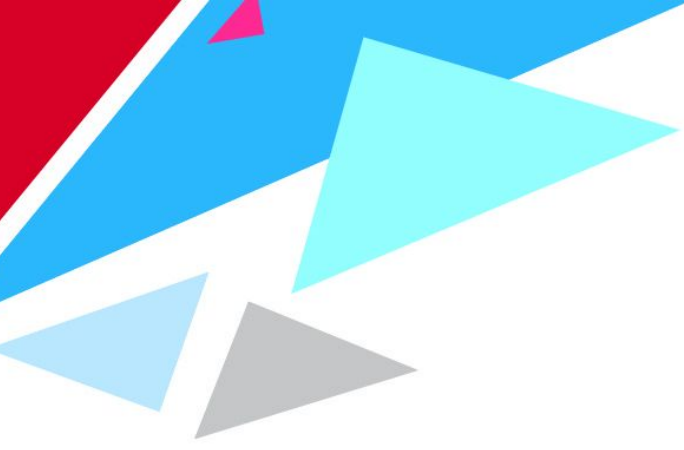




# LACTLD Report on LACIGF 12

La Paz, Bolivia

6-8 August 2019



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## LACIGF 12

The Twelfth Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF) was held August 6-8 at the Casa Grande Hotel, La Paz, Bolivia. Representatives from civil society, government, the technical community, academia and the private sector presented and discussed their perspectives on key issues for the Latin American and Caribbean region.

The following report was produced by LACTLD and outlines the main discussions that unfolded at the event.

### Session No. 1 – Human Rights: Freedom of Expression on the Internet

**Speakers:** Carlos Cortés (Linterna Verde); Esteban Lescano (CABASE); María Cristina Capelo (Facebook); Thiago Tavares (CGI.br); Miguel Candia (MRE.py)

**Moderator:** Ana Bizberge (Observacom)

The session sought to problematize the freedom of expression on the Internet within the framework of regulatory models, platforms criteria and international human rights systems.

The discussion addressed the tensions between content moderation and the exercise of human rights on the Internet, particularly freedom of expression. It also considered the balance between safeguarding freedom of expression and the other online human rights. The speakers agreed that the challenges posed by these discussions on the Internet cannot be compared to other contexts specific to traditional media, nor can they be resolved through simple and unilateral approaches.

Based on the reflections raised, it was argued that it is not possible to impose editorial controls on content shared on the Internet; the willingness to criminalize users should be avoided; and long-term investment should be made in digital literacy (false content and misinformation).

On the one hand, one of the representatives from the private sector argued the importance of considering international human rights systems, such as the Pact of San José de Costa Rica, in regulatory efforts. On the other hand, the civil society representative emphasized the need to strengthen the transparency, accountability and due process of the platforms.

Another issue discussed was the community rules developed by platforms. The Facebook representative raised the challenges of balancing local legislations and contexts in the development processes of global use policies.

[Session video](#)

## **Session No. 2 – Surveillance Technologies in Our Region: A View on How to Work towards a Safer Digital Environment Based on Experience and Practice**

**Speakers:** Daniela Macías (DINARDAP, Ecuador); Daniela Alvarado (IPYS); Lía Hernández (IPANDETEC)

**Moderator:** Martha Tudon (Artículo 19)

Surveillance technologies were analyzed based on the national experiences of the speakers. They discussed the increasing trend to implement surveillance technologies in the region and the lack of regulatory frameworks aimed at mitigating their abusive use.

The DINARDAP representative explained that images that identify or make a citizen identifiable constitute personal data. Therefore, surveillance technologies should be subject to national regulations governing the storage and processing of personal data. She added that these technologies should be used within a comprehensive security framework and should prevent unauthorized access to the data and information they collect.

Another issue discussed was public awareness on the mechanisms and effects of surveillance technologies. The speakers highlighted the importance of digital skills development. In this regard, they proposed working on a culture of informative self-determination, i.e., empowering citizens about the way their information is handled and the exercise of their rights.

[Session video](#)

## **Session No. 3 – Regional Governance Initiatives / NRIs: Progress and Challenges in Governance Discussions in LAC**

**Speakers:** Susana Chaves (NIC Costa Rica); Jacqueline Morris (Internet Society); Julián Casasbuenas (Colnodo); Flávio Wagner (Internet Society); Guilherme Alves (Youth Observatory)

**Moderators:** Paula Oteguay (LACNIC) and Kevon Swift (LACNIC)

The session on regional Internet Governance initiatives was organized in two parts. At the beginning, participants were invited to exchange their experiences and knowledge on NRIs in the region in an open microphone activity. This was followed by a panel that presented case studies of initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Participants from different sectors and countries were able to share their experiences and projects aimed at strengthening Internet Governance at both local and regional levels. The initiatives presented reflected different levels of development and approaches oriented towards supporting the participation of diverse audiences and communities in Internet Governance processes.

