

3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access

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Antrop. Pedro Ovando, Deputy Director of National System of Scientific and Humanities Publications, Government of México.

Inaugural Plenary: Opening Statement for the Ministry of Science, Humanities, Technology and Innovation of the Government of México

Distinguished members of the presidium, government representatives, institutional leaders, and participants joining us from different regions of the world: it is an honor and a privilege to address you today on behalf of the Government of Mexico at this 3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access. As the Mexican State authority responsible for science policy, the Ministry of Science, Humanities, Technology and Innovation (Secihti) is pleased to express its sincere gratitude to the organizing committee for its generous invitation, and to thank the outstanding team at ICAR–Indian Institute of Horticultural Research for their hospitality and for making this summit possible here in Bengaluru, India.

This global summit brings together a remarkable community of experts, editors, international organizations, and cooperation agencies. Over the coming days, we will discuss the urgent need for collaboration to strengthen equitable digital infrastructures and knowledge commons; to address the sustainability and growth challenges facing Diamond Open Access across regions; and to build shared commitments on the future direction of this movement.

As many of you know, Mexico has played a leading role for more than two decades in advancing Diamond Open Access at both regional and international levels, thanks to scientific information systems and initiatives such as Redalyc, Latindex, and SciELO. While these initiatives and collaborative platforms have consolidated as public open-access infrastructures —sustained with public resources through universities and research centers—the Mexican State, as a central actor in science policy, did not maintain a dedicated strategy for national open-access journals after 2020.

A major shift came in 2023, when Mexico constitutionally recognized the human right to science and established the State's obligation to guarantee open access to scientific production and to the benefits of science for the entire population. Following that shift, Secihti resumed the national agenda on academic publishing with a clear strategic focus:

strengthening the Diamond Open Access model, which represents 94% of journals in Mexico's national publication ecosystem —more than five hundred, according to a recent diagnostic study we conducted—. This strategy, currently under development, includes elements shared with other successful journal sustainability programs across the region: quality assessment, increased visibility through digital platforms, and funding programs, among others.

At the same time, we have decided to build a Diamond Open Access policy from a sovereignty-based perspective —one that understands knowledge as a public good and seeks to orient journal-based scientific production toward social relevance—. This shift toward socially relevant science has been one of the most important contributions of the Latin American open-access movement and is closely aligned with our government's national project, which places social justice, shared prosperity, and national sovereignty at the center of State action.

What does sovereignty mean in the context of an international conversation such as this summit? The National System of Publications that we are developing incorporates sovereignty as the capacity and autonomy to define, sustain, and guide academic publishing according to our own principles and models, rather than subordinating it to the interests of commercial publishing houses.

In this sense, sovereignty should not be understood as the opposite of cooperation, but as the opposite of dependency; it is the indispensable starting point for authentic and balanced collaboration. For that reason, a collaboration agenda among governments and other stakeholders is essential to strengthen public goods. Sovereignty, therefore, does not mean retreating behind national borders. It means ensuring that cooperation is built on equity and diversity, and that partnerships expand fair, inclusive, sustainable, and non-commercial access to the many forms of knowledge produced in our countries.

Although Diamond Open Access remains strong in Mexico and Latin America and we do not currently see a privatizing trend that threatens the regional ecosystem, — even with the introduction of journal value estimation rankings such as SCImago Journal Rank— the contest with commercial publishing models still contains a structural challenge we have not yet reversed, despite Diamond OA's growing global relevance: the prestige logic that remains deeply embedded in our institutions and academic communities. In

Mexico, for example, the share of articles by corresponding authors affiliated with Mexican institutions published in international Gold Open Access journals indexed in Scopus—journals that require APCs (article processing charges)—has increased significantly in recent years.

This trend negatively affects Diamond journals. Research funded with public resources becomes concentrated in international journals and inserted into commercial, often monolingual, Global North circulation circuits. In turn, this reproduces impact-factor logics in science evaluation, career promotion systems, and research funding. This is a structural problem of the scientific system that Diamond Open Access alone cannot solve.

For this reason, a core element of our policy is to align open-access policy with other evaluation systems, including the National System of Researchers—a national framework for recognizing and evaluating research trajectories, which provides incentives for scientific and humanities production and currently includes more than 44,000 researchers—as well as with research funding programs. The goal is to strengthen recognition of publications in Diamond Open Access journals as part of a broader strategy aimed at driving a comprehensive transformation of national science policy.

Another key element we have integrated is recognition of the diversity of knowledge-production practices. This means valuing the broad range of efforts journals make to disseminate research results and translate them for society through an evaluation model that recognizes practices and content that support the social appropriation of knowledge. From our perspective—shared by many in the Diamond movement—it is not possible to strengthen Diamond Open Access without transforming the broader culture of scientific evaluation.

Finally, as part of a vast and diverse region, and after dialogue with the communities that sustain journals across our country, we are ready to re-engage in the global conversation: eager to listen and to learn from the valuable experiences of other regions, and, above all, committed to contributing our vision of Diamond Open Access to a paradigm shift toward socially relevant science and toward knowledge as a common good.