

## LACIGF 12 Report

**Title of the session:** Session 11 – LOCAL Session: The Impact of the Multistakeholder Approach on Internet Governance in Bolivia

### **Session summary:**

The session began with the moderator **Roberto Zambrana (Internet Society Bolivia, Bolivia)** questioning how the III IGF Bolivia could become more successful, and what issues should be incorporated into the agenda of that same event.

**Eduardo Trigo (Telecommunications Council, Bolivia)** argued that it is necessary to draw conclusions that can be used to develop the country's laws and public policies, as well as to encourage greater government participation. He also emphasized the importance of addressing the issue of Internet of things and 5G, promoting a work together with Internet operators to prepare the country for the arrival of 5G.

**Lía Solís (NOG Bolivia, Bolivia)** proposed that more spaces for the dissemination of community experiences should be opened, with the aim of making the forum more productive.

**Rosa Flores (Faculty of Pure and Natural Sciences of San Andrés Mayor University, Bolivia)** advocated that the theme of *blockchain* should be included and argued for the need of more efforts to attract people to the event.

At last, **Iván Zambrana (Deputy Minister of Telecommunications, Bolivia)** proposed to hold debates on the development of local content and the inclusion of those not connected. He also defended a sectoral preparation before the event, with the aim of making it more productive.

Subsequently, moderator Roberto asked how to improve Bolivia's IGF relation with civil society and academia. Eduardo Trigo talked about working together with operators, academia and research centers, with the goal of developing national technologies. He also defended the need to find a space to dialogue with civil society in order to identify their needs, ensuring that operators can meet them.

Roberto then questioned what could threaten this space of dialogue and what are the expectations for the next forum. Lía Solís responded by commenting that the two forums that already took place were successful, although not binding. For her, it is necessary to promote greater participation of the technical community and discuss security policies and ways to develop better products. Still, she pointed out that a respectful dialogue and the characteristics of a learning environment must be maintained.

Roberto also addressed the academic contribution to IGF Bolivia, what other sectors of civil society could participate in the forum and how they could attract more young people. For Rosa Flores, scientific research, the creation of safer platforms, the guarantee of transparency and the development of Artificial Intelligence must be promoted through the establishment of specific objectives. In addition, she advocated that previous activities, to prepare and motivate participation, should happen.

Finally, Roberto asked if there are any difficulties in the relationship of the forum with other entities, such as social movements. Iván Zambrana responded by commenting on an exercise in Bolivia called social control, aimed at controlling the country's public institutions. To this end, members of commerce, industry and universities monitored the performance of the institutions. According to Ivan, this model could be extrapolated to the IGF Bolivia.

In the questions addressed by the audience, there were questions about the process of involving Bolivia's youth and universities with Internet governance; how it is intended to spread the issue of governance to young people; and if there are agreements with universities. Then, it was questioned what elements are being worked on within the Bolivian governance scene and what public policies the Bolivian State currently has to strengthen governance. It was also commented that young people have the perception that their opinion doesn't matter, so the generations that precede them should prove otherwise by encouraging their projects and ideas. In addition, the idea of giving a conclusive and binding character to the IGF Bolivia was suggested, and that one should focus on creating their own agenda, instead of accepting an already created one. Another question was about the level of confidence that the Bolivian population had in ICT. Finally, current government strategies to motivate the use of ICTs by citizens and the regulatory challenges for the public and private sector were questioned. In the online questions, the government's vision to create workspaces to create local content, not only for commercial purposes, was discussed.

Rosa Flores answered there is a center producing local content, as well as research centers and universities that work on issues related to Internet governance. According to her, we are threatened to live a digital dictatorship, because algorithms define what we have access to, damaging the neutrality of the network, so we must look for safer platforms and train professionals to face the risks and challenges of cyberspace.

Eduardo Trigo commented that we must update our technological regulations, and Lía Solís argued that the private sector is hampered by the lack of maritime sovereignty, as this significantly increases the price of the Internet. She argued for the importance of promoting local content productions. Finally, Iván Zambrana commented that there isn't a government strategy to integrate people, especially in places without Internet infrastructure and as well as the young population.

In the final comment round, moderator Roberto said that digital channels should be used to integrate young people into Internet governance discussions. Still, he pointed out the importance of discussing the binding or nonbinding nature of these spaces, of creating more dialogue spaces about governance and of adding the government, always maintaining respectful environments for discussion. Iván Zambrana and Lía Solís have argued that it wasn't necessary to make IGF Bolivia binding, because good ideas are strong enough, and throughout the world this type of forum has been very relevant without being binding. Eduardo Trigo commented on the great success of simplifying the latest law on procedures to authorize antenna structures and defended the valorization of the participation of several stakeholders (government, academic, technical community, civil society and private sector) in IGF Bolivia. Finally, moderator Roberto stated that sectoral meetings should be held before IGF Bolivia so that its ideas could be more effectively taken for the event.

**Outputs and other relevant links:**

Full session: <https://youtu.be/AGJa2LYKUKU>

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