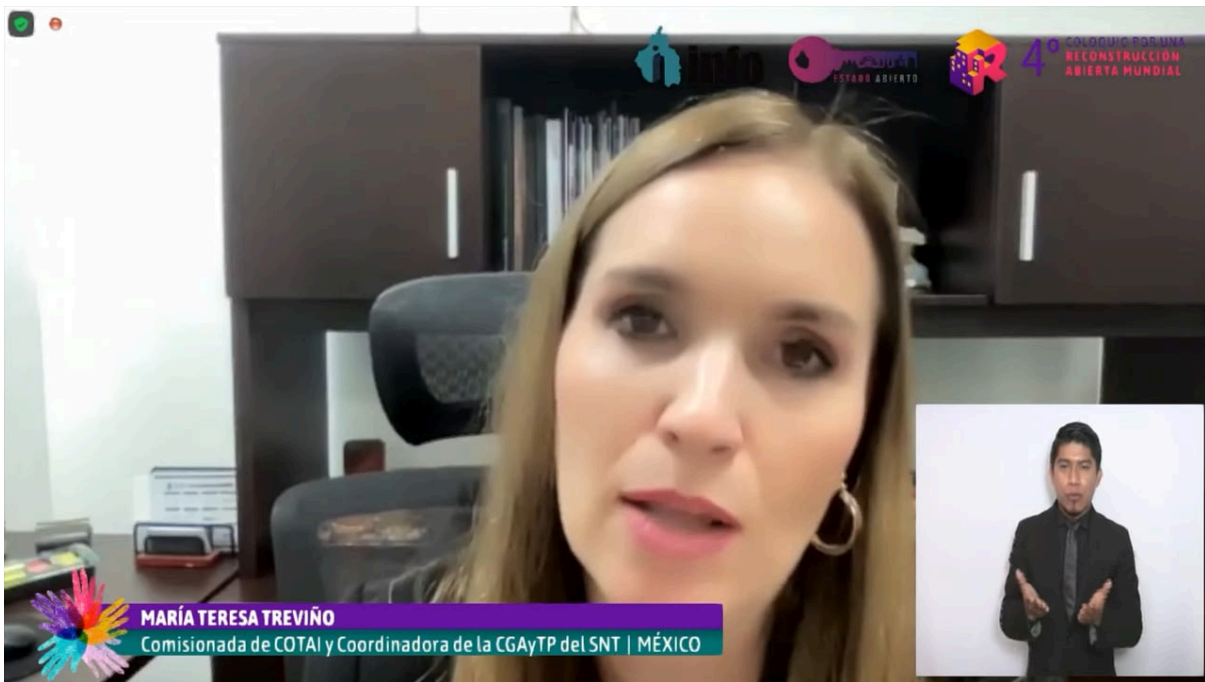
Julio César Bonilla Gutiérrez, Citizen Commissioner of InfoCDMX, thanked the meeting for an open and free dialogue in this colloquium. He pointed out that one of the most important aims in the 2030 Agenda is Objective 16, which is related to governance, the transparency agenda, access to information, accountability, free press, and the fight against corruption. He also acknowledged that it is not an easy agenda because it is full of tensions. He mentioned that democracy is not only a form of government, but also a form of organization and coexistence in society, between people and power, and transparency is vital in order to achieve this goal. He considered that the peaceful and consensual path towards the resolution of very diverse social conflicts is built on the states' openness materialized in transparency, accountability, participation in governance, integrity in citizen language, and good administration, among other means.



Citizen Commissioner Julio César Bonilla Gutiérrez. Photo: Zoom



María Teresa Treviño, President Commissioner for the Guarantor of Nuevo León, and Coordinator of the National Transparency System’s Open Government and Proactive Transparency Commission, stated that an open government, and proactive transparency, encourage citizen participation and play a very relevant role in promoting government openness as well as the generation of useful information for people. She mentioned that the reform of the guidelines on proactive transparency, based on the National Transparency System’s Open Government and Proactive Transparency guidelines, will facilitate the generation and publication of proactive practices by the obligated subjects, through the accompaniment and support from guarantor bodies. The President Commissioner pointed out that participation mechanisms make it possible to learn from experiences that help progress in the creation of fairer, more peaceful, and more transparent institutions.



