



Panamanian Youth Internet Governance Forum (Youth IGF Panama)
1st Panamanian Youth Internet Governance Forum (Youth IGF Panama)
2024
June 26, 2024
Benjamin Ayechu Auditorium, Santa María La Antigua Catholic University

Summary of Content

This report details the first edition of the Panamanian Youth Internet Governance Forum (Youth IGF Panama), held on June 26, 2024, at Santa María La Antigua Catholic University. The event, organized by a multisectoral committee, brought together young people from across the country to discuss key issues in Internet governance, such as data protection, cybersecurity, digital citizenship, and gender-based violence in the digital environment.

The report includes an introduction with the initiative's history and objectives, an analysis of the preparatory process, logistical milestones, session summaries, participant registration details, the scholarship program, a budget report, and key contacts and resources related to the event.

Introduction

History of the Initiative

The Panamanian Youth Internet Governance Forum (Youth IGF Panama) was established in 2024 to promote youth participation in Internet governance at the national level, facilitating an inclusive and multisectoral dialogue on critical issues affecting the Internet ecosystem. This is the first edition of the event, marking the beginning of an initiative that seeks to empower Panamanian youth in Internet governance issues and provide a space for young people to express their opinions and contribute to digital policy development.

Main Objectives and Operating Principles

The main objectives of Youth IGF Panama are:

1. Promote the participation of young Panamanians in Internet governance issues: Ensure that young people's perspectives and needs are considered in Internet governance.
2. Bring together young people from all provinces and regions of the country: Initiate a national conversation on the participation of Panamanian youth in decision-making in the digital world.

The event aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Main Themes of the Event

The main themes addressed at the event were:

- Internet Governance
- Data Protection
- Cybersecurity
- Connectivity
- Digital Citizenship
- Digital Citizen Participation
- Artificial Intelligence
- Gender



Composition of the Multisectoral Organizing Committee

The Multisectoral Organizing Committee for this first edition of Youth IGF Panama was composed of representatives from various sectors, all under the age of 35, ensuring broad representation of interests, sexual and gender diversity, and youth perspectives. Below is a list of the organizations and their representatives:

- Panama Chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC Panama): Represented by Abdías Zambrano (alternate: Yaiza Gonzalez), civil society sector.
- Nic.pa: Represented by Jenifer Lopez, technical sector.
- Connecting Needs and Solutions (CONEYSO): Represented by Milagro Saira, civil society sector.
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Panama Section (IEEE Panama Section) and IEEE Women in Engineering: Represented by Alexandra Montenegro, technical sector.
- University of Panama, Faculty of Informatics, Electronics, and Communication: Represented by Ghaslaine Norte, civil society.
- National Authority for Government Innovation (AIG): Represented by Veronica Osorio, government sector.

Contact and Resources

- Website: www.youthigf.pa
- Instagram: @youthigf.pa
- Contact email: youthigf@isoc.org.pa

1. Report on the Preparatory Process

Timeline of the Logistics Process

Below is a timeline of the main logistical milestones in the preparation process for the first edition of Youth IGF Panama:

- **October 2023 to February 2024:** Invitation to organizations to join the Organizing Committee.
- **January to March 2024:** Organization of initial event preparations.
- **March and April 2024:** Submission of grant applications and launch of the call for topics to the community via social media.
- **February to April 2024:** Request for event sponsorships.
- **April and May 2024:** Planning of the scholarship program and launch of the call for applicants.
- **April to June 2024:** Contracting necessary services for the event.
- **May and June 2024:** Launch of the event communication campaign, including a media tour and promotion on social media with advertising.
- **June 2024:** Implementation of training for the scholarship program.
- **June 26, 2024:** Event day.
- **July and August 2024:** Submission of final narrative and financial reports, publication of minutes, and completion of sponsorship management.

1.1 Organizer Team Meetings

The Organizer Team held eleven formal meetings during the preparatory process in virtual, hybrid, and physical formats. The minutes of the meetings can be found at the following link: [link to minutes](#).

1.2 Agenda Development Process



The development of the agenda for the first Youth IGF was carried out through an inclusive process that involved open public consultations. Below is a detailed explanation of the process:

- **Methodology:** Public consultations were conducted through the social media accounts of the member entities of the Organizing Committee. As this was the first year, there was no established community to send the call via mailing lists.
- **Results: Results Obtained:** The consultations revealed that 36 people completed the survey. Of these, 51% identified as men while the remaining 48% identified as women. Additionally, 55% of the responses came from the province of Panama, while the rest came from rural and regional areas. Finally, 44% of the respondents selected cybersecurity as the most necessary topic to discuss.

¡Elige el tema que más te interese y ayúdanos a crear un evento a tu medida!

