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Privacy and Security, Information Governance Challenges: IEEE

Last December, Guadalajara, Jalisco hosted the eleventh annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The Global Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), made up of more than 430,000 professionals and technicians interested in promoting the use of the Internet as a bridge to innovation, communication and social and economic growth, organized a number of sessions.

“Empowerment for inclusive and sustainable growth” was the theme that brought together stakeholders to discuss public policies related to the Internet where rapid technological progress and user mistrust in privacy and security issues are some of the challenges to be overcome.

IEEE Standards Association Senior Director, Technology Policy and International Affairs, Karen McCabe, explained that Internet Governance is not a new issue, as it has been discussed for years. However, today, compared to previous years, the industry has experiences that can give new meaning and perspective to their discussion.

“We have witnessed the impact and empowerment that the Internet can bring to communities. We know the challenge of the disconnected and we are aware of the increase of the technological advances that lead to the discussion of Internet Governance (IG) ethics and values centered on the human being. With the interaction of these factors, the issue of IG and inclusion on the Internet will continue to be discussed but now, compared to a decade ago, under a new light and perspective based on our lessons and experiences.”

She explained that currently, among the main challenges facing Internet Governance is the speed at which new technologies are developed, which increasingly find more applications, allowing everything to be more interoperable. A quality that to be exploited requires collaboration and cooperation of all parties involved.

Another challenge is the confidence of users, because as technology advances, there are questions about the use of the Internet by users.

“We face the great power of technologies that can benefit humanity to help it achieve its potential or purpose. We must address the issue of trust together with privacy and security, since none of these challenges are independent of one another.”

She also stressed that Mexico is an example of positive developments related to access, adoption and use of the network.

However, much work remains to be done on issues of access and inclusion to the internet, which is not unique to a single agency, since industry, government, academia, NGOs, civil society organizations and even end users have an important role to play.

Finally, McCabe detailed that IG will continue being a multidisciplinary subject, since technologies like the Internet of the Things and Artificial Intelligence become increasingly preponderant in extending the access and use of the ICTs.

“It will require unprecedented collaboration and cooperation not only between institutions and organizations, but across multiple disciplines to achieve meaningful access to the Internet that takes into account the context and circumstances of local communities,” she concluded.

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