At this first part of the session, LACTLD was able to present some of the projects developed by its members in the field of NRIs and spoke about its role as the coordinating organization of the IGF LAC Space.

The second part of the session focused on different NRI case studies. Susana Chaves from NIC Costa Rica along with other speakers from the region presented and commented on their experiences in organizing national initiatives for the discussion of Internet Governance. Some of the main challenges identified in all cases were: levels, diversity and representativity in terms of participation; formats and work dynamics; public consultation processes; continuity of discussions between annual editions; access to resources; and the capacity-building needs of the different stakeholders on the issues addressed at the NRIs.

[Session video](#)

#### **Session No. 4 – The Future of Internet Governance / Presentation of the LACIGF study and open microphone**

**Speakers:** Chengetai Masango (IGF); Andrés Piazza; Jacqueline Morris (Internet Society); Sebastián Bellagamba (Internet Society); Flávia Lefevre (CGI.br); Adela Goberna (ALAI); Raúl Echeberría

**Moderator:** Raúl Echeberría

The future of global and regional Internet Governance was another of the issues addressed during LACIGF12. The speakers shared their perspectives on the report published in June 2019 by the High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, entitled 'The Age of Digital Interdependence'. First, the proposed potential models for dynamic cooperation were reviewed. Second, the panel members discussed some of the main issues that arise around the future of global Internet Governance, such as: the challenge of engaging all actors in appropriate fora; the levels of professionalization in the approach to the issues; the complexities and differences of the socio-political contexts in which discussions on the Internet and the development of public policies take place; among others.

The debate on the future of Internet Governance also examined the applicability of the first models and principles developed. Panelists agreed that while interests and contexts have changed over the years, collaboration has always been the rule in governance discussions, and defined models and mechanisms should not become binding, but should remain voluntary, open and inclusive.

The final part of the session raised the discussion from a regional perspective. Raúl Echeberría presented the report produced as a result of the open consultation process on the present and future of the LACIGF. Overall, the process has proven that the forum has a central and significant role for regional Internet Governance. Therefore, the report suggests the need for changes in

LACIGF's format and work processes. The findings and recommendations presented by Raúl Echeberría can be consulted [here](#).

[Session video](#)

**Keynote: Present and Future of the Internet Governance ([session video](#))**

### **Session No. 5 – Digitalization and Productive Transformation: Driving Economic Development through ICTs**

**Speakers:** Fernando Rojas (CEPAL); Pamela Gonzales (TechHub); Juan Pablo Vial (Chile Government); Verónica Arroyo (Access Now)

**Moderator:** Alejandra Erramuspe (Agencia de Gobierno Electrónico y Sociedad de la Información y del Conocimiento de Uruguay)

The speakers presented different perspectives on digitalization and productive transformation based on data processing and the development of artificial intelligence. The representatives of the government sector analyzed the effects and opportunities unleashed by the digitalization of production processes. In this regard, they stressed that education and the development of digital skills in workers will be key to increase the opportunities offered by the digitalization and counteract its negative effects.

The session also addressed the protection of users' rights in the context of digitalization and productive transformation. The representatives of civil society raised the need to protect the privacy of users/citizens and offered various recommendations for this purpose. They suggested supporting 'privacy by design', ensuring encryption of personal data, and creating spaces of trust that foster informed dialogue with users.

The session served to balance the different perspectives of the speakers. On the one hand, the government sector highlighted the opportunities offered by the digital economy through the value creation enabled by the data processing. The opportunity to develop a regional framework that allows cross-border data transfer and guarantees the protection of the citizens' privacy was also highlighted. On the other hand, civil society proposed supporting the region's innovation process from a human rights perspective. The representatives of this sector suggested fostering the understanding and trust of users regarding the processing and use of their personal data.

[Session video](#)

## **Session No. 6 – Internet Access: The Challenge of Connecting the Unconnected in the Short Term**

**Speakers:** María Cristina Capelo (Facebook); Karla Velasco (REDES A.C); Natalia Quevedo González (Comisión de Regulación de Comunicaciones de Colombia); Eduardo Tomé (ISOC Honduras Chapter); Andrés Sastre (ASIET); Julián Casasbuenas (Colnodo)

**Moderator:** Valeria Betancourt (APC)

The discussion on Internet access focused on business models, regulatory aspects and the role of the different stakeholders. The speakers argued that the growth of Internet access has now stagnated. In addition, they stated that strategies that were employed in the past are no longer effective in connecting the unconnected.