President Commissioner María Teresa Treviño. Photo Zoom.



Marina San Martín Reboloso, Citizen Commissioner of InfoCDMX, was pleased that the Fourth chapter of the Open Reconstruction Colloquium came about with the aim of building from the local to the top level up in order to address issues around how to strengthen the right to information so better elements are available to deal with emergency situations. She indicated that information is a key public good to not only prevent but also save lives, since it can make the difference between being alive or not. She said that the challenges of information, under risk situations, are: being timely, accessible, reliable and socially useful. She spoke out in favor of constructing information in a way that fosters trust and citizen participation, so it is possible to carry out correct risk management with public and timely information.



Citizen Commissioner Marina San Martín Reboloso. Photo Zoom.



María del Carmen Nava Polina, Citizen Commissioner of InfoCDMX, thanked the participation of public and private sectors involved in holding the Fourth World Colloquium. She pointed out that the participation of all people and communities is vital to advance in the construction of positive peace through the three “Rs”: rebuild ourselves, regenerate ourselves and be resilient. On behalf of the co-convening organizations and institutions, the Citizen Commissioner formally kick started the Colloquium for an Open Reconstruction.



Photo: Info CDMX



Panel 1: The road of resilience: from people to community construction.

The first panel focused on resilience from a local and community angle, which must be visualized within the framework of social processes communities are enmeshed into. Democratic participation and political action were topics touched upon.

An analysis was made on the way in which personal and community resilience allows us to preserve and strengthen a democratic State, as well as the way in which resilient people and communities are capable of recovering from natural catastrophes and can carry out openness exercises to achieve their inclusion and development in order to successfully face any emergency event.

Participants on the first panel:

1. Martha Angélica Galicia, Director for ITAM's Clinic of Alternative Means for Dispute Resolution.
2. Malely Linares Sánchez, Scholar from the Autonomous University of Zacatecas.
3. Sofía Villatoro, Director for The Carter Center in Guatemala.
4. María Teresa Muñoz, Director for the Study and Research Center for Peace.

Moderator: Georgina Olson, Excélsior.



Georgina Olson. Photo: Info CDMX.



1. Martha Angélica Galicia, Director for ITAM's Clinic of Alternative Means for Dispute Resolution.

The trigger question asked to the panelist was the following: **in what situations should alternative means for dispute resolution be applied to regenerate communities?**

- Dispute resolution methodologies are very versatile, useful, efficient and kind, as long as the parties involved are interested in participating in them.
- There are several alternative means ranging from negotiation, or more complex processes (such as restorative ones, those used in cases of crimes, when there has been damage, or in some cases, in genocide).
- Confidentiality and voluntariness are the principles for these means.
- Summer courses have been imparted at ITAM, where students from various majors, and administrative and academic staff were brought together with the intention of pinpointing conflicts they see in their community, and generating their own solution strategies through dialogue.
- These alternative means for dispute resolution create a safe space that fosters understanding of one another, so dialogue is possible, further bolstering tolerance in understanding while resolving disputes.
- There always are dispute resolution strategies to work on with the community. Once achieved, the parties can become satisfied by the resolution of a problem that had not been possible to solve before.
- At some point, the community and the State must converge, connect and work together.



Martha Angélica Galicia. Photo: Info CDMX.

