

1st Latin American Congress for Unconditional Universal Basic Income

“Thinking about basic income in a context of crisis and transformation in Latin America” was the general theme of the congress that brought together participants from ten countries in the region and six countries from other continents. Global unrest, women’s unpaid work, transformation of income transfer programs, real forms of financing, colonialism, are some of the notable themes that add to the set of intersections elaborated on the theme of basic income, through articles, summaries, presentations and interventions distributed in thirteen panels and two thematic tables.

Four special panels were given their due prominence. The first of these was the one that brought together the National Association of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru (ONAMIAP) and SOS Corpo – Feminist Institute for Democracy, from Brazil, where feminist perspectives and the cosmology of *To Live Well* focus on principles such as individuality and conditionality, see by clicking [here](#). The panel dedicated to political experiences of basic income in Latin America brought together political representatives such as Epsy Campbell, former Vice President of Costa Rica, Uruguayan senator Daniel Olesker, among others who discussed their different trajectories and interests in institutional construction on the subject, watch by clicking [here](#). The Working Group on Social Security and Pension Systems of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) brought together the history and challenges of national security systems and their necessary articulation to the debate on basic income, you can watch the panel by clicking [here](#). The basic income policy of Maricá, Brazil, and the pilot experience of Cool Earth, in Peru, demonstrate different methodological practices, subjects, communities and realities that permeate real basic income projects underway in the region, click [here](#) to watch.

The other nine panels organized the thematic axes of the congress, unfolding its central theme. Click on the link of your interest to check out discussions on the following topics:

- [UBI, work, employment and unionism;](#)
- [UBI, feminisms and care;](#)
- [Conceptual, legal and philosophical debates on UBI;](#)
- [UBI at the municipal and local level;](#)
- [UBI experiments in Latin America and Ibero-America, exchange of South-South and South-North experiences;](#)
- [Ecological dimensions of UBI, transformations and risks;](#)
- [UBI in the transformations of political, social security and social protection systems;](#)
- [Alternatives and financing mechanisms for UBI;](#)
- [UBI and specific populations.](#)

The opening panel was attended by Sarath Davala and Hilde Latour, Chair and Vice Chair of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), respectively, among institutional representatives from Costa Rica and Latin America, among whom one of the greatest experts on the subject in the region and in the world, Pablo Yanes, from Mexico (check it out by clicking [here](#)).

In addition to the closing panel, which featured a view of basic income from the perspective of Latin American feminist political economy, from the perspective of researcher Natalia Quiroga (click here to watch). There was a pre-congress held at the State Distance Learning University of Costa Rica (UNED), the university that hosted this event and the entire congress, with a vast audiovisual production and dissemination structure that enabled recording and online transmission. In the pre-congress, the central figures were the Union of Costa Rican Education Workers (SEC) and other unions, see [here](#). Some important figures are important to conclude.

The congress had more than two hundred registrations, thirty-three scientific articles from different countries, universities, centers and research groups. In addition to the traditional scientific debate, the 1st Latin American Congress for Unconditional Universal Basic Income seems to have operated as a space for the construction of dialogue between academics, social movements/organizations and political leaders, contributing to a progressively more shared vision of what a basic income should be for the people of Latin America and for the world.

José Whellison Brito dos Santos,
Latin American Network for Universal Basic Income
Basic Income Earth Network