IGF 2016 Report - Amazon Fellowship Program

Summary

The present report is about Internet Governance Forum's session and workshops. This great experience, taught me how to compare similarities and differences of realities with other countries and sectors. It allowed me to approach being able new ways of reading reality, but with a broad outlook. In these dialogues you can see the challenges that are presented today. In principle, the previous details of the event will be discussed. Then, the topics that were developed during the event in the different sessions. This approach is possible by the common points that were presented in the different workshops and main sessions of the event. As end, some conclusions of the experience.

Introduction

Internet by and for people

The humanistic look has not gone unnoticed in the creators of the internet or the next generations who have been participating in these forums. Internet is interpreted as a means for the development of our communities, for the creation of new opportunities (social, cultural, economic, political, etc.). This is the beginning. And examples and cases of good practices, presented in the forum, have demonstrated the possibility of transforming realities for the improvement of communities.

The Internet is the future, as it is a resource for our communities. New technologies are tools for people and for people. Internet as a basic human right. This was raised in the main sessions.

Internet is a resource for our communities, We have rural communities unconnected and the majority are women. Most are not aware of the internet. Relevant content and language are important too for the desconected people..

Before to the event, it was important to keep in mind that this year's relevance was due to the 10-year IGF renewal; And (the same year) that deepened and entrenched the multistakeholder model with the transfer of IANA's functions to ICANN. This starting point raised some questions: How do we follow? What are the paths that we must follow from now and in the next years? What are the main regional and national challenges?

Public policies in the Internet ecosystem

About public policies, it was mentioned that they should be planned and planned for the achievement of objectives that allow the development of communities. Internet and new technologies are a space and a tool; A medium In turn, presents specific problems. Mainly, it is the global character of the internet. One of the main characteristics that make up the State-NATION is the territorial limit. Then more effort is required to formulate national policies, which contemplate this global aspect of the internet.

Many national policies seem powerless, especially in small countries, when they try to cope with large corporations. But it is not the only possible challenge. There are problems that transcend the borders and must be raised in colaborated of the various countries in order to keep the internet secure and stable.

Also, that begins to notice in these forums of dialogue the absence of actors representing local governments. Part of the challenges is that global-level policies, but also a local level.

Main topics

1- Multistakeholder model

The multi-stakeholder model engaging wich it has been present in policy discussions and policymaking has been strengthened this year by the transfer of functions to ICANN and will also pose new challenges. From my perspective, it is not only a model that will deepen the debates about the governance of regional and national interests, but also that it may be projected to new areas that end up transforming the young democracies into a more mature democracy. The multiple actors must be able to develop joint public policies, but are we prepared? Do we have trained and skilled resources to achieve this translation into more stable policies that transcend individual initiative?

This model is cooperative and multilateral. It is inclusive. I did not see it raised in the sessions, but perhaps we should think about whether in the localities or countries new actors can be identified (as recently it includes young people, who are increasingly taking a more participatory role in these forums) and add more voices to the dialogues. Also the presence of more people referred to the field of the humanities surely can bring new visions and ways to embrace the new challenges of the internet.

Participation by consensus How are we going to go beyond the model? At the international level, there are complexities and it is necessary to see how the Nation-States that will meet and will decide, because in order to maintain the security and reliability of the network, we must face the challenge.

WSIS +10 gave the mandate to IGF. We must ask ourselves who are the experts in the model and who do they represent?

- Existe una brecha de paradigmas. En las sesiones se ha hecho énfasis en los ODS de WSIS. Pero aún existen muchas personas en el mundo que no están convencidas que necesiten internet para el desarrollo humano.

- A su vez, los ODS se plantean en base a problemas humanos: Hay problemas estructurales. Los ODS son para los próximos años, pero las tecnologías van a ser diferentes. La WSIS es un proceso de cambio.

- Si no se puede cerrar la brecha digital la agenda 2030, los demás objetivos no podrán cumplirse. Hay que comprometerse con la Agenda TIC para cumplirlo. Crear sociedades multisectoriales. “Acceso universal y asequible de internet” para los países menos desarrollados para el 2020.

- Terminó la revisión de WSIS 10, donde los gobiernos del mundo acordaron el modelo multisectorial.Incrementar el acceso y costo asequible en los países menos desarrollados antes del 2020.

- Enfoque a resultado: para obtener resultados de desarrollo sustentable. Se sugirió que se haga más para compartir las mejores prácticas entre países en vías de desarrollo.

2- The role of Internet Governance for achieving the SDGs (Sustainable Development goals)

Some points to consider:

- From commitment to action. We must reaffirm the Multistakeholder model.