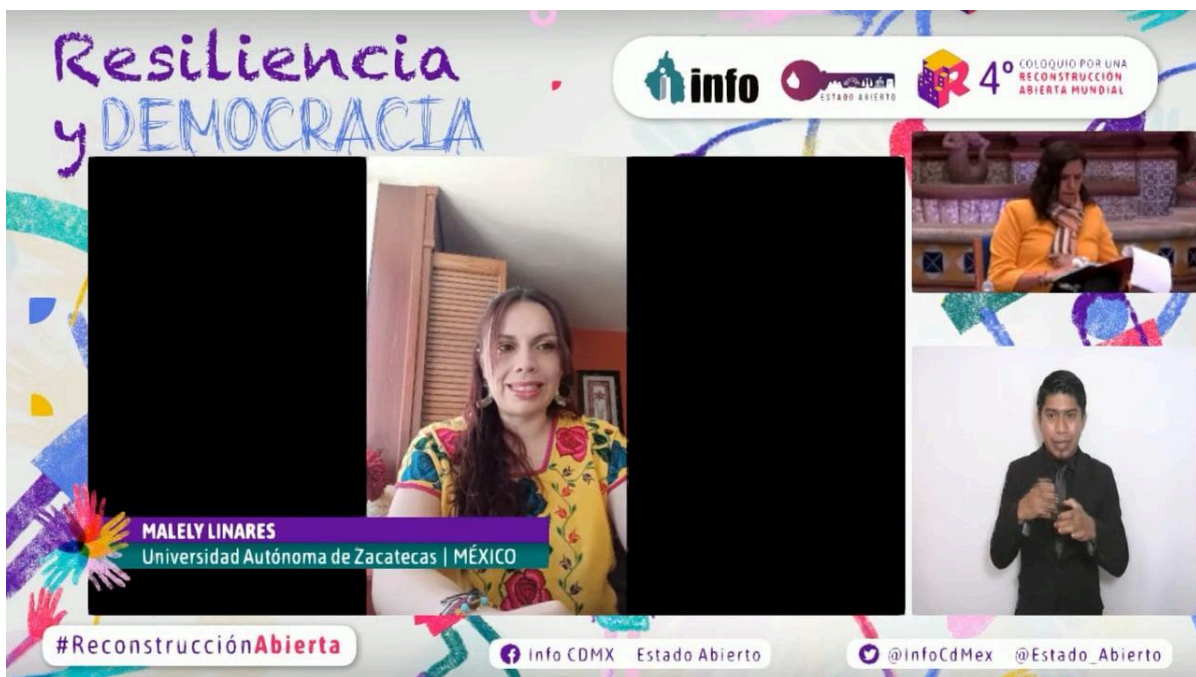
2. Malely Linares, Autonomous University of Zacatecas

The trigger question asked to the panelist was the following: **what do communities require to build their resilience and improve their situation in the face of risks?**

- From her experience, she has accompanied different community processes at urban and rural levels in different countries, especially Mexico and Colombia, where she highlighted the existence of different socio-community practices in the face of the difficult contexts people live in, as well as ways for resisting in the midst of violence, insecurity and dispossession.
- It is important to mention the role of communitarian education, memory, truth and justice play. In this context, justice refers to living under better conditions and guaranteeing basic rights.
- The resilience processes carried out by the communities she has worked with, as well as the experiences of resilience that have been woven throughout the planet, have allowed for a great sense of solidarity, the intertwinement of experiences, sharing of knowledge, and defense of the different forms of life.
- There is a great crisis related to finance, energy, world poverty, and knowledge and environmental patterns: resilience in these communities is manifested as actions against inequalities, generating decent living

conditions.

- Technology has been applied towards creating novel ways of communicating resilience, through which feelings, actions and experiences of the communities that have been shared.
- The guarantee of rights communities possess in the face of dispossession and the civilizing crisis is of vital importance.
- It is also important to vindicate the role memory pedagogy has within communities (territorial memory, linguistic memory, community memory, body memory), and through these memories, recover the ancestral knowledge and all the actions that have strengthened the defense of their territories.
- Strengthen community processes and territorial struggles between people, share learning and strengthen their own organizational and political processes.
- Respect for other lifeforms is important, as well as promoting a sense of solidarity.



Maily Linares. Photo: Info CDMX.

3. Sofía Villatoro, Director for The Carter Center in Guatemala

The trigger question asked to the panelist was the following: **how can the State leverage the strength leaderships and communities have in order to generate more effective solutions?**

- Community leadership is the most important force that allows organizing and directing people to achieve goals. When communities are convinced that the objective is for the common good, a collective construction is achieved in



favor of the community.