36 respuestas



- These results were analyzed by the Organizing Team and used to define the priority themes of the agenda.
- **Topics Discussed During the Public Consultations:**
 - Personal Data
 - Digital Citizenship and Democracy
 - Cybersecurity and Digital Security
 - Online Gender-Based Violence
 - Artificial Intelligence

2. Event Day Report

2.1 Event Agenda

Below is the full agenda of the first edition of Youth IGF Panama, including the names and types of sessions, as well as details of the presenters:

- **Master of Ceremony:** Carolin Carson
- **Registration:** 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM
- **Opening Ceremony:** 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
 - Welcome words from special speakers

Session 1: Datademia, Youth Personal Data Online

- **Format:** Panel
- **Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM



- **Main Topic:** Personal Data
 - **Focus:** Internet usage and the dangers it poses for young people and their personal data.
 - **Cross-Cutting Themes:** Digital footprint, digital identity, digital security, artificial intelligence
 - **Organizer:** ISOC
 - **Moderator:** Alejandra Castillo
 - **Panelists:**
 - Gabriel Cajiga (Civil Society)
 - Kritza Salerno (ANTAI, Government)
 - Marion Briancesco (Civil Society)
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Session 2: Panama Digital, Current and Future Internet in Youth Citizen Participation

- **Format:** Panel
 - **Time:** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 - **Main Topic:** Digital Citizenship and Democracy
 - **Focus:** Use of the Internet for citizen participation
 - **Cross-Cutting Themes:** Internet access, fake news, disinformation, artificial intelligence
 - **Organizer:** ISOC
 - **Moderator:** Daniela Noriega
 - **Panelists:**
 - José Isaac González (Civil Society)
 - Serena Vamvas (Government)
 - Ileana Corea (Academia)
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Lunch: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Session 3: Cybersecurity in Digital Life

- **Format:** Micro Talk, Workshop, and Lecture
 - **Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
 - **Cross-Cutting Themes:** Digital security, digital identity, digital footprint, digital citizenship, privacy
 - **Organizers:** AIG and NIC Panama
 - **Speakers:**
 - **Jacobo Pereida (Fortinet):** Micro capsule: Awareness of Basic Principles in Cybersecurity (1:00 PM - 1:10 PM)
 - **Alexis Flores (CSIRT Panama):** Workshop: Cybersecurity in Digital Life (1:10 PM - 1:30 PM)
 - **Professor Ricardo Brunel (GBM Panama / UTP):** Lecture: "Cybersecurity and Data Protection: Ransomware and Its Effects" (1:30 PM - 2:00 PM)
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Session 4: How Can We Make the Internet a More Equal Space?

- **Format:** Lecture
- **Time:** 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM
- **Main Topic:** Digital Gender-Based Violence



- **Focus:** Digital gender gap, digital citizenship, digital inclusion, digital environments
 - **Speaker:** Sheyla Perez (Hutchison Ports PPC and Dojo Community, to be confirmed)
 - **Organizer:** IEEE Women in Engineering Panama Section
 - **Main Themes:**
 - Awareness and Education: Definition and evolution of the concept of "gender-based violence" in the digital ecosystem.
 - Forms of Digital Gender-Based Violence: Harassment, abuse, non-consensual sharing of intimate images, misogynistic hate speech.
 - Addressing and Prevention: Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) and digital mapping.
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Session 5: Let's Explore Virtual Reality

- **Format:** Workshop
 - **Time:** 2:50 PM - 3:50 PM
 - **Organizer:** CONEYSO
 - **Speakers:** Milagro Saira and Agner Quintero
 - **Title:** Virtual Reality, Challenges and Opportunities
 - **Guiding Questions:**
 1. What is Virtual Reality?
 2. How is it currently used?
 3. What challenges does it face?
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Closing Words: 3:50 PM - 4:00 PM

2.2 Session Summaries

Below is a summary of each session held during the first annual meeting:

Session 1: Datamedia, Youth Personal Data Online

- **Main Topic:** Personal Data
- **Focus:** Internet usage and the dangers it poses for young people and their personal data.
- **Speakers:**
 - Gabriel Cajjiga (Civil Society)
 - Kritza Salerno (ANTAI, Government)
 - Marion Briancesco

The panelists discussed how companies collect and use young people's personal data, highlighting the importance of Law 81 in regulating this data. The impact of artificial intelligence and new technologies on information security, especially during the pandemic, was mentioned.

Emphasis was placed on how social media affects young people's privacy and the need to promote digital hygiene to protect personal information. The importance of improving data protection in Panama, based on measures adopted by companies and other countries, was also highlighted.



Session 2: PANAMA DIGITAL, CURRENT AND FUTURE INTERNET IN YOUTH CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The panelists began by addressing the importance of the Internet as a source of knowledge and participation. They discussed how technology accelerates changes in our society and how the Internet can inspire people. The importance of digital communication and how messages can spread quickly was emphasized, highlighting the need for these messages to be genuine.

