Session 8 Report

Integrating Internet Governance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: What are the region's digital inclusion priorities?

Friday, 29 July, 11:00 am Hotel Park Inn. San José, Costa Rica

Moderator: Alejandra Erramuspe - Government of Uruguay

Panelists:

Yolanda Martínez (Función Pública)

Oscar Robles (LACNIC)

Gisela San Juan (IFT)

Flávia Lefèvre, (CGI.br)

Julian Casasbuenas (APC)

Rapporteur: Jimena Sierra (IFT)

Remote Participation Moderator: Raquel Gatto (ISOC)

The panel identified regional challenges and priorities for digital inclusion in the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, among them inclusion itself, equitable and affordable access for all, improving infrastructure, promoting the adoption of technology, increased scientific research, and improved technological capability.

Among the panelists' most relevant contributions was the suggestion of lowering expectations regarding these objectives and that countries should work in a more timely and collaborative manner to develop metrics, to create an Internet that is an enabler of rights, an essential tool for meeting sustainable development goals, and has a direct impact on development.

Other topics discussed during the panel included various initiatives that several countries have implemented to meet these goals, particularly reducing poverty, increasing education quality, gender equality, reducing inequalities, and strategic alliances, among them the role of eLAC in the 2030 digital agenda. Consensus was sought for the adoption of the 17 goals to be met by 2030. This digital agenda is line with the region's objectives.

Initiatives also included the Internet as a promoter for the creation of new economic models based on openness and sharing, strategies for harnessing information and communication technologies, digital literacy, sustainability models, public access, increased use of indigenous languages, youth involvement in the preservation of languages, deployment of community wireless networks, building awareness regarding the need for people to create their own networks, greater autonomy in the use of networks, increased awareness of the responsibility of States and the business sector, as well as the initiative to employ unused spectrum to generate new technologies.

Other priorities are based on encouraging infrastructure sharing to avoid duplication and make better use of existing communications networks through regulatory measures, spectrum auctions, education with digital inclusion, participation of the academic sector, itinerant teachers to disseminate information on new technologies, especially in the most remote and poorest areas where economical, empirical and scientific studies are most needed.

The audience's main concerns involved last mile connectivity, changes to public policy, the importance of leading software in democratizing services by means of community solutions, and participation via telecommunications cooperatives. The importance of goal 16 was emphasized, which states that social transformation requires societies to be peaceful and inclusive, have access to justice, transparency in their management, and guarantee public access to information. The notion of Internet vs. sovereignty was introduced, encouraging people to think about how to deal with future Internet concentration phenomena.

In conclusion, the region's main digital inclusion priorities are Internet access, digital education and literacy, reducing the inequality between and within the different countries of the LAC region, the use of responsible technologies, data protection, the use of a regional public software platform, infrastructure sharing, promoting the Internet and ICTs based on innovation and competitiveness, promoting e-government to democratize the Internet, development based on inclusion, greater social participation through projects such as *México Conectado* and *Bogota Vive Digital* for which participatory governance should be increased, reaching remote areas through shared networks, promoting the use of broadband, spectrum auctions, public consultations, and the participation of civil society.