Community networks were one of the models proposed to bridge the access gap. According to the civil society representative, community networks are characterized by collective ownership and management. In these networks, users are in charge of the construction, management and maintenance of the infrastructure.

During the session, different models of community networks were discussed. The main restrictions that limit the development of these networks were also identified: restrictions on access to spectrum, obstacles to licensing, access costs and taxes.

Private sector speakers considered that innovation should be sought in both business models and regulatory approaches in order to develop new strategies to bridge the access gap. They also suggested that the coexistence and complementarity of models should be fostered through collaboration between the different sectors.

[Session video](#)

## **Session No. 7 – Intersectoral theme: Government Sector. Internet and Jurisdiction. The importance of the protection of rights online, in the public and private spheres.**

**Speakers:** Lorena Naranjo (Ecuador Government); Katitza Rodríguez (EFF); Miguel Candia (MRE.py, Paraguay Government)

**Moderator:** Miguel Candia (MRE.py, Paraguay Government)

The session was organized in two parts. The panel members shared their experiences and perspectives in the first part of the session. They discussed the digital rights of users, the laws that regulate and protect the exercise of these rights, the lack of harmonization between the laws and jurisdictions of different countries, and the opportunities for international cooperation in this regard.

During the second part of the session, on-site participants were divided into three groups to discuss and exchange ideas on three topics. The first group dealt with the relationship between

companies and Internet users. Some of the challenges examined were: the identification of the applicable and competent jurisdiction in each case, and the technical and legal mechanisms that must be taken into account in these digital relationships. The second group analyzed the use of data, content, and misinformation on the Internet. The group participants discussed tools and best practices for users and highlighted the importance of digital literacy and skills development. The third group discussed regulatory models and self-regulatory models. According to the group findings, there must be a fair balance between the freedom to develop technology and the individual freedoms of users.

[Session video](#)

## **Session No. 8 – Fragmentation of the Internet: Protecting Encryption and Anonymous Communications**

**Speakers:** María Cristina Capelo (Facebook); Angélica Contreras (FemHackPartyLAC); Nathália Sautchuk (ISOC Brazil Chapter); Daniela Macías (DINARDAP, Ecuador); Veridiana Alimonti (EFF)

**Moderator:** Adela Goberna (ALAI)

The ISOC Brazil Chapter speaker introduced different technical concepts related to encryption and cryptography. She explained that there is no encryption algorithm that is completely secure. In addition, she argued that an algorithm will be effective when the time and/or cost of resolving the encryption key is greater than the value of the encrypted information.

After the technical introduction, the speakers discussed rights in tension and public policies applicable to the use of encryption and cryptography. Different viewpoints were shared regarding the use of these technologies. On the one hand, the civil society representative considered that encryption allows users to verify the authenticity of information and guarantees the integrity of communications. In addition, she noted that States should review the mechanisms used to protect privacy in order to develop and implement the most robust security procedures. On the other hand, the government sector argued that encryption is one of the mechanisms that protect information and personal data among other measures and administrative and regulatory aspects. She added that we should look for innovation in other technologies and mechanisms (in addition to encryption) that guarantee the protection of personal data.

Other topics discussed by the speakers were education on encryption. According to the FemHackPartyLAC representative, knowledge about how encryption tools are used is a key aspect in achieving user trust and security.

[Session video](#)

## **Session No. 9 – Intersectoral theme: technical community. Internet security under a multi-participatory approach: different realities, common challenges and convergent tools**

**Moderators by sector:** Sebastián Bellagamba (ISOC); Andrés Sastre (ASSET); Alejandra Erramuspe (AGESIC); Valeria Betancourt (APC)

**General moderators:** Ernesto Bojórquez (NIC México & LACTLD) and Ernesto Majó (LACNIC)

The session organizers proposed a special working dynamic. First, LACNIC's representative introduced the concepts of security, stability and resilience in the complex and collaborative context of the multi-stakeholder model. The introduction highlighted the need for collaboration among the different sectors in order to ensure a secure, stable and resilient Internet.

Following the introduction, the general moderators invited each sector to discuss two questions: What are the three security challenges identified by each sector? What initiatives, protocols or procedures does the sector currently have to address the identified security challenges?

The government sector, civil society, the technical community and the private sector discussed the two questions raised. The moderators from each sector then shared the conclusions of the discussion.

