LACTLD Report on
LACIGF 11
Buenos Aires, Argentina
2018
**LACIGF 11**

The eleventh Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF) took place from July 31 to August 2 at Hotel Scala, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Representatives from civil society, government, technical community, academia, and the private sector presented and discussed their perspectives on different issues of interest for the Latin American and Caribbean region.

The following report, produced by LACTLD, summarizes the main discussions that took place at the event.

**SESSIONS: TUESDAY, JULY 31**

**Current Status of the Internet in Venezuela** ([session video](#)).

**Session 1: Alternatives for data protection in Latin America and the Caribbean with a rights perspective. Use of data by the public and private sectors.**

Panelists: Juan Manuel Haddad (Manager of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Telefónica Argentina); Iria Puyosa (Representative of civil society, Ecuador); Eduardo Bertoni (Director of the Access to Public Information Agency, Argentina); Pedro Less Andrade (Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy, Google Latin America); Raquel Gatto (ISOC).

Moderator: María Paz Canales (Executive director, Derechos Digitales).

The panel exposed the problems associated with the use and protection of personal data from a regulatory perspective. The future of the Latin American and Caribbean region in this regard was raised. The private sector highlighted the importance of binding self-regulation and addressed the consequences of complex regulatory frameworks that can not be adopted by small and medium enterprises.

On the other hand, the panel also stressed that the regulations implemented should be adaptable to changing technological models without innovation being hindered. In relation to this issue, the importance of the principles contained in these regulatory frameworks was pointed out. These principles include: security, transparency, consent and data portability. Additionally, they panel considered that the the regulation on the data processing should focus on the users interests and on the protection of users rights.

Finally, civil society emphasized the importance of regional and interregional coordination in regulatory processes due to the cross-border nature of the data flow. Another important aspect was the need for regulatory agencies to be independent and to have a multistakeholder conformation.

[Session video](#)
Session 2: Access at the base of the pyramid. Closing the digital divide in underprivileged sectors. The Digital Gender Divide.

Panelists: Yacine Kheladi (LAC Coordinator, A4AI); Carolina Rossini (Global Connectivity Policy Manager, Facebook); Paloma Szerman (GSMA); Laura Kaplan (Development and Cooperation Manager, LACNIC); Tanara Lauschner (CGI Brasil).

Moderator: Mercedes Aramendia.

The panelists explained what are the main barriers to inclusion that determine the digital divide. On the one hand, economic barriers and the deployment of networks and infrastructure were distinguished. On the other, they identified the lack of digital skills, the lack of relevant content for vulnerable sectors, security, lack of trust, among others.

The technical community addressed the gender divide in relation to the development and production of technology. The low diversity of the technical sectors that develop technology leads to a loss of creativity and optimal results.

The panel discussed what actions should be taken to close these digital divides. Some possible actions would be: digital literacy programs (for children and adults), education programs for women on the productive use of the Internet, skills development on safety practices in the digital environment, the development of new models for the deployment of networks and infrastructure, among others.

Session 3: Concerns regarding Net Neutrality and the future of the Internet.

Panelists: Flávia Lefêvre Guimarães (Councilor of CGI.br) y Fernando Latterza (Leader of Regulatory Projects for Latin America, Telefónica).

Moderator: Carolina Aguerre (CETYS, UdeSA).

The session began with an intervention by each of the presenters in which they exposed and argued their perspectives on the net neutrality. Flávia Lefêvre Guimarães drew attention to the large number of users who access the Internet exclusively through mobile data plans. Also, in this regard, she considered that the zero-rating service plans represent a threat to the net neutrality because they establish discrimination by application and offer users selected content according to the editorial criteria and the commercial agreements of the suppliers. The panelist emphasized the imbalance established between the users payment (through the rates and their personal data) and the profits gained by the operators.

Fernando Latterza explained that Telefónica defines the net neutrality as the non-blocking of content and the non-discrimination of traffic. He argued that in order to ensure the network neutrality, the regulation should protect competition and should ensure transparency for the user in relation to the traffic management. Regarding the zero-rating plans, Fernando Latterza
considered that they constitute an innovation that allows users to access the most popular applications.

