

Nicolás Fiumarelli – ISOC Uruguay Chapter / ISOC Alumni Network  
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Thank you, excellencies and colleagues.

My name is Nicolás Fiumarelli, from Internet Society Uruguay and the ISOC Alumni Network. I speak today as part of the technical community, and also as someone who has seen how local action can shape global policy in meaningful, measurable ways.

There is much talk about inclusion and youth participation—but in our region, we have actually lived it.

Take, for instance, the Youth IGF in Colombia, with its annual forum, organized by students, local actors, and young technologists. Their discussions didn't stay in the room—they flowed directly into the national IGF Colombia, became part of the regional LACIGF, and eventually made their way onto the agenda of the Global IGF in Riyadh, as a real-world example.

That's not symbolic. That's bottom-up and consensus-based Internet governance, analogous to the RIRs mentioned earlier, and to the IETF as well. And it's not an isolated case—it's a pattern seen across the world.

In countries like Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, and beyond, National IGFs are shaping local public debates, civil frameworks, national strategies, policy roadmaps, and—most importantly—community priorities.

In Brazil, the Youth Program launched by CGI.br in 2015 has trained and brought together thousands of young people—not just to attend events, but to lead sessions, shape frameworks, and write Internet policy with purpose. Many of these young leaders are here today on this call, actively contributing. This is closely aligned with the WSIS Action Line C4 on Capacity Building, and it serves as clear proof that when all stakeholders are engaged, society evolves.

These are not one-off initiatives. They are systems of engagement. And they reflect what the WSIS Action Lines—especially those on capacity building and enabling environments—call for: real inclusion, meaningful participation, and continuity.

It is why the Internet Society has invested so consistently in these spaces—through its

Youth Ambassador Program, regional dialogues, and now through community focal point engagement with the WSIS+20 process.

But none of this works without multistakeholderism—and I want to be very clear about what that means.

It means that governments, civil society, the private sector, technical experts, academics, and youth come together—not in parallel silos, but in the same space, with equal voice. It means that governance is not top-down, but co-created.

That is the model embodied by the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). With over 165 National and Regional IGFs, the IGF system offers an ongoing, transparent, and open process for digital cooperation. It may not be perfect—but it works, and it is evolving.

The IGF is open and inclusive, welcoming all stakeholders on equal footing.

As the Leadership Panel expressed earlier, the IGF is neutral and non-negotiating, offering a space for frank dialogue and trust-building.

It is also distributed, with over 165 National, Regional, Subregional, and Youth IGFs (NRIs) operating worldwide.

And it is productive, thanks to its Dynamic Coalitions and Policy Networks on issues such as AI and Internet fragmentation—both directly relevant to WSIS Action Lines and GDC commitments.

As a representative of the Dynamic Coalition on Internet Standards, Security, and Safety within the IGF, I want to highlight that Dynamic Coalitions—such as the Teen Coalition, Data-Driven Coalition, and many others you’ve heard about today—are another quiet success. Whether they are addressing accessibility, cybersecurity, sustainability, or children’s rights, they are producing real policy recommendations, built through consensus and open participation. These outputs are not theoretical—they are ready to feed into WSIS+20 and have follow-up mechanisms for implementation under the Global Digital Compact.

Another excellent example is the Policy Network on Meaningful Access. Its 2024 report provided actionable guidance on bridging digital divides—not only through connectivity, but also through affordability, digital literacy, and inclusive design. This directly supports WSIS Action Lines on access, capacity building, and enabling environments.

Today, frameworks such as UNESCO’s ROAM-X indicators—which assess Rights,

Openness, Accessibility, and Multistakeholder participation—are starting to integrate Universal Acceptance. One colleague mentioned today the worsening of inequalities, and Universal Acceptance readiness is one of the most worrying indicators. It has now become a key benchmark in the UNESCO framework. Moreover, the indicators have introduced new themes like the Internet’s environmental impact and advanced digital technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), as mentioned at the start of this call.

However, here’s the concern: we now face multiple parallel global processes—WSIS+20, the GDC, the AI Forum. If they do not align, we risk duplicated efforts, fragmented inputs, and exhausted stakeholders, as noted in the São Paulo Multistakeholder Statement.

Instead of creating more mechanisms, let us reinforce those that already serve us. The IGF, its intersessional work, its NRIs and coalitions—this is the infrastructure we should strengthen to implement the WSIS+20 follow-up and to deliver on the GDC.

The Internet Society continues to advocate for this: for open standards, for equity, and for bottom-up processes that reflect community realities and bridge digital divides—not just in aspiration, but in action.

So, this is a call to not duplicate. Let us coordinate. Let us invest in what has already shown that it can scale, adapt, and bring people together to shape a common digital future.

Thank you.