- An essential action these community leaders make is to promote the construction of support networks, which is currently an essential element for subsistence.
- The State, through regional and local representation, must clearly identify who these leaders are, and how these communities are made up.
- Collectiveness and the strengths communities have derived from their own lessons learned and good practices must be promoted, as well as all those processes that have already been implemented given that communities have tools or Projects, established practices, and entrenched initiatives.
- She considered that the work they have done has strengthened and –particularly– empowered women and youth in the communities, due to their vast knowledge and participation in various initiatives to give back knowledge.
- It is necessary that communities feel involved and identify with the projects or initiatives supporting women and youth empowerment, so they may become decision-makers and promoters of local development and well-being within their families and communities.
- The Carter Center has focused on issues related to transparency and access to information; promoting and demanding linguistic relevance and transparency in local governments.
- The use of practices and means to disseminate information to communities, in consideration of linguistic relevance, promotes the development of an effective communication system for all people.
- It is important to rescue and encourage the use of practices and means the community already has in place, in order to spread the information to all families in the communities.
- The State must have openness and ability to listen to what those needs are, in order to work together, promote collective processes, encourage participatory processes and co-creation processes wherever these solutions emerge from the communities' experiences and practices.
- Some of the mechanisms to promote transparency and access to information, that have been implemented in Guatemala, were based on the creation of information kiosks by public institutions, which disseminate information throughout the communities in public squares, markets, and areas where citizens turn to, in order to solve their basic needs.



Sofía Villatoro. Photo: Zoom.

4. **María Teresa Muñoz, Director of the Center for Studies and Research for Peace**

The trigger question asked to the panelist was the following: **what public actions can promote generosity, empathy and compassion so that they contribute to resilience?**

- The concepts she highlighted, based on the colloquium’s purpose, were empathy and compassion given that they are the basis for mediation, or alternative ways of resolving conflicts. It is important for them to be built on the foundations of the community.
- Empathy must go beyond “walking in other people’s shoes”, it goes into everything one can understand about the situation at hand.
- Compassion is a subject that –from the core of her understanding– has nothing to do with the one who suffers, but rather with the one who witnesses suffering and commiserates, the position each person takes in order to see otherness.
- Education for peace is of great importance; it is a subject aimed to socially generate empathy, compassion, and generosity, serving as the foundation upon which peace and democracy may be built.
- To regenerate and rebuild ourselves after the pandemic as the democratic people we endeavor to be, we must rethink the democracy that we aspire to have and think about it from the others’ perspective.
- “Education for peace, to make the invisible visible”.



María Teresa Muñoz. Photo: Zoom.

Panel 2: Democracy at risk and permanent citizenship construction.

The second panel consisted on democracy risks analysis, and the permanent need for people and communities to build citizenship, which will –in turn– strengthen the existing democratic mechanisms. The main purpose of this panel was to identify institutional openness practices to co-create tools and knowledge capable of rebuilding and regenerating democracy following a risky situation.

Democracy has been a bet of modern societies, unfortunately it has not been able to solve society's severe problems such as inequality, which –in various regions of diverse countries– has led to the conception of democracy as the problem, pushing people to think of different models, even going back to authoritarian regimes –which propose easy solutions even though those solutions are undoubtedly going to diminish democratic institutions.

Participants were:

1. **Mario Tascón**, *Prodigioso Volcán*.
2. **Ann Miller Ravel**, Professor at UC Berkeley School of Law.
3. **César Rojas**, Cofounder for Fundación Unir, Bolivia.
4. **Rafael Ayala**, Editor for *Gobierno Transparente*.
5. **Aideé Zamorano**, Z Zurich Foundation.

Moderator: **Ernesto Núñez**, reporter for *Aristegui Noticias* and *Pie de Página*.



Ernesto Núñez. Photo: Info CDMX

1. Mario Tascón, Prodigioso Volcán.

The trigger question made to *Prodigioso Volcán* Managing Director was: ***which communication elements must be employed by democratic institutions in order to build horizontal dialogues with society?***

- Clear communication means that transmit relevant information in an easy, direct, transparent, simple and effective way to exercise people's right to understand.
- Communications from the public administration to common people, and from private companies to common people, are quite often complex and difficult to understand.
- People's right to understand should be recognized as a human right. It is about those who communicate not merely passing down data, they should make an effort to make that information understandable to everyone.
- Elements of clear communication: 1. Plain language; 2. Visual language; 3. neurolanguage and behavioral sciences; 4. Specialized language.
- Plain language must be taught for people in a vulnerable situation –given that we are all vulnerable, not just the illiterate or uncultivated–, because



oftentimes, cultured and highly educated people are on their own when facing the digital world.

