

Report LACIGF 13

Session Title: Internet governance, gender and intersectionality: what can a gender approach do for technology policies?

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Summary of the session:

The session was moderated by Jamila Venturini and divided into two parts. The first part was a round-table with the panelists with two fundamental questions. The second part consisted of four working groups which were divided to discuss themes related to gender and intersectionality. The main topics covered by the session were:

- a. Gender-sensitive public policies in the technology sector;
- b. Gender violence and digital rights;
- c. Digital gender violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first panelist, Carolina Caeiro (Coordinator of the LACNIC women's project), highlighted LACNIC's role in coordinating the policy development process that establishes how Internet resources should be used in Latin America and the Caribbean. The panelist stresses the mission of bringing more women to the LACNIC environment through a project that aims to capacitate women to ensure a more diverse, gender-sensitive, and safe online space, seeking to mitigate the barriers that make these spaces predominantly male.

Danya Centeno, the second panelist and a representative of Twitter highlights the importance of having multistakeholder spaces to promote a fairer online community. She cites a signed agreement that aims to assist in the eradication of violence against women

and girls in Mexico, highlighting the importance of training civil society organizations and authorities to occupy places of visibility. Also, she points out that the platform has directly helped with issues of domestic violence, with the creation of a helpline.

The third panelist, Margarita Escobar (Congresswoman, El Salvador), highlighted how gender-based violence in the digital sphere is detrimental to women's participation in politics. The congresswoman also asserts that the platforms contribute to gender-based violence and that there should be laws that protect women online. In this regard, the congresswoman informs that Data Protection legislation is being discussed in Parliament in El Salvador. Besides this, the congresswoman stresses that any legislation aimed at the Internet must be formulated to enhance this technology in conjunction with human rights.

Anais Córdova (Taller de Comunicación Muller, Ecuador), the fourth panelist, stressed that gender-based violence in the digital realm also has physical and mental consequences, such as anxiety and the withdrawal of women and LGBTQI+ people from technology. Such forms of violence are linked and can only be combated by the interaction between the State, platforms (private entities), and civil society.

At the end of the first section, the moderator raised questions about the outcomes of the patriarchal structure in the digital environment and raised considerations on how we can deal with these interferences as well as which challenges involve an intersectional view of gender that covers multiple vulnerabilities (origin, age, condition socioeconomic, race, etc.) so that public and private policies on the Internet are comprehensive.

In the second part of the session, there was a division of the audience into four groups. Carolina Caeiro and Juliana Guerra mediated the first. Their debate focused on the technical aspects of the Internet, addressing the experience of LACNIC and IETF in integrating women. The group also addressed how the multiple realities of women affect internet access democratically. Therefore, the need to promote more structural and cultural changes was broadly discussed to expand women's access to the technical community and to disseminate knowledge about the use of data, given the multiple socioeconomic realities that make women and girls vulnerable. It was emphasized that access to the Internet must be a universal fundamental right and an essential measure to tackle gender inequalities in Latin America.

Group 2, mediated by Paz Peña, dealt with questions of algorithmic decisions and how automated decisions do not fairly reflect existing social inequalities. The importance of having diversity in the development of algorithmic technologies (gender, race and social class) was also discussed as a way to have more sensitivity in programming and about the importance of the transparency of algorithmic systems. Often, the population is the one who is receiving the consequences of inequality due to algorithmic decisions, which is why the transparency of all entities is essential.

In group 3, the discussion dealt with the incorporation of a gender perspective on private moderation of content. The group was led by Maria Cristina Capelo (Facebook) and focused its discussions on the case that occurred with Lunar App, the first free application in Argentina to deal with the menstrual cycle. Analía Fukelman (creator and director of Lunar) pointed out that the app's goal is to educate about the menstrual cycle to generate empowerment about sexual and reproductive rights. But, due to specific words in the description of the app and images in its advertisement, the app was excluded from Google Play Store. The reasons that led to the exclusion of the app were not transparent and only after repeated contacts with the company it was possible to include the app again.

Group 4 was moderated by Lulu Barrera (Luchadoras, Mexico) and discussed ways to regulate the crime of disclosing intimate photos without the victim's consent. Three main points were highlighted: (i) the need to classify and train public agents to handle these complaints; (ii) the need to guarantee due process with effective procedural outcomes; and (iii) the development of other forms of prevention against the illegal act.

- **Outputs and other relevant links:**

Part of the session is available at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_H5oZzw9G4&feature=youtu.be

[Navejando libres](#) – Report on Gender Violence in Ecuador, NGO Taller de Comunicación Mujer

[Pacto para Eliminação das Violências contra as Mulheres e Meninas no México](#)