The panel explored the impact of the Internet on democracy, imagining a model where everyone can live equitably. Topics such as machismo and its interaction with women, as well as the impact of the digital divide that limits certain people's access to the Internet, were also addressed. The importance of teaching children about responsible Internet use was mentioned, as well as the lack of resources in public centers to connect to the network.

Session 3: Cybersecurity

- **Themes:** Protection in the use of technologies and the Internet in Panamanian citizenship.
- **Speakers:**
 - Jacobo Pereida (Fortinet)
 - Alexis Flores (CSIRT Panama)
 - Prof. Ricardo Brunel (GBM Panama/UTP)

Jacobo Pereida spoke about the importance of cybersecurity in the digital age, highlighting the impact of growing threats and offering practical advice such as using strong passwords. He emphasized the role of young people in education and awareness about cybersecurity.

Alexis Flores explained what digital identity and footprint are, highlighting the dangers of identity theft, harassment, and fraud, and the need to protect our digital identity.

Prof. Ricardo Brunel described ransomware as a growing threat, explaining how it works, its effects, and the importance of early detection and prevention, including training and data backup.

Session 4: Equality in the Digital Environment

- **Main Topics:**
 - **Access to ICTs:** Annual growth of 6% in Panama, with more than 4 million Internet users.
 - **Digital Gender-Based Violence:** Physical, sexual, and psychological harm committed online, including extortion and non-consensual sharing of intimate material.
 - **Impact:** Victims suffer from anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
 - **Risks:** Security, privacy, and content virality.
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Session 5: Virtual Reality, Challenges and Opportunities

- **Topics:** Definition of virtual reality, digital divide, standards, virtual reality experiences.
- **Speakers:**
 - Milagro Saira
 - Agner Quintero



Objectives and Results:

Milagro Saira highlighted two main approaches:

- **Education and Participation:** Examples of virtual reality labs in rural schools in Chiriquí, improving students' interaction with educational material.
- **Technical Training:** Access to topics such as meditation and health through virtual reality experiences, and promoting tourism in Tierras Altas.

Justification in Relation to Internet Governance:

Virtual reality depends on the Internet for its operation, facing challenges such as security, privacy, and the digital divide. The lack of accessibility and regulation in data protection and minors were highlighted issues.

Methodology and Participation:

The session included a virtual reality experience activity for attendees, allowing them to experiment with virtual reality glasses.

2.5 Official Photograph

This report includes the official photographs of the First Youth IGF Panama, highlighting the main sessions and workshops. The photographs can be found at the following link: [link to photos](#).

3. Meeting Registration Report

3.1 Participant Information

- **Total Number of Participants:** 166 in-person, 180 virtual via Zoom
- **Breakdown by Stakeholder Group:**
 - Government: 6 attendees
 - Civil Society: 63 attendees
 - Private Sector: 11 attendees
 - Academia: 36 attendees
 - Technicians: 8 attendees

3.2 Demographic and Geographic Characteristics

- **Geographical Distribution:**
 - Panama: 162
 - Colón: 64
 - Panama Oeste: 32
 - Chiriquí: 13
 - Coclé: 10
 - Ngäbe-Buglé Region: 9
 - Veraguas: 6
 - Herrera: 5
 - Emberá-Wounaan Region: 2
 - Bocas del Toro: 2
 - Guna Yala Region: 2
 - Darién: 3
 - Los Santos: 2



The province with the most people is Panama, followed by Colón and Panama Oeste.

- **Gender Distribution:**
 - Men: 117 attendees
 - Women: 101 attendees
 - Other: 27 attendees

3.3 Participant Feedback

Overall, the event was very well received by participants, who appreciated the quality of the activities and emphasized the importance of continuing to promote these initiatives. Suggestions were made for improvements in interactivity, the inclusion of more streaming platforms, and solving technical issues for future editions.

- **Positive Aspects:**
 - The opinions about the event were generally very positive.
 - Participants highlighted the quality of the activities.
 - The initiative was recognized as a significant effort in training on cybersecurity and other relevant topics.
- **Challenges:**
 - The need for more dynamic activities and more interactive Q&A sessions was identified.
 - Technical problems, such as audio on Zoom, and the need to follow the explanations more closely were mentioned.
 - Some participants pointed out that the event could be more inclusive.
- **Proposed Solutions:**
 - Include more dynamic activities and make the Q&A sessions more interactive.
 - Solve the technical problems related to audio on Zoom.
 - Expand streaming platforms beyond Zoom, allowing for greater participation.
 - Hold these sessions more frequently at universities.
 - Improve control over screen projection changes during sessions.

