

Open Session/Open Microphone

Members of the Program Committee present during the session:

Jimena Sierra - Mexican Regulator – IFT, Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones

Andres Sastre - ASIET, Inter-American Association of Telecommunications Companies

Lia Hernández – IPANDETEC, Panamanian Institute of Law and New Technologies

Rapporteur - Carolina Mendoza – IPANDETEC, Panamanian Institute of Law and New Technologies

Pablo Casas, Judge, Argentine Judicial Power

Pablo Casas thanked and congratulated the organizers, mentioned that judicial branch operators need to learn, to acquire the technical tools to handle the language and become involved in Internet Governance issues, because, as already mentioned, they are later the ones responsible for solving such conflicts.

He asked the committee to address the topic of Children's Online Protection, specifically child abuse and trafficking, as children and adolescents are currently unprotected. He added that the lack of visibility of this problem can help these crimes go unpunished and that it is difficult to lower the levels of abuse and exploitation that occur in the physical world and which have promoted the global reach of Internet management.

Ariel Barbosa, Member of APC Colombia, COLNODO.

A shared proposal for the integration of all actors in working on the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

Ariel Barbosa noted that one of his biggest surprises was that he used to believe that this issue only occurred on the Deep Web, but that pedophiles use social networks, Airbnb, Facebook, online games, and anything they can reach to commit these crimes.

For the next IGF, he proposed including a panel with specialists on the subject, inviting actors such as UNESCO, representatives of the platforms that facilitate this type of behavior, civil society, and academia to work on reducing and mitigating these cases.

Maximiliano Ayala and Santiago Saracelo, Public secondary school specializing in programming. Argentina.

Maximiliano Ayala and Santiago Saracelo read a speech, thanked those who are part of Youth LACIGF, IGF ARGENTINA and LACIGF for the opportunity to learn and be part of the event.

They mentioned that, at their school, they learn content, they carry out practices, and that all these activities are defined based on objectives that must be achieved, without considering the urgent need to implement actions that allow them to participate as potential actors in issues that affect their daily lives.

In view of this, they requested including all secondary school level students who are eager to play an active role in this stage and not passively wait until they are professionals to have the chance to participate, as by then it may be too late.

They noted that they are not the solution, but that they are willing to promote actions that will allow them to train themselves on the responsible use of technology, on topics such as Internet Governance, privacy, net neutrality, site blocking, digital divides, digital impacts, personal data protection, regulatory frameworks, regional frameworks, crime prevention, regional economies and any others that will allow them to build their digital citizenship by defending their digital sovereignty.

They concluded with a relevant statement: “The future is today”.

Jimena Sierra, Program Committee, explained how topics are selected for LACIGF, which is through a public consultation.

Andres Reynoso, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Argentina

Andres Reynoso noted that IFLA conceives the Internet as an enabler of human rights. In this sense, libraries are recognized as vehicles to guarantee unrestricted universal access to the Internet.

He added that topics such as access to information, accessibility, neutrality and literacy had been discussed during the event, and that modern libraries are already implementing all these actions. Libraries provide a socially recognized physical space for neutrality, a place for citizen education. Without net neutrality, the role of libraries as providers of information would be compromised.

IFLA advocates for Internet access that provides transparent, free, neutral and open information.

Oscar Robles, Executive Director of LACNIC.

Extended an invitation to take an active role and intervene in their local realities. Think Global, Act Local. The expectation is that once these topics have been learned and discussed, people will return to their homes and focus on local issues.

He mentioned that they will also promote changing the name of the forum to “Preparatory Meeting for Internet Governance.”

Jimena Sierra, Program Committee, invited feedback on the expectations for LACIGF, whether they had been met, and how they might be improved in the future.

Roberto Zambrana, ISOC Bolivia.

Roberto Zambrana observed that this was an important opportunity to create awareness among participants so that they would be able to take the issues back to their communities. The topics discussed acquire greater diversity, common topics, important aspects such as net neutrality. A solid regulatory framework is needed that will ensure its compliance in the different countries. Proposing new and ambitious challenges. In Latin America, there is no unity at institutional level.

He suggested taking the conclusions reached at this forum to their own countries, seeking to achieve regulatory harmonization.

He mentioned that one of the panels held the previous day had mentioned that it was not possible to advance with 5G technology without a radical change in the model of how mobile communications services are marketed.