- Visual language aids senior or handicapped people’s understanding, images help comprehension, and furthermore, interactive visual language –such as multimedia– can be extremely helpful.
- Writing on screens is important when we deal with a public administration form, while applying for a scholarship, when we deal with official proceedings, or when we apply for a new service.
- Specialized language pertains to the legal and administrative scope (among others). We should consider that sometimes it can’t be translated to plain language; for instance, if we told lawyers that we will replace the word “theft” with “robbery” because it seems simpler, he/she would raise his/her hand against it (justifiably so), and tell us it is not the same thing.
- We must vindicate people’s right to understand, and common people’s right to demand it, so public administrations fulfill it.
- In conclusion: there must be a commitment on the public administration’s side, and people should demand that clear communication becomes a common practice at all levels of public administration.



Mario tascón. Photo: Youtube.



2. Ann Miller Ravel, Professor at UC Berkeley School of Law.

The trigger question is: ***what actions do you think could encourage a plural participation to strengthen democracies' resilience?***

- She pointed out that democracies of many countries around the world have suffered attacks to their voting systems, threats to the people supervising their processes and attacks to their public institutions.
- The essence of democracy is contained in voting justice, and in the importance of all people's voices being heard by their country's government; be it by being chosen for a position, voting for the people chosen for a position, or with the peaceful succession of those in power.
- She pointed out that many people –especially young people– don't vote, or cancel their vote because they feel the system can't be trusted, or think their vote does not count as they consider wealthy people are the ones that really count when it comes to elections.
- She considers that in order to encourage voting, government bodies must be resilient to attacks and should be able to respond immediately before falsehood is rooted in people's minds, they must also be transparent in order to fight misinformation and lies about political institutions.
- She also stated that the media should help fight the spread of false information, including hatred and violence, given that both undermine democracy.
- Political violence is a last resort in people's beliefs, they have real concerns about the idea that the wealthiest people seem to have more impact on government decisions.
- For all people to feel like they're heard, they must feel certain that their community is represented in the government institutions. Women, young people, minority groups, and communities must also be represented.
- Access to information on the government apparatus must be guaranteed so all people can understand the problems surrounding public order, and take part in improving our democracy.



Ann Miller Ravel. Photo: Youtube.

3. César Rojas, Co-founder of Fundación Unir, Bolivia.

The trigger question made to Fundación Unir's Co-Founder was: ***what actions do you consider could help preserve social cohesion in the face of risky situations of democracy itself?***

- Latin American countries have been democratic for the last three or four decades, which started with unrealistic expectations on a political regime; however, as decades went by, we walked towards recession and a progressive disappointment with democracy itself.
- This has caused that in many of our countries, a vast majority of the population feel optimistic about some proposals hinting at authoritarianism, but with big promises in terms of social equity and welfare.
- Another problem in democratic countries is that they suffer from democratic fatigue syndrome, or are democracies afflicted by a multiplicity of shortcomings: there are economic deficits. Poverty and inequality are still present in Latin America.
- We have deficiencies in terms of political corruption, the judicialization of politics and impunity. How many public servers are in jail or have to respond to cases of corruption during their ruling period?
- This set of deficiencies our democracies suffer presents a major challenge; if it continues to snowball, there is a risk governments are handed to warlord leaders who will wreck democracy.
- It is imperative to rebuild our democratic regimes, and in that sense, we require a global strategy to change our governments' troublesome foundations



—such as poverty. We need to revert to more tolerable levels of inequality, and to make more advances towards social inclusion.

- We are facing the challenge of closing those inequality gaps, rebuilding the social bridges, feeling safe in a space of solidarity and feeling like we are walking together, collectively, with other people from our societies.
- Social bridges are needed to rebuild a damaged social tissue where we no longer see ourselves as a community, but rather look at one another with distrust and suspicion, with fear or even hatred. It is necessary to rebuild those societies where we all feel fulfilled.
- The pandemic strengthened the social ecosystems with democratic innovations to strengthen the action of reporting and the possibility of closing gaps.
- To fortify democracy, the challenge calls for the participation of all of us instead of the imposition of a few.
- In conclusion: resilience does not mean adapting or normalizing the public administration’s shortcomings.
- We need to produce tangible changes for society as a whole, simultaneously building the social bridges that will allow us to raise these common houses that our societies need.