4. Budget Report

4.1 Initiative Funding

Youth IGF Panama was funded and supported by a variety of sponsors and strategic allies who contributed both financially and in-kind. The main sponsors and strategic allies of the initiative were:

- National Authority for Government Innovation (AIG)
- Specialized Higher Technical Institute (ITSE)
- Nic.pa
- Latin America and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC)
- SONDA
- UFINET
- FORTINET
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation Panama Office
- Internet Society Foundation
- IGF Support Association (IGFSA)
- Youth United for Education
- CAPATEC
- USMA and AEDUSMA
- Intered



- UNESCO

These sponsors and allies contributed to the event's realization, covering various aspects such as transportation, accommodation, food, training materials, and contracting necessary technical services for the forum's success.

4.2 Event Budget

The total cost of the event was \$13,078.27, while sponsorship and grant funds received amounted to \$14,935.00. Below is a detailed breakdown of expenses excluding administrative costs of the three fund-receiving organizations:

Budget Item	Cost
Logo Design	\$460.00
Website	\$650.00
Social Media Promotion (First Installment)	\$30.00
Community Manager (CM)	\$1,620.00
Photographic Coverage	\$275.00
Promotional Items	\$1,048.60
ITSE Courier Reimbursement	\$35.00
Social Media Promotion (Second Installment)	\$23.54
Roll-Up Banner	\$21.00
Meal Reimbursement	\$57.15
Scholarship Recipient Accommodation	\$1,395.00
Event Streaming	\$700.00
Public Relations	\$700.00
Two Chairs and One Folding Table	\$23.00
Agenda Design	\$35.00
Video Recording and Event Assistance	\$46.00
Master of Ceremony	\$450.00
Welcome Video and Bumper Loop	\$180.00
LED Screen	\$1,473.75
Cocktail Tables	\$127.00
Scholarship Recipient Mobility Allowance	\$877.70



Event Sweaters for Scholarship Recipients and Volunteers	\$233.80
Volunteer Allowances	\$140.00
Snacks	\$157.46
June 25 Dinner for Scholarship Recipients	\$150.00
Social Media Management Reimbursement	\$85.00
Colón - USMA - Colón Transportation	\$150.00

5. Scholarship Program

Youth IGF Panama implemented a scholarship program to support the participation of young people from all provinces and regions of the country, ensuring inclusion and equitable representation at the event. This program is designed to help young people with financial limitations cover the costs of transportation, accommodation, and other expenses associated with participating in the forum.

Scholarship Program Objective

The objective of the program is to enable young people from Panama's interior provinces and regions, aged 18 to 25, to participate in the Panamanian Youth Internet Governance Forum and receive training on relevant topics, thereby fostering their professional development and participation in Internet governance at the national and international levels. This way, the goal is to position Panamanian youth as a niche of multisectoral governance.

Eligibility Requirements

- Age between 18 and 25 years.
- Demonstrate a genuine and sustained interest in Internet-related topics.
- Reside outside Panama City.
- Participate in all virtual classes of the preparatory course.
- Preferably be a member of a minority population in the country.

Number of Scholarships Available

The program awarded a total of 15 scholarships to young people who met the established requirements. Special invitations were extended to members of key populations and sexual, ethnic, and racial minorities, among others.

Selection Process and External Scholarship Committee

The selection process was rigorous, with more than 200 applicants from all provinces and regions of Panama. An External Scholarship Committee was responsible for evaluating the applications. This committee reviewed the videos submitted by applicants and selected the 15 finalists. The finalists then moved on to the full application review stage.

Scholarship Benefits

- Coverage of transportation costs to and from the event.
- Accommodation during the event.
- Meals during the event.
- Internet Governance course and completion certificate.



- Registration for the Internet Governance Forum.
- Training materials.

Program Schedule

- **Call for Applications:** April 29 to May 15.
- **Selection of Recipients:** May 15 to 19.
- **Internet Governance Course:** June 1 to 22.
- **Event:** June 26.

Responsibilities of Scholarship Recipients

- Attend and actively participate in all program activities.
- Complete the Internet Governance course.
- Positively contribute to the forum environment and collective learning post-event.
- Actively participate in the Internet community.

Communication and Outreach

The scholarship program call was disseminated through social media, newsletters, and strategic allies.

For more information on the scholarship program, visit the following link: [Scholarship Program](#).

6. Contact Details and Key Information Sources

6.1 Contact Details

- **Official Website of the Initiative:** www.youthigf.pa
- **Official Email of the Initiative:** youthigf@isoc.org.pa
- **Social Media Accounts:**
 - Instagram: [@youthigf.pa](#)

6.2 Related Resources to the Annual Meeting

- **Link to Event Minutes:** [Minutes](#)
- **Link to Event Photo Gallery:** [Gallery](#)
- **Link to the Meeting Program Agenda:** [Agenda](#)