

34.

CHILEANS WRITE A NEW CONSTITUTION

The engagement of Chilean citizens positively impacted the constitutional convention, shifting the balance of power between citizens and the government and expanding and rethinking the structure of democracy.

35.

When Law 21.216 to modify the country's constitution was signed into law in March 2020, it allowed for independent candidates to be elected to the constitutional convention. There was an extremely high threshold for the number of signatures required for a candidate to appear on the ballot. Furthermore, the signatures had to be collected manually, even during the pandemic.

In the constitutional convention election in 2021, nearly a third of all seats (48 out of 155) went to independent candidates. Traditional political parties were represented in much lower numbers. In addition, 17 seats went to representatives from indigenous communities. Furthermore, for the first time in the world, the same number of men and women were elected, achieving complete gender parity.

These members of the constitutional convention are citizens unaffiliated with political parties. They will fight for the recognition of the human rights of young people, women, and indigenous people in the new constitution. They will be key advocates for the inclusion and approval of regulations that equitably and equally benefit all people.

Why does Fundación Avina support this initiative?

Latin America is the most unequal region in the world. Power is concentrated in the hands of a few, both in the public and private sectors. Dissatisfied with this inequality, Chileans took to the streets in 2019 and 2020. The protests and civil unrest ended with a peaceful exit strategy: an open and inclusive democratic process to draft a new national constitution. Processes like this one are in line with Fundación Avina's vision, where collaboration enables the redistribution of power and the expansion of civic space. It promotes inclusive participation, organizes citizens, and gives them a say in the construction of more ethical democracies.

What did Fundación Avina and its allies do?

Since 2020, Fundación Avina has joined forces with over 40 organizations from different sectors in Chile to ensure that the process to change the country's constitution includes citizens that are not affiliated with a political party, which is evidenced by the diversity of members elected to the constitutional convention. Fundación Avina recruits others to this collaborative space for joint work and advocacy, serving as a connector with critical social capital. The involvement of these stakeholders is a cornerstone for the equitable distribution of power in the constitutional reform process. This work helped Chilean civil society build a collective agenda for its political contribution to the writing of the new Chilean constitution.

Impact Achieved

Public Policies. For the first time since the return of democracy in 1990, everyday citizens have managed to open up the regulatory frameworks and institutions dealing with access to elected offices to include alternate pathways outside of traditional political parties.

Changes in the Balance of Power. The constitutional reform for which Fundación Avina and other organizations advocated was key to the never-before-seen diversity and plurality of the members elected to the constitutional convention.

36. “

The role of Fundación Avina has been pivotal in expanding citizen participation in the exercise of democracy. The result of the constitutional convention election demonstrated the urgent need of the Chilean people for representation that was different than what traditional political parties were offering."

Leonard Moreno, Fundación Avina

"In 2020, a group of third sector organizations, including Fundación Avina, stepped up to what we considered our duty, to contribute to the incredibly important process of writing a new constitution to replace the current one, which was created during the dictatorship, and offer a peaceful exit strategy for the serious conflict we were facing since the social upheaval in 2019. We wanted to contribute our combined years of experience dealing with issues like inequality, poverty, and sustainable development. So we began our difficult task, which resulted in 11 elected members of the constitutional convention, who are playing a key role in writing an inclusive constitution based on human rights. Throughout all of this, Fundación Avina has been pivotal in the advocacy process, by contributing to parliamentary debate and supporting our organization."

Rodrigo Jordán, Coordinator of Movimiento Independientes No Neutrales

Impact on Fundación Avina's Strategic Pillars

Democratic Innovation

Impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



37. Impact in Numbers

1,191
candidates ran
for office

714

candidates were not affiliated with traditional political parties

48 out of **155** seats went to independent candidates and **17** went to representatives from indigenous communities

14,796,197

voters were presented a ballot with a wider range of choices

18,000,000 people indirectly impacted

Impact on the Components of the Collaborative Process

38.

 <p>Relevance</p>	<p>The protests and civil unrest of 2019 and 2020 were transformed into an institutionalized democratic process.</p>
 <p>Tipping Point</p>	<p>Protests evolved into concrete proposals put forth by active and organized citizens and based on collective solutions.</p>
 <p>Scalability</p>	<p>This democratic and inclusive exit strategy for widespread civil unrest serves as a reference point for the Latin American countries where people are taking to the streets with their demands.</p>
 <p>Collaboration Deficit</p>	<p>The many independent movements, with diverse perspectives and disconnected from one another up until now, have come together to form an alliance to open up spaces for citizen participation.</p>
 <p>Social Capital</p>	<p>Platforms for relationship-building and mobilizing efforts were created based on win-win criteria. These platforms enabled a peaceful exit strategy and are playing a leading role in the subsequent constitutional reform process.</p>
 <p>Unifying Vision</p>	<p>The common goal was building a better, more participatory and inclusive democracy.</p>
 <p>Shared Action Agendas</p>	<p>The actions taken helped bring together stakeholders, including activists, political parties with parliamentary representation, and the government, under a sense of shared responsibility.</p>
 <p>Innovation</p>	<p>The questioning of the political system allowed for a disruption in the mechanism for citizen representation to make it more inclusive.</p>
 <p>Incidence</p>	<p>The actions taken helped change the rules of the game, promoting a more representative and diverse system for citizen participation.</p>