

87.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN CHILE PARTICIPATE IN A DEBATE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF WATER

During the 2021 presidential election, candidates participated in the first-ever televised debate about the future of water in Chile.

88.

Chile is among the ten countries most susceptible to the negative effects of climate change, according to the Global Climate Risk Index published by Germanwatch. One of the most visible consequences of this is the serious water crisis that has been going on for over a decade, affecting natural areas, economic activity, agriculture, and the general population.

For the past five years, Fundación Avina has been working with Fundación Chile and Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano on Escenarios Hídricos (Water Scenarios), an initiative that seeks to generate data and proposals to benefit communities, the environment, and different industries through a process of dialogue with key stakeholders. The debate helped citizens to exercise their right to an informed vote by understanding each presidential candidate's proposals to deal with the country's water crisis.

The event was divided into four parts that correspond to the most critical aspects of the water shortage: governance and institutions; management models, rights, and regulations; solutions for achieving water security; and concrete measures to take place during the next administration's first 100 days.

Why does Fundación Avina support this initiative?

In the face of a water crisis, we urgently need to create spaces for collaboration involving different stakeholders. The severity of the crisis demands that we bring together not only the public and private sectors, but also those from civil society and academic institutions who have been raising the alarm and working on innovative solutions for years. We will not be able to achieve radical changes if everyday citizens are not engaged, particularly from those communities directly affected by the water crisis.

What did Fundación Avina and its allies do?

Decision making regarding the water crisis is plagued by serious asymmetries and inequalities when it comes to public engagement. Fundación Avina facilitated collaborative processes to encourage the redistribution of power and the expansion of civic spaces, in order to promote citizen participation, organization, and advocacy in the reformulation of how water is managed.

Impact Achieved

The debate lasted two hours, during which the candidates presented plans to deal with the issues that Fundación Avina and its allies have been working on for years. The event was made possible thanks to an agreement with the television network, and the debate was moderated by Ulrike Broschek, executive secretary of the Escenarios Hídricos initiative.

The viewer ratings reached 5 points, which means that 400,000 people watched the debate. It made headlines over the following days in national press and digital media outlets, and it was a trending topic on Twitter for over two hours.

Public Policies. For the first time since the return to democracy in 1990, presidential candidates participated in a public, televised debate to establish their positions and present their plans regarding a key policy issue for the country: water management.

Changes in the Balance of Power. An issue of utmost importance and urgency was brought to the attention of a broad range of voters, ensuring that whoever exercises political power in Chile must address it with concrete solutions.

89. “

The urgent water crisis and a diverse array of institutional, regulatory, and programmatic solutions were discussed publicly by presidential candidates in an unprecedented televised debate. Through this event, Fundación Avina and its allies managed to connect voters to one of the most far-reaching issues for the future faced by the country and the planet."

Leonard Moreno, Fundación Avina

"The debate that took place is highly important because in March 2022 the next administration will be handed a country plunged deep into a water crisis. In political terms, the response measures and agreements that can be settled on during the first 100 days of the administration will be critical. Through Escenarios Hídricos, we have opened up a public-facing space, together with Fundación Avina and Fundación Chile, to move forward with those agreements."

Diego Luna Quevedo, Chile Representative for Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano

Impact on
Fundación Avina's
Strategic Pillars

**Democratic
Innovation
Climate Action
Just and
Regenerative
Economy**

Impact on the Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs)



90.

Impact in Numbers

5 presidential
candidates participated in the
televised debate.

400,000
people watched
the debate live and
it was a trending topic
on social media

Impact on the Components of the Collaborative Process

91.

 <p>Relevance</p>	<p>The water crisis, which has been going on for over a decade, was addressed by the presidential candidates, who committed to voters that they would seek concrete solutions.</p>
 <p>Tipping Point</p>	<p>The water crisis is getting worse, leading authorities to declare shortages in over 50% of the country. Voters demand immediate solutions to the lack of water for human consumption.</p>
 <p>Scalability</p>	<p>Public debates themselves are a tool for scaling the water agenda.</p>
 <p>Collaboration Deficit</p>	<p>Escenarios Hídricos brings together a wide array of diverse stakeholders in an alliance to open up spaces for citizen participation and holding the future presidential administration accountable.</p>
 <p>Social Capital</p>	<p>The creation of platforms for coordination and joint work that call on presidential candidates to participate in them.</p>
 <p>Unifying Vision</p>	<p>To plan time-sensitive solutions and commit to them publicly.</p>
 <p>Shared Action Agendas</p>	<p>This intervention created an open process for addressing the crisis and its solutions, while establishing the obligations and responsibilities of the next administration.</p>
 <p>Innovation</p>	<p>The political dialogue allowed for commitments to be made publicly for the first time.</p>
 <p>Incidence</p>	<p>It also placed the water crisis and clear, short-term commitments at the center of the national debate.</p>