

Closing Plenary: Commitments & Next Steps for Diamond OA

-Arianna Becerril-García

As we come to close this gathering, I want to invite us to commit. We have spent these days discussing infrastructure, sustainability models, evaluation systems, workflows, platforms, and policies. Of course, all of this matters, but if there is one message I hope we carry with us beyond this room—and I'm sorry to insist on this message in the past two summits, but for me it is very important—it is that the only way Diamond Open Access could succeed, learning from the experience of Latin America, is by treating knowledge as a commons. And this is a political decision.

I celebrate that this summit was held in an institution working with agricultural sciences. Agriculture teaches us something essential about the commons: seeds, soil, water, and biodiversity cannot be enclosed indefinitely without consequences. When agriculture is treated only as a commodity, we undermine food sovereignty, sustainability, and collective well-being. But when it is treated as a commons, it requires care, shared knowledge, long-term stewardship, and collective responsibility.

Knowledge works in the same way. Scholarly communication, like agriculture, depends on cycles of contribution, reuse, and regeneration. Diamond Open Access is the model that most clearly reflects this logic. It is about cultivating knowledge, not extracting it. It is about stewardship, not exploitation.

Diamond Open Access is not a technical or economic decision. This distinction is fundamental, because when we frame Diamond Open Access as merely a technical or operational choice, we make it optional. When we recognize that it is a political decision, we acknowledge that it reflects our values, our priorities, and the kind of scholarly ecosystem we actively choose to sustain—or to abandon.

Diamond Open Access exists because thousands of journals, editors, reviewers, librarians, technologists, and institutions—very often in the Global South—have already made a radical commitment: to refuse the commercialization of scholarly communication and to organize knowledge production as a shared collective good.

A commons does not exist by accident. A commons is not free of cost. A commons survives only when those who benefit from it also assume the responsibility of maintaining it and contributing back to it. Today, Diamond Open Access journals are making an enormous contribution to the global knowledge commons. They do so without charging authors; they do so without charging readers. They do so sometimes with scarce resources or individual efforts, and they often do so without stable funding, without institutional recognition, and without long-term protection.

These Diamond Open Access journals absorb financial costs and infrastructural fragility; they absorb unpaid and invisible labour. And this situation is not sustainable. More importantly, it is not just an urgent need; it is under threat. If we truly

believe that knowledge is a public good, then we must say this clearly and without ambiguity. Everyone who benefits from the knowledge commons must contribute to the knowledge commons. And this contribution must take concrete forms.

It means contributing journals to the commons rather than outsourcing publishing entirely to commercial actors. It means contributing public funding to Diamond Open Access through direct, long-term, non-competitive grants. It means contributing to infrastructures that are community-governed and non-profit. And it means contributing—perhaps most importantly—political legitimacy to models that prioritize access, equity, and bibliodiversity over profit.

Supporting Diamond Open Access cannot remain an act of goodwill. It cannot be framed as an alternative for those who cannot afford APCs, or as a model funded only with whatever money remains after paying APCs. It must be recognized as a central strategic pillar of scholarly communication.

Diamond Open Access requires funding—stable funding, predictable funding; the kind of funding that respects editorial autonomy and does not impose commercial logics through the back door.

Today, the dominance of APC-based open access models is present everywhere, even in Latin America. It was the result of political decisions—and the marginalization of Diamond Open Access in some regions is also the result of political decisions. That means that the solution is, again, political.

Diamond Open Access must be recognized as a shared global responsibility, not as a regional exception or as a regional success, not as a temporary solution, not as a charitable gesture. It is already a functioning, high-quality, community-driven model that aligns with the principles of science and with knowledge sovereignty.

When institutions publish and support journals as part of the commons, they do not lose prestige—they gain legitimacy. When funders support Diamond Open Access, they are not subsidizing inefficiency or investing in something “alternative”. When researchers choose to publish, review, and edit in Diamond Open Access journals, they are not lowering standards—they are defending them. We are part of that resistance.

Before I close, I want to express my sincere thanks. Thank you to the organizers of the summit for convening this space and sustaining a conversation that is not always easy but absolutely necessary. Thank you to the hosting institution for its commitment. I won't name anyone because I will inevitably forget someone, but I want to thank everyone for their dedication and for welcoming this community.

A very special thank you to the local team—the people working behind the scenes. I know how it is; your labour is often invisible, yet it makes this event possible. Thank you to all of you taking care of the speakers, logistics, transmission, and everything else. Thank you so much.

I also want to emphasize that Open Access needs us. It needs everyone, because it is under urgent threat.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this conference. Thank you for the support of the governments represented here—particularly the representative of Mexico, Pedro, for that support—and thanks to everyone else. I will stop here. Thank you so much.