Augusto Maturin, Argentina Virtual Agora

Augusto Maturin observed that he was part of the Youth LACIGF organizing committee and that they had organized their -1 day with the intention of preparing young people and helping them join the discussions.

Two different organizations made this initiative possible: Youth IGF Argentina and Youth Observatory. Augusto Maturin stressed the need for young people to participate in these spaces to encourage discussions, adding that many of them had had the opportunity to participate in this space thanks to the support obtained through sponsorships/ fellowships.

He invited attendees to continue to collaborate so that more opportunities for young people will continue to be created.

Elias, Student at Universidad Nacional de Río Cuarto, Argentina.

Elias proposed setting up a table or some type of box where projects can be placed, and everyone can cooperate from their different points of view. He noted that the Forum would be a failure if the actions that were discussed at the Forum were not applied.

Andrés Sastre, ASIET - Program Committee, observed that LACIGF should be the result of the discussions held throughout the year. He added that the Program Committee would take note of the need to create collaboration tools.

Gabriela, Nic Argentina.

Gabriela observed that this had not been her first LACIGF and that many previous situations could be improved, such as increasing youth participation and ensuring that the panels are more balanced in terms of gender. One of the key points is to be able to sustain this space and provide continuity throughout the year. She mentioned that certain issues that had been discussed at the previous LACIGF held in Panama had not been discussed this year. Regarding the format, she highlighted the format of session 7, where there had been greater possibilities for discussion. She added that participants would take the topics they had discussed and the experiences they had shared at the Forum and disseminate them in their own countries.

Jimena Sierra, Program Committee, stressed the importance of networking and said that there are two tools that facilitate this activity: the LACIGF community email address, which includes the list of event attendees; and a WhatsApp group where participants share information on various webinars, opportunities and activities that take place throughout the year.

Flavia, Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Argentina.

Flavia mentioned that she is uncomfortable with the fact that the name of a Latin American forum is an English acronym. Thus, she proposed replacing the acronym IGF with FGI (the Spanish acronym). In addition, she celebrated the inclusion of the issue of gender diversity and hoped that the Forum would try to improve its linguistic diversity, including translation into indigenous languages.

Eduardo Tomé, Honduras.

With regard to the composition of the different panels, Eduardo Tomé mentioned that hearing the points of view of experts is not enough and added that spaces are needed where people who are not experts but who experience each issue every day can share their views. For example, he noted that the panel on community networks did not include any member of a community where a network had already been created, and that these are clearly the people who can attest to the impact of this type of projects.

Eduardo Santoyo, Colombia.

Eduardo Santoyo expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to participate and thanked the event organizers. He then noted that the Program Committee and even the composition of the panels were good examples of the multistakeholder model.

He invited everyone to learn about the possibility and importance of working together, of working as peers in the pursuit of a common goal, in this case social development. He concluded by asking participants to take what they learned at this forum back to their communities.

Andrés Sastre, ASIET - Program Committee. With respect to the name of the forum, he noted that he would take note of the contribution. He added that the priority languages of the Forum are English, Portuguese and Spanish, as it also affects the Caribbean region. On the composition of the different panels, he noted that that there is always room for improvement and that working on the reciprocity of information would allow them to know who would actually attend the forum.

Lia Hernández, IPANDETEC - Program Committee, observed that confirming the various panels was difficult, as last-minute complications might require looking for additional

panelists having the right profile while maintaining gender and sector representation. She added that panelists had each spoken in their native language, taking advantage of the simultaneous interpretation services that had been offered.

Lito Ibarra, El Salvador.

Following up on the previous comments on the work they must each do in their own countries, Lito Ibarra suggested that attendees contact those who had not received a sponsorship/fellowship and invite them to participate in national events.

Nancy Reyes, Accesibility Lab.

Nancy Reyes observed that she would like to speak on behalf of millions of people with disabilities who could not be there for the event, noting that they have a very hard time because the Internet is not accessible or because of a lack of digital inclusion – all these technological solutions are being created, yet they are not accessible. She added that she believes that the next LACIGF would be a great opportunity to include a panel on digital inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities.

Yeni Brito, Dominican Republic.

