

LACIGF 12 Report

Title of the session: Session 5 – PRIVATE SECTOR – digitalization and Productive Transformation: Driving Economic Development Through ICTs

Session summary:

The session began with a presentation by **Fernando Rojas (ECLAC)**, who addressed ECLAC's studies on connectivity, digitalization of production processes and the actions necessary for the transition to industry 4.0 in the Latin American and Caribbean region (LAC). The panelist presented qualitative and quantitative graphs about Internet connectivity in LAC, and talked about the importance of digitizing production, especially about increasing efficiency, sustainability and economic competitiveness. Finally, he addressed the need to invest in capacity building, strengthen the transition between education and work and balance the supply-demand relationship of skilled labor for industry 4.0.

Afterwards, **Verónica Arroyo (Access Now, Peru)** spoke about the need for civil society to ensure that the new technologies implemented, such as surveillance cameras, e-government bureaucracy and national identification systems really have positive intentions. According to the panelist, each new digitalization narrative aimed at development (economic, social, city, etc.) must be evaluated in order to make sure that it meets human rights principles, especially with the right to privacy. In this context, Veronica emphasized the need for basic regulation on digitization of processes, in order to facilitate communication between countries.

Pamela Gonzales (Bolivia TechHub, Bolivia), mentioned the importance of raising awareness among companies about the advantages of digitalization. She said that many companies still do not understand the need to invest in new technologies, and that organizations in her country are committed to presenting solutions.

Finally, **Juan Pablo Vial (Government of Chile)** spoke about an initiative from the Chilean government to create value from astronomical Big Data. It is a project promoted by Data Observatory with the objective of including Chile in the fourth industrial revolution. He stated that by storing astronomical data in the cloud, it would be possible to make more efficient predictions with positive impacts in several areas, such as health, energy, transport, mining and, mainly, in the development of Artificial Intelligence, which requires a lot of high quality data. Therefore, the country expects to concentrate 70% of the world's astronomical observation capacity in a few years.

In the open-mic part of the session, the dependence of Latin America and the Caribbean on data storage on servers of international companies, such as Google (cyber-colonialism), was discussed. The panelists commented on the need to guarantee privacy policies and develop regional policy frameworks. The extent we should digitize cities was also discussed, considering the risks of piracy attacks and fall of basic services, as well as the possibility that personal data provided to public services, such as public or private transport are appropriated, and the possibility of people refusing to deliver them.

Moderator Alejandra Erramuspe (Uruguay) mentioned that in Spain the right to be disconnected is recognized. The panelists talked about the importance of encrypting this confidential data and ensuring that the companies using it inform people how they are being

manipulated. Because, after all, such data can generate a profile of the person. Even so, it was argued that the use of biometric data should not be prohibited, but regulated.

In addition, the public questioned how ECLAC is advising governments. Fernando Rojas responded that there are some specific initiatives with governments, such as Peru, in the field of agricultural exports. Regarding work in industry 4.0, it was discussed how workers not integrated with the 4.0 revolution are insured against the digitalization of productive processes and what impact labor relations will have on the racial and gender gap in the future. Fernando Rojas mentioned that ECLAC conducts studies to analyze the impact of the of new types of work, such as delivery apps, on workers' rights. However, there are still no results from these studies. Finally, Fernando emphasized that the leap into the quaternary sector involves the joint articulation of several factors, such as education, capacity building of people already in the labor market and the dissemination of innovation.

The final round of comments addressed the importance of strengthening the human capital of each country and generating value from endogenous capabilities; ECLAC's efforts to manage cross-border data, guaranteeing privacy rights; the need for collaboration between various sectors, women's inclusion; and the need to establish a relationship of trust between people and the new emerging technologies.

Outputs and other relevant links:

Full session: https://youtu.be/_SVukPHVUPk

By: David Paredes Abanto (DIDEPTI SRL, Perú), Giovana Pertuzzatti Rossatto (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil)

Translation: Juliana Novaes (Article 19, Brazil)

Revision: María Belén Pérez Roa (Paraguay) and Luis Gustavo de Souza Azevedo (UFAC, Brazil)

Coordination and edition: Nathalia Sautchuk Patrício (NIC.br, Brasil) and Guilherme Alves (Youth Observatory, Brasil)