

Raquel Fortes Gatto

I am a Brazilian lawyer and researcher in Internet Governance, Information and Communication Technologies, Intellectual Property Rights, International Law and Political Sciences.

While I was trying to imagine the structure of my text, I caught myself thinking about how everything started and how in less than 2 years (from the middle of 2007 to the beginning of 2009) my life has been changed!

I started my professional career advocating for Intellectual Property Law and suddenly I was knocked out by the Domain Name vs. Trademark Owners conflicts, which lead me to get more information about ICANN, ITU and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) attributions. From that point, it has been a small step to ask myself: who rules the Internet?

This and other questions were so challenging for me that they motivated me to start a Masters Degree course in International Law just after I graduated.

Then, I discovered the Internet Governance Forum in 2007, which took place in Rio de Janeiro. I couldn't miss it and because of my passion in this field, I can say I attended the event with the same joy of a child who goes to Disneyland! However, suddenly I saw that just discussing a particular point of view was not enough because IGF participants were trying to construct substantial debate in the search for consensus on the best possible road to Internet Governance. And I became worried whether this was a realistic goal since there were too many opinions and interests involved. Although I loved the IGF-Rio experience, I have to confess that I was left puzzled about the actual purpose of the meeting. The IGF 2008 in Hyderabad answered a lot of those questions for me, although it also brought lots of new ones.

This year, I joined the DiploFoundation Internet Governance Capacity Building Programme that gave me a unique experience in focusing myself on the global picture for Internet



Governance issues, with a friendly approach where learning was not an option but an inevitable fact. I still can't explain how a group of people from different places in the world—who rarely meet each other face-to-face—get together as old friends from school?

I have also changed my professional goals in 2008, becoming a researcher about ICTs for NIC.br, the executive NGO for the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee, which has among its attributions ruling and distributing Internet names and numbers in my country.

The main issue that surrounds Internet Governance nowadays in our country is cyber-security and possible technical and legal aspects to prevent damage to Internet users and society. Several actors from government, civil society, NGOs and private companies have recently signed an agreement to provide all means possible to prevent the proliferation of child pornography.

I am also very proud of our accomplishments in the Internet Governance field. Some of the panelists in the final sessions of the IGF in Hyderabad, India gave a clear message that the global community could look at the successful experience that Brazil has shown: Multistakeholderism is real and can work.

Mr Nitin Desai said: *"(...) Brazil is one country which already has a multistakeholder system for the management of the Net. And it's an example of why having a multistakeholder system at the national level increases the engagement with the process of this nature. So I'm not at all surprised that you have such a wide and diverse delegation from Brazil participating in this process. Can we find a role for this in our process at the global level? Can we see the global IGF down the line as something which is a combination of what happens at the national and the regional level?"*

I was able to follow the experiences of other countries related to ccTLD management, such as different actions and results achieved relating to security issues. In Brazil, the DNSSEC version has been recently implemented, aimed at improving security in the Brazilian network. I came back home from the IGF with the intention to investigate the impact of DNSSEC and other security measures adopted in Brazil and abroad on enterprises and households, and the benefits and the disadvantages to the general public.





To the IGF in India I brought the personal challenge to look more deeply into the arguments I was not familiar with, and to try to find the “two sides of a coin” in every speech. I wanted to put that brainstorming into the surveys I have been working on in my professional life.

My job as a researcher in ICTs allows me to follow closely on some of the direct results of the influence of the computer and Internet in households and enterprises. I have brought some of the “big picture” views I have been able to acquire at the IGF 2008 to my daily job activities. The main goal of conducting national surveys about the use of computers and the Internet in households and enterprises is to provide background information for public policies, and to develop and encourage best practices in civil society and private sector entities.

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More closely related to my academic background and research, I also followed panels about the ICANN vs. ITU debate and the provocative speech about their “forced marriage” made by Mr Touré, ITU Secretary General, first at the ICANN meeting in Cairo and partially reformulated at the IGF India Opening Ceremony. I listened to both sides and even defended one during the DiploFoundation Debates on the side of the “avoid a forced marriage” team (advocating for the ICANN and ITU remaining as separate organizations). Nonetheless, I came back home convinced that although the ITU and ICANN sometimes have similar topics, they also have very different attributions and goals and should not merge. They should keep an open dialogue, as happens in other mechanisms in the Internet Governance field, for example, such as in the IETF.

I have also been deeply involved in some projects that have arisen from within the Diplo community, like the IGF Remote Participation Working Group, which now reflects the efforts of a small, diverse group working to promote participation despite adversities, and I am proud of our accomplishments for the IGF India. I am also thankful to the Dimdim team who carried out the technical support with lots of energy and hard-work! This work will continue and I’m very enthused about the next challenges ahead. ■

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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, slanted, capital letters. The background is a grayscale image of the columns.

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