César Rojas. Photo: Zoom.

4. Rafael Ayala, Editor for *Gobierno Transparente*.

The trigger question made to *Gobierno Transparente* editor was: ***what elements of institutional openness help leverage the civic space for exercising our liberties?***

- In Spain, transparency during the COVID-19 pandemic had some obvious negative consequences, and a few positives that were truly surprising –such as the surfacing of a digital population in the context of social networks and communication technologies.
- Nevertheless, this pandemic also brought about a boom of collaboration and solidarity, such as an initiative that arose in Spain called “Stop the curve”, a social innovation that emerged in an autonomous government.
- We have had more time to reflect, to think about what we have been doing right and what we have been doing not as right, because we’ve increasingly had more open government ecosystems in general, be it public administration or civil society, companies, consultants and academic institutions.
- To further elaborate, he referred to the differences between the government of Spain and the autonomous government of Castilla and León in handling information during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- During the pandemic the right to access information was totally reduced or suspended, with opacity on information and restriction on institutional communication, press conferences without data policy or with wrong data.
- In Castilla and León’s government, a regional government made a monographic website about COVID-19; in it, they shared datasets requested by journalists who needed the information but had no access to it due to the suspension of the right to access information. This website included datasets demanded by the people though journalists, eventually turning that information into public domain.
- The Castilla y León open data website was awarded with the Quality and Innovation award in Public Management for its 4 million users and over 22 million visits, and received other commendations, such as the Digital Transformation Award.
- In Conclusion, two commitments must be made in order for us to have open administrations: Firstly, to center public politics on the people, not just as recipients but as actors actively taking part in them. Secondly, making the political commitment of remaining in search of consensus in this transformative society –the collaboration of all of us rather than the imposition of a few.



Rafael Ayala. Photo: Zoom.

5. Aideé Zamorano, Z Zurich Foundation.

The trigger question asked to Aideé Zamorano was: **what actions should facilitate the society's involvement in keeping an eye on how the public sector acts against risks?**

- She mentioned that it is convenient to talk about democracy and resilience because we are still in the midst of a pandemic. We have witnessed scenarios around the world on a daily basis, in which lack of tolerance, censorship of plurality and institutional lack of dialogue presents us with situations we thought were eradicated.
- The pandemic gave us some examples about how democracy is at risk; even though we learned that prevention is always better than responding to the emergency, this sanitary situation brought to light the risk of misconstrued nationalism, vaccine hoarding, lack of communication of risks to all population levels, among others.
- A correct risk management involves identifying, assessing, attending and assigning economic resources to prevent disasters, and it is convenient to all of us. We must make sure that investments made to prevent risks and rebuild infrastructure take into consideration the participation of people from communities affected by disasters.
- Sustainability of communities can be boosted through programs and projects with long term goals to socialize and democratize the measures to be taken and steps to follow in everyday and extraordinary situations, such as floods.



- Our foundation has a program called “Flood Resilience”. Starting from 2013, we have responded to the impact of climate change, which affects all people disproportionately, and its urgency is unprecedented; nevertheless, the necessary resources to face climate change are inadequate and misused.
- We work under a systemic scheme which seeks new ways in which our interventions can generate multiple benefits. We base our work in three international agendas: the first one is the Sendai framework, the second one is the Paris agreement, and the third one is related to the goals of Sustainable Development.
- In 2015, when the richest countries’ governments committed to contribute 100 thousand million dollars a year over the next decade –in order to finance a way to fight climate change–, 50% was supposed to be destined to emissions reduction and the other 50% would be destined to support communities in order to adjust to the inevitable changes.
- However, the main goal has not been accomplished and the financing for adapting is still too low. It is extremely hard to track down how much money is being assigned to adjustment, but we know it is less than 3%.
- At least three thousand million people live in areas highly vulnerable to climate change, and even though the global mechanism exists, those resources never make it to the communities that need them.
- Climate resilience is made possible only when governments, society, and the private sector prioritize risk reduction, equity, and justice.
- In 2013, we developed a resilience measuring tool for communities, which is a first frame and a resilience tool. Each time we arrive in a community, we spend several months measuring the resilience of natural, socioeconomic, humanitarian and infrastructure assets, together with those who live there.
- At the alliance, we have been able to influence decision makers in different sectors to contribute more than 480 million dollars towards resilience against floods, we also made waves in order to improve public politics at local, national and global level.
- In conclusion: it is necessary to promote public-private-social alliances that allow us to transit towards strategic alliances and place people and communities (which are the ones suffering the impact of disasters) at the center.
- One mechanism that can be used to achieve this articulation between different sectors can be the National Civil Protection System’s Manual. The public, private, and social organizations’ role assignment and duties shall allow transversal actions from society for the construction of resilience and democracy.



