

LACIGF 12 Report

Title of the session: Opening Ceremony

Session summary:

The Opening Ceremony started with greetings of the master of ceremony, who highlighted the multisectorial character of LACIGF in discussions about Internet Governance. Besides, she recognized the host country, as well as other organizations which, through donations and work, made the forum possible. Then she introduced the following authorities: **Roberto Zambrana (Representative of the Local Organizer, Bolivia)**, **Andrés Sastre (ASIET, Uruguay)** and **Iván Zambrana (Vice-ministry of Telecommunications, Bolivia)**.

Roberto Zambrana welcomed the audience, civilians and authorities who represented the organizations and entities involved in LACIGF's realization. Zambrana also remembered the successful outcomes of regional Internet Governance Forums, which are essential for the dialogue and work in such a key ecosystem for social development. He pointed out the importance of Internet evolution and viewpoint diversity, which are both essential for developing a safer Internet, with no restrictions and more accessibility, promoting citizen development. Finally, he told he hopes the IGF Bolivia may help to strengthen the dialogue about Internet governance within Bolivia and to improve the next regional forums.

Andrés Sastre started by greeting everybody and congratulating the Bolivian people for its independence day. He told the 12th LACIGF has become indispensable for democratic discussions on regional Internet governance issues, especially because it allows the exposition of different points of view. He said also that, in the actual context of globalization and hyperconnectivity, debating in LACIGF is crucial, given the scarcity of solutions for the digital gap. Besides, he pointed out that regional connectivity is just the debate starting point, because LACIGF should discuss other actual challenges, extending from digitalization of productive processes to online human rights protection, taking into account that we live in a world without the ancient, well-known territorial barriers. He mentioned the need for discussing next years' Internet development and governance, as well as whether the tools used until now are responding suitably to the challenges of IG. He concluded by emphasizing the need for reviewing the paths which led to the current stage of IG and of increasing the impact and effectiveness of LACIGF public policy debates in the region countries development.

Finally, **Ivan Zambrana** greeted the audience, made a reflection about Bolivia's independence process and highlighted that there are still Spanish traits in the local culture. He welcomed foreign attendants and said their presence will contribute to Bolivia's telecommunications development. He mentioned Bolivians desire to make their society a fairer, more egalitarian and developed one, so that the Internet is one of the tools needed for that. Besides, he told the government has two main expectations for the event: a significant contribution for the Bolivian economy; and the development of people, allowing them to develop and to have more opportunities, so that futurely they can help to promote the general welfare. He also pointed out that urban areas are the ones which have developed the most, with a lot of progress in connectivity and coverage, even though there are problems preventing people from founding on the Internet the answer for several daily problems. Last, he mentioned that all the attendants have a responsibility with the Latin-American and Caribbean society, and that the

work developed during LACIGF should make the Internet more useful for the region countries development, creating a better Internet for a better region.

Outputs and other relevant links:

Full Session: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pk_N-Y0nV8w

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