The session continued with a series of brief interventions in which the different stakeholders (governments, private sector, technical sector and civil society) were able to share their perspectives on the subject.

**Session video**

**Session 4: Threats to freedom of expression in the digital environment: misinformation campaigns.**

Panelists: Natalia Quevedo González (Adviser in the Commission for Communications Regulation, Colombia); Gonzalo Navarro (CEO, ALAI); Monica Guise Rosina (Public Policy Manager, Facebook Brasil); Agustina del Campo (Director of CELE, Universidad de Palermo); Danya Centeno (R3D, Mexico).

Moderator: Vladimir Cortés (Artículo 19, Mexico).

The role of intermediaries, freedom of expression, possible regulatory approaches and/or practical solutions were the main topics discussed by the panelists on misinformation campaigns.

The panelists discussed the role that platforms/intermediaries should take in regard to the complaints and the corroboration of false information. One of the proposals made was to improve the accountability mechanisms of these intermediaries and to strengthen transparency about the policies and procedures for the removal of content. In addition, it was pointed out that the regulatory proposals should ensure that the circulation of speeches is not affected and should aim to combat misinformation with corroborated facts.

**Session video**
SESSIONS: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

LACIGFem 2018 (session video).

Session 5: Digital economy, keys for development in the digital environment.

Panelists: Pablo Bello (ASIET); Adela Goberna (ALAI); Fernando Rojas (CEPAL); Carolina Mendoza (IPANDETEC).

Moderator: Lucas Gallitto (GSMA)

This session addressed the "datification of economy" and its impacts on the productive development of the region. It was discussed what the policies and regulations should be adopted for this data economy. Also, the security and privacy as well as the platforms responsibility were problematized. The private sector raised the need to achieve a positive balance between digital development and the protection of user rights.

One of the challenges identified was the adoption of regulatory frameworks designed in terms of principles. These regulatory frameworks should have the flexibility and permeability necessary to adapt to technological and economic development, instead of being determined by a specific technology.

On the other hand, the digitalization of society and the digitalization of production processes were proposed as the two key conditions for productivity and for the economic development of the region. The incorporation of these new processes puts the regional connectivity as central concern in the digital economy's agenda and establishes integration and regional convergence challenges.

Session video

Keynote: Future of the global IGF (session video).

Session 6: Challenges, achievements and experiences in community network management in Latin America.

Panelists: Lilian Chamorro (Colnodo, Colombia); Oscar León (Secretary, CITEL); Agustín Garzón (ENACOM, Argentina); Andrés Sastre (ASIET); Sebastián Bellagamba (ISOC); Ariel Graizer (CABASE, Argentina); Carlos Baca (Rhizomatica, Mexico).

Moderator: Valeria Betancourt (APC)

The discussion regarding community networks arises from the need to connect all citizens. Therefore, the panel raised the development and management of these networks as a users-oriented issue. It was pointed out that the costs derived from the fact of not having an Internet connection are increasing and have a significant impact on access to online activities as well as offline activities.
The panel participants presented different positions regarding the development and management of community networks. These positions went through various topics such as regulatory policy, spectrum, licenses, the allocation of universal access funds, the development of digital skills, among others. While some panelists highlighted the great opportunity for participation, definition and appropriation of community networks by users, other speakers considered that these networks should be temporary solutions. Also, some presenters argued that the community networks should not be substitutes, but complementary to the operators.

The government sector argued that the role of the authorities should be oriented to guarantee competition in large localities and to provide legal security and state support (licensing policies and availability of funds) in the small ones.

Another key issue discussed by the panelists was the economic and institutional sustainability of community networks.

**Session video**

**Session 7: Challenges in managing Internet identifiers.**

This session was organized in three instances. Firstly, four themes were presented. A specialist made a brief introduction for each topic and raised a series of challenges and problems in this regard: Raquel Gatto (ISOC) addressed the blocking of sites/networks; Lito Ibarra (SVNET) exposed disaster preparedness; Rodrigo de la Parra (ICANN) presented privacy under the GDPR approach and its impact on the DNS; and Guillermo Cicileo (LACNIC) discussed the routing security.