Aideé Zamorano. Photo: Youtube.

Co-creation Dynamic for the Open Reconstruction Decalogue:

After the second panel finished, we started the construction dynamic for the tenth point of the decalogue, its main goal was to motivate the colloquium attendees (both virtually and on-site) to share their ideas regarding a trigger question encompassing the events' subject matter.

Naxhelli Ruiz, Coordinator for UNAM's University Seminar on Socio-Environmental Risks, was in charge of the dynamic for the construction of the tenth point, which was based on the following question ***“What actions must the public sector encourage in order to secure the integrity and mental health of people facing traumatic risky situations?”***.

She explained that the reason for this question is that risk-related situations carry individual and collective losses, and it is exactly this collective traumatic loss that leads to social changes. This question seeks to guide the public sector towards the creation of public politics that allow us to heal as a society.

On-site attendees could express their opinions on the trigger question through the use of written notes and oral interventions, while the “Jamboard” platform was used for virtual attendees, which allowed for taking notes on a virtual blackboard.

Some of the ideas expressed by the attendees were:



- Politic humanism that should permeate resilience in the processes of reconstruction and comprehensive risk management. Avoid revictimization or “second disaster”.
- Use of neurosciences for new communication channels.
- Peace and democracy are a derivative of a collective effort.
- Welfare should be politics’ main goal.
- Collaborative building of bridges that stimulate dialogue.
- Being resilient in the face of changes, with empathy and positive engagement.
- To avoid confusion and misunderstanding, when risks are being discussed, specifications must be made (as they may be the result of multiple factors): risk of disaster, political risk, femicide violence risk, and vehicle accident risk.
- The combination of all actors, knowledge, and tools, has the capability of creating common welfare.
- Co-creation between common people and government as a tool for welfare.

As the activity came to an end, a space –where all these ideas were taken into account– was opened in order to formulate the tenth point in the decalogue.



Presentation of the Decalogue for an #OpenReconstruction

The presentation of the Decalogue for a #OpenWorldReconstruction included Citizen Commissioner for InfoCDMX, María del Carmen Nava Polina; Dr. Jorge Pesqueira Leal, from Mexican Mediation Institute; Luciana Cataldi from the Women's Peace Circle International Network; Lourdes Morales from the Accountability Network, and Naxhelli Ruiz from UNAM's University Seminar on Socio-Environmental Risks.

1. Lourdes Morales, Accountability Network

- This is close to what we want to achieve as an Open State; that is to say a management model that goes beyond dialogue panels and advances towards democratic control of public management models.
- She commented on the relevance of co-creation in working collectively and building a democratic state capable of resilience.



Lourdes Morales. Photo: Zoom.

2. Jorge Pesqueira, Mexican Mediation Institute

- He pointed to our democracy's frailty and the existing concern around creating a strategic alliance between state and civil organizations to achieve a healing outcome brought on by these experiences (earthquakes, war, and violence), and the necessity to be proactive.
- It is important to generate answers that are relevant to this reality, advocating for dialogue in the face of any situation presented to us.



- Democracy's job in a society must be with the capitalization of groups that are aware of reality in order to face the situations that present to us.



Jorge Pesqueira. Photo: Youtube.

