

# Katitza Rodriguez

**G**raduated in Law at the University of Lima (Peru), I have been working on Privacy, Data Protection and Copyright in the digital environment since 1997. I have been doing volunteer work for many nonprofit organizations and online communities and participating in different spaces that range from academic discussion and national or regional public policy debates to organizing civil society campaigns. I have developed and implemented training programs for human rights workers on privacy-enhancing technologies and monitoring online censorship and privacy developments in Latin America. One of my favorite projects was founding Creative Commons Peru and collaborating on online translations from English to Spanish or vice-versa, with the aim to include more voices in the IG debate.



In 2007, I decided to join the DiploFoundation Internet Governance Capacity Building Program. I saw it as an opportunity to stay updated in public policy discussions on those topics that were not my particular area of expertise, as well as to share my knowledge on current topics that I was working on. In Diplo I found a forum with different stakeholders where we could freely discuss IGF issues. Thanks to this opportunity and the Canadian fellowship, I was able to continue participating more actively in Privacy discussions as well as to continue the discussion in other international fora and at the IGF in Hyderabad.

Just this last year, I got a dream job offer; one of those wonderful opportunities that allow you to have a real full-time job working in the area of your main passion. I am now the Director of the International Privacy Project at the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), with which I have been collaborating since 2002. I am also in charge of the coordination of The Public Voice Project, which was established in 1996, and seeks to promote public participation in decisions concerning the future of the Internet.

I have been participating in IG issues at Latin American regional meetings since the World Summit on the Information Society, but my involvement was not as active as it has been in the last year at the Latin American preparatory IGF consultations which culminated in my active participation at the 2008 IGF.

I believe it is necessary to raise awareness of threats to personal privacy on threads that address online privacy within the IGF framework. We decided to follow up on the privacy questions raised during the closing remarks of the IGF 2007 in Rio on social networks and web 2.0 and the privacy remarks made by the OECD Secretary General at the last Ministerial Meeting held in Seoul in June 2008. This led to the inclusion of these recommendations in the OECD Civil Society Seoul Declaration on online behavioral advertisement, data retention practices and online media concentration...

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I believe it is necessary to focus the IGF discussion on the real problems associated with the collection and use of personal information. The reality is that there is very little that consumers can do today to protect their personal data, so we need to discuss why meaningful regulation of privacy based upon international privacy standards such as the Council of Europe Convention on Data Protection Convention 108 and the enforcement of our privacy rights, are key topics that should be developed for the protection of our ability to control our own personal information.

Based upon the recommendations from Civil Society Participants in the Public Voice Coalition, we organized a panel on behavioral targeting advertisement at the IGF in Hyderabad and we will continue that discussion at the next Computer, Freedom and Privacy Conference, in June 2009. These discussions will be interlinked to the 2009 IGF.

With the collaboration of more than 200 people, I am also mapping the privacy trends that are being developed in different international and regional fora, as well as analyzing what the current national developments of these international privacy trends are, especially in developing countries. This report will be published in the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) Privacy and Human



At the IGF I learned the importance of giving technical assistance to policymakers about the concerns that are important to society. For instance, anytime a cybercrime issue is discussed, we must ensure that the principles established in Convention 108 for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data be taken into account.

Rights Report, an international survey of privacy laws and developments.

The IGF has its own methodology and dynamics to move the IGF process forward, which was difficult for me to understand at first glance. For example, in my personal opinion, the openness, privacy and security discussion was mainly focused on cybercrime issues, while most of the cybercrime issues from a civil society participant point of view were not addressed. The problem of unwarranted invasive surveillance techniques, the lack of accountability and public oversight of electronic surveillance and the trend to pass cybercrime laws that infringe upon fundamental human rights, the rule of law and democratic principles were not discussed at all. But I learned that if you want your voice to be heard, you can find a way to do it, including

as a participant during the main sessions.

At the IGF I learned the importance of giving technical assistance to policymakers about the concerns that are important to society. For instance, anytime a cybercrime issue is discussed, we must ensure that the principles established in Convention 108 for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data be taken into account. We should propose and build concrete policy recommendations that will advance the international policy dialogue in the IGF and in any other forum.

I also have observed that the discussion at the IGF in the context of privacy and cyber-crime specifically addressed the concerns of criminal actions. However, the discussion did not cover the wider dimension of consumers' and Internet users' privacy concerns in otherwise perfectly legal situations. In spaces such as e-commerce or in discussions such as why privacy is important for developing countries, this is something that needs to be taken into account.

In dealing with openness, it is still a challenge for the next IGF to discuss topics that promote free culture, exceptions and limitations to copyright law, open source and free software, and open standards as they have not yet been addressed in-depth. ■

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A row of white classical columns with a red 'EXTRACT' sign. The sign is a red-bordered rectangle with the word 'EXTRACT' in red, italicized, sans-serif capital letters. The background is a grayscale image of the columns, with a semi-transparent dark gray area at the bottom containing the main title and subtitle.

**EXTRACT**

*This extract was originally published as part of the report:  
Capacity Development: How the Internet Governance  
Forum empowered people from developing countries*

# **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:**

**How the Internet Governance Forum  
empowered people from developing countries**