Yeni Brito suggested that a future edition of the forum might address the issue of intellectual property in greater detail, specifically algorithms and whether it is more convenient to protect them as trade secrets or with patents, as she understands that this is a governance issue of great interest.

Lia Hernández, IPANDETEC - Program Committee, noted that the topic of intellectual property and intermediary liability had been on the agenda of other forums. Regarding post-event follow-up, she observed that the program committee would hold a meeting and that all session and remote moderation reports would be gathered to create a memory of the event. Likewise, photographs and videos would be uploaded to the website. As already mentioned, in this process each person can keep in touch with their local community at the various national and regional initiatives such as IGF MEXICO, IGF URUGUAY, IGF PANAMA, IGF GUATEMALA. In the countries with no IGF, they can seek the support of neighbor organizations that have already organized their IGFs so they can help them set up their own. Regarding the topics to be discussed at the IGF, she noted

that, once the call for venue proposals is closed and a new location has been selected, a form will be open where people will be able to choose priority topics and suggest new topics. She invited everyone to take advantage of these spaces to contribute their suggestions when the possibility is available.

Remote contribution: Williams highlighted and expressed his appreciation of the simultaneous Interpretation and the possibility of participating remotely. He asked with special emphasis that future editions of the forum include remote moderators for all sessions, as this has not been possible this time.

Miguel Ibañez – National Technological University (UTN) Buenos Aires.

Miguel Ibañez observed that UTN believes in supporting academic knowledge applied to specific developments, for example, communication projects with a social profile. He noted that last year the University had begun working in northern Argentina to develop application modules for training people representing different cooperatives in telecommunications, as another line of work beyond teaching Social ICT, especially in places where there is no connectivity.

Alberto Soto, LACRALO Chair.

Alberto Soto mentioned that he is a member of an ICANN advisory committee, which defends the interests of Internet end-users. He added that they need to attend these events where a wealth of information is discussed, as this will allow them to fight when policies are created within the organization.

He also invited young people to participate and contribute to the organization.

Remote contribution: Eduardo Rojas - Fundación Redes, Bolivia.

Eduardo Rojas noted that there are several organizations in Latin America working on the issue of digital violence and promoting the protection of children, including *Fundación Redes* in Bolivia as well as organizations in Colombia such as *Te Protejo*, *Red Papas* in Argentina, *Clbersegura*, which promote online protection for children due to the increase in the production of sexual abuse content. He proposed including in future editions a panel on the Protection of Children Online, as a form of digital violence.

He also congratulated Ariel Barbosa for his contribution and noted that he will help promote this discussion.

Alfredo Velazco - Usuarios Digitales, Ecuador.

Alfredo Velazco congratulated the organizing committee and noted that the forum had addressed topics that are relatively new in the region (e.g. Artificial Intelligence) and which were not on the agenda just two years earlier.

Ana Lia, Fundación WEIBA, Argentina.

Ana Lia commented that Fundación WEIBA is a new organization that promotes social development through technology. She proposed that young people have a panel at the next IGF.

She also offered her organization as a space for all those who did not feel represented by the ideas or proposals that had been discussed and want to have a place at the table and connect with people who want to do something.

Nora Moreno – Teacher, Argentina.

Nora Moreno mentioned that the event had served to rethink certain topics together as adults. She expressed her gratitude for the fact that a crazy idea born in a public school had allowed her to give back in easy terms that young people can outline.

She noted that sometimes it is a mistake to train technicians with closed criteria, and that the possibility of using their training to modify their environment throughout a lifetime has been lost. She added that they need to prove to all sectors that sometimes their good intentions are not enough when creating public policies if concepts such as spending to invest do not change.

She called for everyone to participate, as the concept of ICTs has been used only for modernization and not for inclusion. This is the new challenge for adolescents, making them aware that they are successful consumers and not creators.

Monserat Vidal - Guatemala - UNESCO.

Montserrat Vidal noted that UNESCO is working on a project to review public policies on the prevention of violence in the northern triangle of Central America, reviewing whether ICTs are present in these policies, adding that results show that they are not.

She stressed that it is necessary to consider ICTs as a cross-cutting issue and include them in public policy design, in this case, for the prevention of violence among youngsters. She invited everyone to recognize the importance of using technology, before and during a disaster, as well as for disaster recovery.

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In closing the session, the Program Committee thanked everyone for their contributions.

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