- There is a paradigm gap. In the sessions emphasis has been placed on the SDGs. But there are still many people in the world who are not convinced that they need the internet for human development.

- In turn, SDGs are based on human problems: There are structural problems. The SDGs are for the next few years, but the technologies will be different. The WSIS is a process of change.

- If the digital divide can not be closed on Agenda 2030, the other objectives can not be met. It necesary to commit to the ICT Agenda to fulfill it. Create multisector partnerships. "Universal and Affordable Internet Access" for Least Developed Countries by 2020.

- The revision of WSIS 10 ended, governments around the world agreed on the multisectoral model. Increasing access and affordability in the least developed countries by 2020.

- Focus on result: to obtain sustainable development goals. It was suggested that more be done to share best practices among developing countries.

3- Minimize the digital divide

From Latin America, it is proposed that joint measures be taken to reduce the digital divide. It is important that the connected ones remain connected and connect the disconnected ones. The goal is to connect those who have not yet connected. That is why Agenda 2020 exists, where t had divide, alliances has been created..

Internet and the language barrier: we must build a multilingual internet, which even contemplates new programming languages.

There is a new gap between those who can carry out economic transactions and those who do not. It is a new breach of economic inequality.

4- La creación de contenidos locales como recurso estratégico

Para la inclusión de los países subdesarrollados y en desarrollo la creación de contenido relevante y de calidad, en idioma local, es un recurso estratégico y necesario. Entre los tópicos planteados al respecto, se mencionó:

- La preservación de contenidos. Hay contenidos que se han perdido por la falta de compatibilidad de los software y versiones. ¿cómo haremos para que no se pierda esa información? ¿Cómo adaptaremos los contenidos ya subidos a internet a las nuevas aplicaciones, dispositivos y software? ¿Y si ya no funcionan? ¿Perderemos para siempre esos contenidos?

- ¿Qué es la información útil? ¿Qué contenidos locales se crean que sean de valor para tu comunidad?

- ¿Qué información es buena y cuál es mala? ¿De dónde viene la información? Necesitamos crear normas para la creación de contenidos y distribución de la información veraz.

- El contenido local es un recurso relevante para integrar a comunidades rurales, minorías y a la mujer.

- En el enfoque de los objetivos del milenio: empoderamiento de la educación ¿cómo se comparte y se crea contenido de relevancia?

- Para la creación de contenido relevante necesitamos infraestructura y precio asequible. Con ello podremos crear contenido y permitirá ampliar los diferentes puntos de vistas, contar historias y sumar nuevos contadores de historia donde sea. También es necesario que los gobiernos apoyen la libertad de expresión y un ambiente seguro en internet.

- Es importante la creación de contenidos relevantes, pero también el idioma. Una internet multilingüe es el desafío para incluir a nuevas comunidades.

- En latinoamérica la brecha idiomática ha sido tema reincidente en las iniciativas IG nacionales y regionales. No sólo el español, sino que dentro de los países hay comunidades nativas que quedan excluidas.

- Tener en cuenta la accesibilidad. ¿Cómo mejorar las políticas públicas para la accesibilidad? Jóvenes que crean contenidos locales son fundamentales para estos procesos más inclusivos.

Para lograr este y algunos otros temas planteados, se debe pensar en el siguiente aspecto:

4- Local content as strategic resource

For the inclusion of underdeveloped and developing countries the creation of relevant content and quality, in local language, is a strategic and necessary resource. Among the topics raised in this respect, it was mentioned:

- Preservation of contents. There are contents that have been lost due to the lack of compatibility of the software and versions. How will we do so that this information is not lost? How will we adapt content already uploaded to the internet to new applications, devices and software? What if they no longer work? Will we lose forever those contents?

- What is useful information? What local content is created that is valuable to your community?

- What information is good and which is bad? Where does the information come from? We need to create standards for content creation and distribution of truthful information.

- Local content is a relevant resource for integrating rural communities, minorities and women.

- In the Millennium Goals Approach: Empowering Education How is relevant content shared and created?

- For the creation of relevant content we need infrastructure and affordable price of internet. With this we can create content and allow to expand the different points of view, tell stories and add new storytellers wherever. It is also necessary for governments to support freedom of expression and a secure environment on the internet.

- Language is important to create relevant content. A multilingual internet is the challenge to include new communities.

- In Latin America, the language gap has been a recurring theme in national and regional GI initiatives. Not only Spanish, but within countries there are native communities that are excluded.

- Accessibility. How to improve public policies for accessibility? Young people who create local content are fundamental to these more inclusive processes.

