

July 24, 2025

UMALCA's Statement on Representation and Recognition in the MCA

On behalf of the Unión Matemática de América Latina y el Caribe (UMALCA), we would like to respectfully express our concern regarding the lack of representation of Latin America and the Caribbean in strategic roles —such as plenary speakers and award recipients for young researchers —during the most recent edition of the Mathematical Congress of the Americas (MCA), held in Miami.

We firmly believe that diversity and equitable representation are essential to the global development of mathematics. Given that the MCA is conceived as a congress encompassing the entire American continent, it is disheartening to note that only one of the five plenary lectures was delivered by a researcher from Latin America. This level of representation does not reflect the high-quality mathematical research being conducted in our region, which has gained significant international recognition in recent years.

Furthermore, we were even more surprised and disappointed by the absence of any awardees from Latin America and the Caribbean for the MCA Prizes, which are devoted to young researchers. All recipients were based in the United States or Canada. This outcome is particularly discouraging, considering that our region has produced Fields Medalists, Abel Prize laureates, and numerous other internationally acclaimed mathematicians. It is concerning that this excellence was not reflected in the awards or plenary invitations.

We must also express our concern regarding gender representation. Among the MCA Prize recipients, there was no female awardee, except for the Lefschetz Medal and the Americas Prize. The award for young researchers, in particular, included neither women nor individuals based in Latin America or the Caribbean. We know this contributes to discouragement, especially for young researchers working under unequal conditions and facing significant challenges in accessing funding in our region.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully urge the MCA organizing bodies to ensure that the Congress truly reflects its continental character and mission—while maintaining the highest standards of excellence and prestige. The MCA should serve as a platform to strengthen ties and foster meaningful collaboration across the entire Americas, and not be perceived as a space that disproportionately benefits only North American countries. Latin America and the Caribbean are home to a highly qualified mathematical community, with many internationally recognized researchers. Increasing the presence of researchers from our region would in no way diminish the quality of the event—on the contrary, it would enrich it and make it more representative of the diverse excellence across the continent.

We remain fully committed to engaging in constructive dialogue and to contributing actively to efforts that will make the Mathematical Congress of the Americas a truly inclusive and representative initiative—one that values and reflects the rich mathematical landscape of all regions of the Americas.

Sincerely,
Comisión directiva de UMALCA