3. Luciana Cataldi, Women's Peace Circle, Argentina

- Community trauma that is not discussed becomes a transferred trauma; therefore, we live in societies where we have victims with social polarizations where trauma is not attended by justice, the state, or the community.
- A comprehensive attention to victims includes great circles aiding in trauma recovery, which is where all mechanisms we must place as a society and as State, namely biopsychosocial approach, gender perspective, rights perspective, and conflict transformation with the prospect of peace.
- Resilience –where this sequence of traumatic events stems from, related to a multidisciplinary and coordinated attention to needs– will lead us to a healing process, followed by resilience, and prevention and cultural transformation processes afterwards.
- Resilience is first felt when it is possible to leave individual empowerment and then experience collective empowerment.



Luciana Cataldi. Photo: Youtube.

4. Naxhelli Ruiz, UNAM's University Seminar on Socio-Environmental Risks

- She highlighted the role of inclusion and participation; directing the actions of attention to risk processes towards people is a gesture pointing to results from public interventions.
- Risks must be seen as opportunities for growth instead of as inevitable situations.
- Public institutions must think on how to face trauma, but also how to reformulate part of what we do in our institutions and how to create participation processes leading to different results.



Citizen Commissioner María del Carmen Nava Polina and Naxhelli Ruiz. Photo: Info CDMX

5. María del Carmen Nava Polina, Citizen Commissioner for InfoCDMX

- We are at the lowest level (5.28%) relative to 2021 on worldwide democracy ratings.
- 70% of the global population has experienced totalitarian regimes in such a way that openness, construction among communities, and the complete response aiding the people's healing process must be highlighted while exposing the ideas of the colloquium attendees.
- Lastly, she read the points in the "Decalogue for an open reconstruction".



Citizen Commissioner María del Carmen Nava Polina. Photo: Info CDMX

Decalogue for an #OpenWorldReconstruction

1. Focus of public politics on people, as recipients of those politics, but also as actors actively participating in their design, development and evaluation, and pursuing consensus in the transformation of our public sector.
2. Creation of conditions for the adaptation of populations facing risk, and for economic, environmental and social sustainability through education, effective institutions that work as planned and an adequate inclusive infrastructure that takes the three axes of sustainability –economic, social and environmental– into account. Information openness should be aimed at these subjects.
3. Guarantee of basic rights for the community facing a civilizing crisis. Foster respect towards other life alternatives, and promote a sense of solidarity. Share knowledge that strengthens the communities’ political and organizational processes.

Assert the role of pedagogy and memory within communities, in order to guarantee truth, justice, and prevent repetition. Create conditions so the attention to risk takes community, justice, empathy, healing, and fortitude into account.



4. Direct risk interventions towards healing, where people can design mechanisms for fundamental recovery. Create tools for damage repair, and prevention of further disasters.
5. Educate ourselves and educate new generations on peace. Become capable of understanding the importance of inclusion and equity, in order to promote resilience and heal common wounds.
6. Building strategic alliances among public, social and private sectors, on behalf of the people and their communities –which are the first ones to suffer the impact of disasters.
7. Promote the practice and means to spread information to communities, taking into account their right to understand, while implementing clear communications for everyone, so communities feel they are taking part and are represented in actions and public initiatives.
8. Propel transparency and a substantial participation of young people, women, and vulnerable groups so that everyone is represented, not only through voting, but through a good inclusive government, to contribute in strengthening their involvement in decisions throughout the entire government process, thus aiding to fix the recession in democracy and avoid its recoil.
9. Establish a channel for interaction between public institutions and organizations from the civil society, so healing and restoration of emotional wounds caused by risky situations throughout emergencies is possible, by means of restorative justice. Furthermore, implementing a system to handle risk management processes through democratization of the restorative justice practice, and enabling organized people and communities to take part and implement these actions in a democratic way. Inclusion of restorative justice practices in risk management processes so organized communities may perform these actions in a democratic manner.
10. Secure development of social mediators that act as bridges between institutions and society as a way to develop resilience in democracy.



Use this link to revive the Fourth Colloquium for an #OpenWorldReconstruction
<https://infocdmx.org.mx/micrositios/2022/reconstruccionabiertaCDMX2022/transmision/>

Elaborated on: October 18th, 2022.