

## LACIGF9 – 27-29 July, 2016

Session 3: Evolution, progress and challenges of implementing the multistakeholder approach to Internet public policy and Internet Governance work at national and regional level.

28 July, 2016 - 9:00 am to 10:30 am

Moderator:

Montserrat Solano - Ombudswoman Costa Rica

Panelists:

Beatriz Rodríguez - Executive Committee, National IGF, Uruguay

Agustina Callegari - Ministry of Modernization, of Argentina

Flavio Wagner - Technical Community, Brazil

Pilar Saenz - Fundación Karisma, Colombia

Lía Hernández - Ipandetec, Panama

José Alejandro Sierra – Youth IGF

The session began with the moderator welcoming participants and encouraging them to think of the Internet as a driver of democracy and freedom. She then added that, given the characteristics of this network, it is possible to talk about its Governance, universal participation, common working experiences, multiple approaches, and processes to continue generating instances such as local IGFs.

The panelists' presentations described the experiences of different countries in the preparation and implementation of various national spaces for multistakeholder debate (local LACIGF, Youth IGF, Committees, etc.), the outcomes of these national dialogues on the Internet and its Governance, and their historical evolution. They shared the challenges and progress made in this process and discussed how to continue growing within these spaces of dialogue.

Various realities were presented, all of them on a similar course but at different stages of evolution: from robust multistakeholder debate spaces that have been working for years, to experiences with the same goal but which are still in the early stages of inclusion and dialogue.

In this sense, experiences showed various levels of involvement of the different sectors. A constant seemed to be lower levels of participation of academia and mainly of the private sector, and, in one particular case, of the government sector. Another emerging aspect in the early stages of these dialogues seems to be the difficulty of relinquishing spaces of power, particularly on the part of governments (although not in all cases), as well as having access to the working methodology and horizontal participation implicit in multistakeholder dialogue spaces .

Nevertheless, experiences that have been sustained over time showed they were able to overcome these initial difficulties and move on to a stage of more fluid and participatory dialogue, one where debate is not hindered by the different positions.

One aspect noted in all of the experiences that were presented was youth participation and the way it is being implemented or encouraged. From youth initiatives aimed at preparing specific documents to the organization of national Youth meetings, the idea is to increase youth participation. In this sense, the Brazilian experience is an example .

After discussing other challenges detected in the various processes, participants discussed the need to encourage the participation of Latin America and Caribbean people in general, with their

multicultural heritage and beginning with their languages. Participants in the room suggested that, just as simultaneous translation was first introduced in Spanish and English and later in Portuguese, the possibility of translating into French should also be considered.

Another aspect of regional diversity is the great disparity in people's understanding and awareness of the importance of the topics related to Internet Governance. Participants suggested creating spaces or implementing actions aimed at sharing information on Internet Governance related issues and helping people understand their relevance.

The suggestion was made for the panel to include another cross-cutting theme: considering the gender perspective in the topics to be discussed, when planning the agenda, and in the discussions of all national, regional and global spaces.

With regard to future challenges that must be addressed in order to continue to grow, suggestions included articulating various experiences and/or actions to learn from them and in certain cases to replicate them (e.g., national Youth meetings), including regular meetings in addition to local IGFs, including other methodologies so that various sectors will participate in different regions of the same country (e.g., the use of collaborative working tools for building the agenda, remote participation, streaming of various events, etc.).

Likewise, the need to review the methodologies used at local and regional IGF meetings was highlighted, in the understanding that the panel format is no longer effective. Suggested formats included the use of webcams, workshops and round tables.

In short, different experiences suggest that this should be a multistakeholder process based on horizontal dialogue and be built upon the effective participation of the different populations, taking into consideration their multiculturalism and gender as a cross-cutting perspective, as well as the necessary contribution of youth, with sufficient conceptual knowledge and understanding of the relevance of the topics under discussion, Internet Governance among them. Strategies must be designed to review working methodologies so that they will encourage participation and informed debate.