During the second instance of the activity, the participants of the session were separated into four groups coordinated by one of the specialists and by a rapporteur. Each group maintained a constructive and open debate on the problems, challenges and best practices of each topic. The rapporteurs were: Alexandra Dans (ICANN) for the debate on the blocking of sites/networks; Sheron Osepa (ISOC) for the discussion on disaster preparedness; Gabriela Ramírez (NIC .AR) was in charge of reporting privacy under the GDPR approach and its impact on the DNS; and Carolina Caeiro (LACNIC) made the report on routing security.

Finally, in the third instance, the audience was reunited and the rapporteurs were able to share the results of the debates developed in each group.

**Session video**
Session 8: Smart industry and the industrial Internet. SMEs and the digitalization of productive processes in Latin America.

Panelists: Nicolo Gligo (CEPAL); Magdalena Urdampilleta (Secretariat SME, Government of Argentina); Sebastián Cadena (CEO, IncreaseCard); Flavia Alves (Head of International Institutions, Facebook); y Fernando Callorda (Project Director, Telecom Advisory Services).

Moderator: Lía Hernández (IPANDETEC).

The panelists debated about the key role of SMEs in the digital transformation of the region. This debate also exposed different challenges for this transformation such as the improvement of productivity, the incorporation of disruptive technologies, the digitalization of productive processes, the training of human capital, among others. An outstanding aspect was the resistance to change in the implementation of new technological processes. In this regard, it was argued that the digitalization of SMEs depends, to a large extent, on their ability to access and incorporate the same level of technology used by large companies.

Addressing these issues is essential to close the divide between the production levels of developed countries and those of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Session video

SESSIONS: THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

NRI Session at LACIGF (session video).

Local session: Regulation for Innovation (session video).

Keynote: Polarized pluralism on the Internet and risks for Latin American democracies (session video).

Session 9: Transition to IPv6 and infrastructure deployment.

Panelists: Oscar Robles Garay (CEO, LACNIC); Mariela Rocha (NIC .AR, Coalition IPv6); Alejandro Martínez Varela (Universidad de Guadalajara); Catalina Acherman (Under Secretary of Communications, Chile); Thiago Camargo (Secretary of Digital Policies of the Ministry of Communications, Brasil).

Moderator: Marianela Milanés (ADC).

The panel discussed the actions that must be carried out to favor the deployment of IPv6 in the region. The technical community assured that the transition to IPv6 as well as the deployment of infrastructure are strategic aspects for the future of the Internet in Latin America and the Caribbean.
The panelists argued that even though some transitory solutions such as NAT have been implemented, the transition remains a fundamental condition for the growth and development of the Internet in the region.

Mariela Rocha, representative of the Argentine technical community, presented the project called IPv6 Coalition. This initiative seeks to bring together the actors from the community to generate the conditions that facilitate the deployment of IPv6 with a focus on awareness and joint work.

Session video

Session 10: Challenges and opportunities in addressing the regional inequalities posed by the massive use of algorithms and automated decision-making. Corporate responsibility, the role of governments and civil society.

Panelists: Gustavo Gómez (Executive Director, Observacom); Eduardo Magrani (ITS RIO, Universidad Católica de Río de Janeiro); Alejandro Delgado (Advisor to the Communications Regulation Commission, Colombia); Natalia Zuazo (Independent consultant, Argentina).

Moderator: Paz Peña (ACOSO.ONLINE).

The panelists discussed the consequences of automated decisions based on the use of algorithms in companies and in the State. Responsibility for the consequences of these decisions and the protection of the citizens rights were two central issues of the debate. In this regard, it was raised the need to adopt an ethics by design approach aimed at safeguarding fundamental human rights and the right to information on automated decisions incorporated by governments.

The responsibility of intermediaries and private companies was also discussed by the panel. The speakers asserted that the regulations must be adapted to the new problems imposed by technological evolution and the massive use of algorithms.

Session video

Open microphone session (session video).