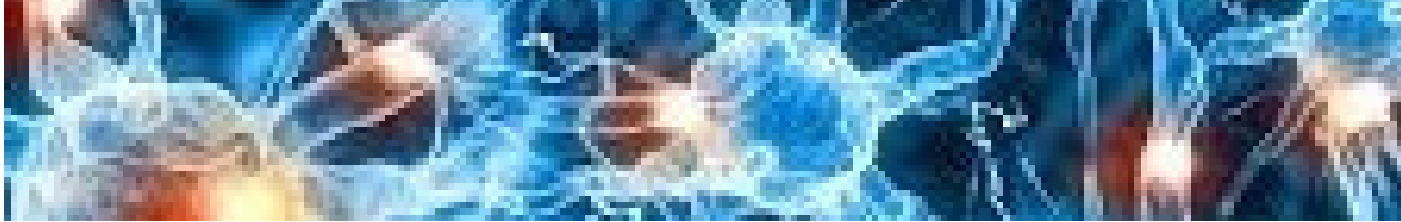




Parole Libre & Liberté Vraie

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State of deployment of the digital identity portfolio in Mexico in 2026

Having seen an article about the adoption of a law requiring every Mexican citizen's phone number to be linked to a digital identity, I asked Gemini about it.

I reproduce below the response given by Google's AI.

The debate on the balance between public security, digital identification, and the protection of fundamental freedoms is indeed a major and crucial topic in the digital age.

Your message highlights a legitimate concern shared by many digital rights advocates around the world. However, for the discussion to be based on precise facts, it is important to introduce an important nuance regarding the specific situation in Mexico.

The legal context in Mexico, although the Mexican government has repeatedly attempted to establish a mandatory registry of mobile phone users linked to biometric data (notably with the PANAUT law passed in 2021), this specific initiative has been subject to strong legal challenges.

The annulment by the Supreme Court

In April 2022, the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN, Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación) of Mexico declared the PANAUT registry (Padrón Nacional de Usuarios de Telefonía Móvil) unconstitutional.

The highest court in the country ruled that the obligation to provide biometric data to use a mobile phone violated the right to privacy, the protection of personal data, and was neither proportionate nor necessary to combat crime. The highest court in the country ruled that the obligation to provide biometric data to use a mobile phone violated the right to privacy, the protection of personal data, and was neither proportionate nor necessary to combat crime.

Recent developments (2025-2026)

More recently, Mexico has implemented a modernization of its national identifier: the biometric CURP (Clave Única de Registro de Población). This initiative aims to integrate biometric data: fingerprints, facial photographs, and digital signatures, thereby establishing a centralized national biometric identity system to reduce identity theft and assist in investigations of missing persons.

Although recent reforms now require phone numbers to be linked to a verified identity (such as the CURP or a passport for tourists) by June 30, 2026, to combat fraud, the large-scale and centralized deployment of biometric data directly for mobile line activation continues to be subject to legal battles and suspensions by Mexican courts, which protect citizens' right to privacy. The issue of standardizing identity verification

Beyond the Mexican case, your central argument remains at the heart of international discussions on Internet governance.

The temptation to link access to the network or social networks to an official ID raises several ethical and technical questions: the end of anonymity. For many activists, online anonymity is a pillar of freedom of expression, essential for whistleblowers, journalists, and political opponents in authoritarian regimes.

Data security: centralizing the real identities of millions of users creates "attractive honeypots" for cybercriminals. If a government or private database containing identities linked to online behaviors is hacked, the consequences are major.

Digital exclusion

Requiring official identification documents or biometric data can marginalize the most vulnerable populations who do not have easy access to these documents. The vigilance of citizens and organizations defending fundamental rights (such as R3D in Mexico or La Quadrature du Net in Europe) therefore remains essential to preserve an open, free, and safe Internet.

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