The technical community identified three security challenges. First, they highlighted the integrity of routing information and DNS vulnerabilities. To tackle these challenges, representatives of the technical community proposed a number of initiatives and protocols: RPKI, Manrs, DNSSEC, Internet network operators' groups (NOGs), CERTs or CSIRTs, DMARC, DAAR, and collaborative efforts among operators, such as peering. Secondly, they grouped the different vulnerabilities that are discovered as technological developments advance, such as IoT deployment, Cloud challenges, IPv4 traceability, and consolidation in the different layers of the Internet. Some of the solutions discussed for these challenges were: the LACTLD Anycast Cloud, CERTs or CSIRTs, NOGs, the Internet Society Online Trust Alliance, and IGF best practices groups. Finally, the technical community analyzed the impact of poor regulation on the operation of the Internet. Participants in this group suggested that collaborative capacity building across sectors will enable the development of regulatory frameworks that ensure a secure, stable and resilient network.

The private sector presented some conclusions from its discussion. According to this sector, obstacles in public-private dialogue mechanisms impact on the lack of harmonization among regulations. Other challenges mentioned were the high demands that States impose on companies in security requirements; and the effects of the loss of trust in users due to unsafe Internet browsing. Representatives of the private sector suggested different initiatives to tackle these challenges and emphasized, primarily, the need for digital literacy.

As the private sector, civil society discussed education and digital appropriation with a focus on security and data protection issues. This sector proposed to develop digital literacy programs aimed at primary education levels. Civil society representatives argued that all sectors should be

involved in the development of public policies on digital security and sustainable protection programs should be promoted. One of the main challenges identified by this sector was the lack of awareness among users of Internet security issues.

The government sector shared its conclusions and commented on the proposal to develop a digital security culture at different state levels. Other ideas presented by this sector were the formation of training teams and lessons learned from the initiatives and regulatory frameworks of other countries in the region.

Finally, the session illustrated that Internet security should not be addressed unilaterally, but involves the commitment and collaboration of all stakeholders.

[Session video](#)

## **Session No. 10 – Cybersecurity and Cyber-Defense: current reality and how to increase the resilience of our societies for the future**

**Speakers:** Lía Solís (ISOC Bolivia Chapter); Maryleana Méndez (ASIET); Carlos Guerrero (Hiperderecho); Lorena Naranjo (DINARDAP, Ecuador Government)

**Moderator:** Ernesto Bojórquez (NIC México & LACTLD)

The panel on cybersecurity and cyber-defense sought to continue discussions from the previous session. Panel members presented data on cybersecurity in the region and discussed legal, organizational and capacity building issues. Collaborative mechanisms, such as the Budapest Convention, were also discussed.

The representative of the government sector described the case of Ecuador in order to reflect the change in certain paradigms. According to the speaker, the concept of cybersecurity has shifted from a focus on the national security to a focus on the users' security and the protection of their individual rights in all their activities on the Internet. Under this approach, citizens are at the centre of the cybersecurity strategy.

Based on comments and questions from session participants, the proposal to develop a regional cybersecurity system/agency was raised. Such a system/agency could develop a Latin American vision of cybersecurity strategies while discussing and exchanging national experiences.

[Session video](#)

## **Session No. 11 – Local session: the impact of the multistakeholder approach on Internet Governance in Bolivia ([session video](#))**

## **Session No. 12 – Automated Decision-Making and Artificial Intelligence. How is the region preparing?**

**Speakers:** Estelle Massé (Access Now); Javier Barreiro (AGESIC, Uruguay Government); Pollyanna Rigon Valente (Youth Observatory); Paula Vargas (Facebook)

**Moderator:** María Paz Canales (Derechos Digitales)

The session addressed a range of relevant aspects of artificial intelligence: algorithm biases, transparency, ethical issues, privacy, and security. The speakers held that artificial intelligence (or machine learning) is not an emerging technology, but it has already had several years of development.

The representative of the Youth Observatory first discussed how biases should be removed to avoid interfering with users' rights. One of the alternatives discussed was the development of artificial intelligence within the framework of local communities and according to the cultural contexts of the users.

The government sector examined what principles the public administration should take into account in the implementation of artificial intelligence. The pillars proposed by the Uruguayan government were discussed. Among them were: the definition of a governance model for decision-making; capacity building in public administration; a reference framework for the responsible use of artificial intelligence; and awareness campaigns to inform citizens about this technology and its uses.

Finally, the private sector discussed some of the concerns raised by the use of artificial intelligence, such as transparency, bias and security. The private sector speaker argued that even though these technologies reflect undesirable biases, they make decisions in a more effective way than humans. She also considered that this technology should not be attacked, but instead we should work on data, algorithms and undesirable results. She added that users must be empowered to have a clear understanding of how artificial intelligence works.

[Session video](#)

**The thirteenth edition of the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Governance Forum will take place in Chile and will be organized by the [Fundación Datos Protegidos](#).**