

Internet Governance in times of the Digital Economy

We often read news about the so-called "digital economy", which surrounds us day by day with applications and content that help make our lives easier, more productive and entertaining. This is the Digital Economy: in its simplest explanation it is the economic development that occurs in countries thanks to the transformation of its primary industries leveraged by the Internet.

In less than 20 years, the digital economy - which was first mentioned in a book by Don Tapscott¹ in 1995 - is impacting all economic sectors and is reflected in the fact that, for example, digitization contributed to the GDP of Latin America by about 195 billion dollars in the last 10 years, generating nearly 900 thousand jobs in the same period².

The Internet is an essential infrastructure to address a wide range of economic and social challenges. Its open and decentralized design makes it accessible to all. Thanks to this democratization in access to information, the content and applications industry in developing countries can compete in this market with first world countries, which evidences the influence of the Internet on the economy, which in turn impacts productivity, employment and development. This relation between the Internet and the economy is so important that the OECD has a specialized committee in this area that aims to help governments develop policies to stimulate the digital economy for the benefit of all.

Internet governance leverages the development of the digital economy by ensuring an open and secure Internet that protects privacy and human rights. However, there are still challenges: in terms of connectivity, 53% of the world's population have not access to these benefits³. At the same time, more digital security risks, illegal trade, or barriers to digital commerce are emerging.

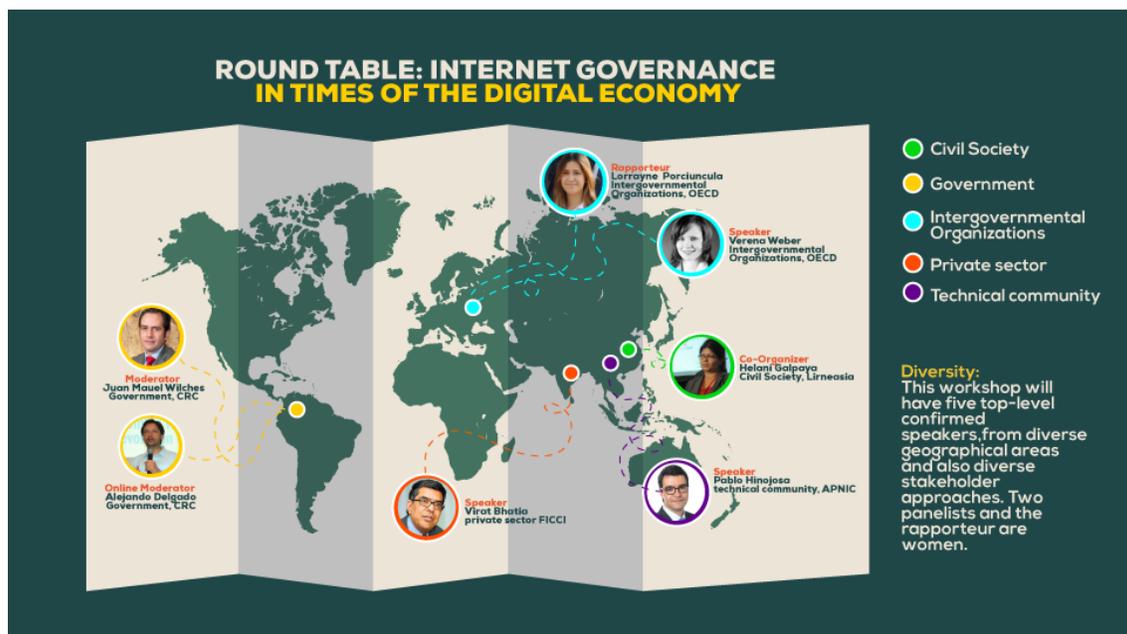
¹ Digital Economy <http://dontapscott.com/books/the-digital-economy/>

² Raul Kants

³ CT Facts and Figures – The world in 2016 <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/facts/ICTFactsFigures2016.pdf>

Among other declarations, the OECD Cancun Declaration of 2016 highlights “the critical need for continued multi-stakeholder, consensus-driven approaches to developing global technical standards that enable interoperability and a secure, stable, global, open, and accessible Internet; and the equally critical ongoing need for open, transparent and inclusive processes in global multi-stakeholder Internet governance⁴”.

Figure 1. Speakers’ geographic representation



The round table we are proposing is aimed to explore how the digital economy and Internet governance should be conceived -given its deep relation-, what challenges and opportunities are identified, and how statements such as the OECD or NetMundial can actually be translated into the digital economy environment. To this end, we convened a diverse group of speakers (see figure 1) who will express various points of view on how

⁴ <https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/Digital-Economy-Ministerial-Declaration-2016.pdf>

Internet Governance empowers the advancement and consolidation of the Digital Economy, and how to redesign policy and regulation for the advancement of this economy that is already expected to add to the global economy by 2020 1.3 trillion dollars⁵. Since the digital economy is affecting all sectors of the economy, it is crucial to ask ourselves how to redesign regulation and policies for all sectors, going beyond the ICT sector.

At the same time, the workshop aims to analyze the codependency between globalization and the Internet and how Internet Governance can leverage the growth of the digital economy, thus benefiting everyone.

⁵ Study

https://www.accenture.com/us-en/insight-digital-density-index-guiding-digital-transformation?c=strat_digidens_10000001&n=otc_0315