# LACIGF 12 Report

**Title of the session:** Session 3 – Regional Governance Initiatives – NRIs: Progress and Challenges in Governance Discussions in LAC

**Session summary:**

The moderators **Kevon Swift (LACNIC, Uruguay***)* and **Paula Oteguy (LACNIC, Uruguay)**, began explaining the format of the session, which was divided in two main parts. The first part, was an overview of the NRIs in an international context, and the second part was the presentation of five NRIs in Latin America and the Caribbean, with different levels of maturity, by their coordinators. The idea is that the session can have representation and geographic diversity in the region with officers from many organizations.

In the first part, **Chengetai Masango (IGF Global Secretariat, Switzerland)** shared information about NRIs in the world. He said that the Global IGF Secretariat encourages the creation of initiatives at local and regional level on Internet governance issues and surprisingly the first regional IGF was precisely the Caribbean IGF. Until today, according to Masango, there are many regional and local IGFs that promote the exchange of good practices and it is true that the IGF Global forum can also learn a lot from regional and local forums. For the panelist, the IGF has to be transparent, active, and must involve actors from different sectors. Regional forums are independent of the global IGF, but that does not mean that there should be no collaboration between these spaces.

After the presentation of Masango an open microphone session was held, and the moderators invited people to present their local projects and initiatives. **Diego Canabarro (Internet Society, Brazil)** emphasized that his organization, through national chapters, supports many projects and NRIs in Latin America and the Caribbean, and emphasized these are very important spaces for regional development. **Nacho Estrada (LACTLD, Argentina)** said that the LACTLD supports the IGF LAC Space in the global IGFs with the objective that the actors of the region and the MAG somehow share information and fulfill the role of representation. **Ariane Ferro (OAB and Fellow of the Youth Brazil Program, Brazil)** said it is important to disseminate initiatives that privilege young people in the region because that way we can create networks and receive information on how to continue to be involved in the ecosystem. **Gilberto Lara (Association Connection of El Salvador, El Salvador)** said that he is a fellow of the LACNIC leaders initiative and that his organization has worked on the topic of Internet governance more focused on the issue of awareness, getting involved in universities, governments and civil society. **Carlos Carrasco (Observatory of Fiscal Expenditure of Chile and a Fellow of YouthLACIGF)** said he was a grant from the Youth Observatory in the Youth LACIGF program and thanked him very much for the existence of this initiative. **Juliana Novaes (Youth Observatory, Brazil)** said her organization has a project called Creating Networks to map youth organizations around the world that work with Internet / ICT issues and help them create contact networks. **Roberto Zambrana (Internet Society Bolivia, Bolivia)** shared his experience on the two national IGFs organized by ISOC Bolivia in 2016 and 2017.

The second part of the session was the presentation of five NRIs in Latin America and the Caribbean. **Susana Chaves (NIC CR, Costa Rica)** said that 2019 will be the third year that they will organize the national IGF in their country. The organizing committee is open for all parties involved to participate. There are now 3 actors involved in this ecosystem: the government, ISOC Costa Rica and NIC Costa Rica. There are different challenges involved, such as the issue of resources, location and also the need to develop this forum through different formats. The first year they did it by panels, but they understood that it was necessary to involve people more actively.

**Jacqueline Morris (Internet Society Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago)** began her presentation by introducing the initiative in her country, which began with an election of ICANN. From that, they were part of the regional IGF organization in the Caribbean. One of the challenges is that most of the people involved are technical and civil society. Governments and the private sector are not yet sufficiently involved actors in the ecosystem. This lack of participants from some interest groups is one of the two main challenges for the IGF in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Julián Casasbuenas (Association for Progressive Communications - APC, and Colnodo, Colombia)** presented the IGF initiative in Colombia. The forum started from a regional forum in Córdoba, Argentina, when they decided to found a discussion group that held regular meetings on topics such as connectivity, fake news, privacy etc. From the beginning, the principles are facilitating dialogues with stakeholders and, in the last year, the group focused on trying to include more interested people. Among the challenges they face is the issue of involving more young people in the processes of Internet governance, small businesses and having events in different parts of the country.

**Guilherme Alves (Youth Observatory, Brazil)** presented the YouthLACIGF, an annual event held on LACIGF's zero day and was born in 2016 from the growing community of young people who are interested in participating in the Internet Governance forums in Latin America and the Caribbean . It is one of the main projects of Youth Observatory (also Group of Special Interest of Youth, SIG Youth, of the Internet Society), a non-profit organization, made up of young people from Latin America and the Caribbean and other countries of the world who work voluntarily in projects connected to the challenges of Internet Governance from a local, regional and global perspective. The main message of YouthLACIGF and Youth Observatory is that young people are present, strong, diverse and diverse and want to make social impact projects. The main challenges of YouthLACIGF are financing, logistics (for having transnational organization), the limits of voluntary work and involving young people from countries with little representation in the community. In these four years of YouthLACIGF, the event has awarded 38 young people from 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and has had nearly 200 participants. Many of the fellows today are working in civil society organizations, in the government of their countries, in companies, involved as technicians and also researchers in universities.

**Flávio Wagner (CGI.br, Brazil)** started talking about the history of the IGF Brazil (Internet Forum in Brazil), which began in 2011 and in November will have its ninth edition, which occurs every year in different cities and regions of the country and this The year will take place in Manaus, in the Amazon region. He said the event is always promoted and organized by CGI.br. He commented that since 2017 the structure of the forum has changed, and today the panels are proposed by the community, seeking to be proposed by different stakeholders and have a table with representatives from all sectors. He explains that the evaluation is carried out by a committee of 44 people from different sectors and that each panel is evaluated by 8 of these members (2 from each sector). He also spoke about the financial support that CGI.br provides to panelists, moderators and rapporteurs of the selected panels, which should have members from all sectors and regional and gender representation, and that despite all the support and encouragement, It is still a challenge to have representatives from the private sector and the government. He mentioned the two most debated topics in the last Internet Forum in Brazil: Fake News, directly linked to the presidential elections that took place days before the forum, and Privacy and data protection, discussions related to the National Law on Data Protection that It was approved months before the event. He ended up asking for ideas on how to approach stakeholders that are not yet actively involved in these events, such as the government and the private sector.


**Outputs and other relevant links:**
Full session: https://youtu.be/Qd9MC_lmjl0


**By:** Juliana Novaes (Artículo 19, Brazil) and Pollyanna Rigon Valente (Compasso-Uol Diveo, Brazil)

**Translation:** Matheus Figueiredo Lima (UNICURITIBA, Brazil)

**Revision:** Flavio Andre Garces Heredia (Colombia) and Luis Gustavo de Souza Azevedo (UFAC, Brazil)

**Coordination and edition:** Nathalia Sautchuk Patrício (NIC.br, Brazil) and Guilherme Alves (Youth Observatory, Brazil)