To achieve this and other issues raised, we should following:

5- Internet abilities development

If the internet is a world of opportunities, education and skills development are needed to achieve the best match. It is necessary to create more local capacity that can be used, to create technology.

6- Women in internet: Policy and inclusion

Regarding the inclusion women, there is a clear difference regarding the possibilities in gender. We need To re-emphasize that the creation of local content is important both for the inclusion of women and rural communities.

Development examples of digital skills education programs in churches, health centers and hospitals (sites where there is no connectivity) in Africa is an example of policies that allowed the inclusion of women on the internet. In Egypt, specialized and local resources were created, which allowed 5,000 women to be included. It is fundamental to work with local governments to reduce this gap. Another interesting project has been CodigoX that promotes the education of women, promotes digital culture in women.

As a strategy, forming alliances, which is maintained for life has been important for the achievement of objectives.

Gender and digital identities must be respected. This requires a safe and reliable network environment.

As a private initiative: Verisign worked the Gender Gap What have you done to combat cyberviolence? Responsibility of educators and security organizations. Guides to work together to make the internet a safe place.

Conclusions

La experiencia no sólo es un aprendizaje que permite profundizar la mirada acerca de los nuevos retos que presenta internet, sino que es inolvidable el capital humano y nuevos contactos que se pueden realizar en el evento para el desarrollo de nuevos proyectos que permitan que internet sea la herramienta para el desarrollo humano de nuestras comunidades. Ha sido inolvidable y he traído no sólo la información a la que se accede en las sesiones, sino también libros, folletos y material complementario que recibí en los booths dispuestos en el lugar los cuales espero poder compartir con líderes de opinión de mi ciudad y personas que trabajen con proyectos de internet.

Por otro lado, debo mencionar que asistí a sesiones un poco más técnicas sobre el proceso de ICANN que no tenían un enfoque tan abierto para ser planteadas dentro de los temas de políticas públicas nacionales para LAC. Más allá del tema de una internet multilingüe, el debate sobre el uso de los acrónimos y procurar dominios de internet más estables que permitan que la información perdure y no desaparezca de la web por el cierre de un dominio. También se mencionó en estos workshops los nuevos desafíos que plantea el modelo multistakeholder dentro de ICANN, donde se focalizará más en el desarrollo de políticas y nuevos procesos de control. Así como la inclusión de más actores en las reuniones y debates, para la toma de decisiones.

En general, me quedo con la idea de los compromisos de los múltiples actores que deben ser continuos, verdaderos, transparentes en sus intenciones y capaz de lograr los objetivos para los cuales fueron creados. Las coaliciones dinámicas serán de interés en este aspecto.

Creo que no se podrá hablar de internet sin pensar en ese profundo factor humano que le dio origen desde el principio. Y casi todos los proyectos más exitosos han sabido adaptarse y ser resilientes ante un contexto de profunda incertidumbre hacia el futuro.

Esta experiencia es superadora, ha ampliado mi visión de la realidad. Me ha permitido el intercambio con experiencias de África, de Europa y también con personas de países de Latinoamérica.

Agradezco haber podido participar a Amazon y SSIG, no sólo un honor sino también implica una responsabilidad a la hora de transmitir esta vivencia.

CONCLUSIONS

The experience is not only a learning process that allows us about to deepen on the new challenges internet presented. Too, it is a oportunity to know new contacts (and friends) to work new projects. That allow the Internet to be the tool for the human development of our communities. It has been unforgettable and I have brought not only the information that is accessed in the sessions but also books, brochures and complementary material that I received in the booths arranged in the place which I hope to share with opinion leaders of my city and general people.

On the other hand, I should mention that I attended a few more technical sessions on the ICANN process. In this sessions, it talked about the issue of a multilingual internet, acronyms and Stable Domain Names, that allow information to last and not disappear from the web by closing a domain. Also it mentioned in these workshops are the new challenges posed by the multistakeholder model within ICANN, where it will focus more on the development of policies and new control processes. As well as the inclusion of more actors in the meetings and debates, for the decision making.

In general, I am left with the idea of the commitments of the multiple actors that must be continuous, true, transparent in their intentions and able to achieve the objectives for which they were created. Dynamic coalitions will be of interest in this regard.

I think you can not talk about the internet without thinking about the deep human factor that gave rise to it from the beginning. And almost all the most successful projects have been able to adapt and be resilient to a context of deep uncertainty towards the future.

This experience is greatest, it has enlarged my vision of reality. It has allowed me to exchange experiences from Africa, from Europe and also from people from Latin American countries.

Before the end, I am grateful to Amazon and SSIG, which they made possibled my participation.