

Session Report: Local Spaces for Internet Governance Dialogue: Progress in the Various Discussions. (Coordinating Committee)

Participants:

- Moderator: Raquel Gatto: Internet Society, Brazil Chapter
- Manuel Haces – NIC.MX Technical Secretary of the
- Internet Governance Initiative Group (Mexico)
- Miguel Ignacio Estrada – Argentina/ MAG
- Rodney Taylor, ISOC-BB/ IGF-Barbados Program Committee
- Julian Casasbuenas – APC-Colombia / MAG
- Beatriz Rodriguez – IGF Uruguay / Internet Society (ISOC)
- Lía Patricia Hernández Pérez- IPANDETEC, Panama
- Rapporteur: Jimena Sierra – Federal Telecommunications Institute (IFT) Mexico
- Remote Moderation: Alejandra Erramuspe – AGESIC Uruguay

During this session, representatives from Mexico, Argentina, Barbados, Costa Rica, Colombia, Uruguay and Paraguay shared best practices from various initiatives (not only those initiatives discussed by the panel but also by the forum). This strengthened the exchange of experiences aimed at increasing and promoting the different forums and national spaces of the region.

The panel focused on generating a space for sharing and discussing national experiences that have reached higher levels of consolidation and those which have not yet started or consolidated their process. The most consolidated initiatives offered a vision on how to help new initiatives increase their greater participation in global governance processes.

The Colombian representative shared their national initiative with the “Colombian Internet Governance Committee,” highlighting the initiative's development. He also noted they have issued a statement identifying people’s needs, opinions and suggestions and that this statement is open to all parties to engage in non-binding dialogue. Through the regulator and TIC Minister, there have been several discussions on regulation and public and private projects. One of the items reported was an action plan prioritizing responsibility, working mechanisms and actions to deal with different topics and discussions.

Mexico’s representative explained the origin of their initiative and emphasized that the group does not have any institutional ties. On the contrary, it is an association of individuals from different sectors who encourage dialogue on Internet governance issues. The development of Internet governance in Mexico was presented, mentioning LACIGF and IGF, both held in Mexico.

In Argentina's case, there was special emphasis on how IGF Argentina is funded and a discussion on how to fund these projects through regional organizations. The reason the government was not involved in the early stages of this initiative was because they did not want the government agenda to have any influence on topics which were mainly addressed by civil society.

In the case of Uruguay, representatives explained how the Uruguayan initiative came to be and the events that have been organized.

In the case of Barbados, this was their first year organizing an event. Representatives shared the challenges and funding issues they had faced. Barbado's representative explained that they'd met with international organizations to obtain sponsorships. They were also backed by the government, academic associations and many private companies, as well as by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union.

IPANDETEC, the meeting's host, organized its first governance dialogue together with Panama's LACIGF. They mainly shared the experiences of the various initiatives and the elements needed to organize national IGFs. The existence of a "tool kit" to guide the process was also mentioned.

This session sought to create a community which will sponsor or support various governance initiatives that are just starting to develop as compared to those in more developed countries.

It was concluded that national initiatives have their own processes. Also, the MAG representative explained how to take part in initiative coordination groups, where local initiatives can register their information and it will be uploaded to the MAG portal's initiative section. Sometimes, webinars are held to discuss such information and plenary sessions might also be approved within the global IGF for these initiatives.