- Session Title: "A missed link on trade negotiations, multilingualism and multiculturalism in a digital era. (WS203)"

- Date: Wednesday, December 20

- Time: 11.50 - 13.20

- Session Organizer: Gonzalo Navarro (ALAI)

- Chair/Moderator: Gonzalo Navarro

- Rapporteur/Notetaker: Adela Goberna

- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

- Juan Carlos Lara - Derechos Digitales
- Marília Maciel - DiploFoundation
- Carolina Aguerre - Centro de Tecnología y Sociedad - CETyS- (University of San Andrés)

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

1) Convergence of the digital and the trade world
2) Differences in the legal traditions
3) Trade and human rights
4) Implementation of the trade agreements

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

Marilia Maciel talked about how the protection of privacy, the rights of consumers and other issues are part of the current foreign trade agenda. However, she also claimed that these issues are currently much more connected to technical issues. For example, this year the WTO was much more proliferated in relation to the production of bibliographic material. She explained that this is very good because - although there is no mandate - since now we can better understand the position of the member countries. She continued by saying that there are many topics that are known by the Internet community but were never explained in such a way that they are accessible by other groups. The digital world and trade world are converging. Finally, she gave a series of examples on how different law traditions show the importance of taking care of multiculturalism.

Juan Carlos Lara explained that free trade agreements are usually proposed to advance trade agendas and are not always in line with the human rights agenda. In this regard, he commented that when some countries, for example, do not have data protection laws, but should have them due to their commitments in free trade agreements, it can have an impact regarding human rights, as it is being done guided by commercial reasons. Juan Carlos also commented that the problem exists when the agreements are not being negotiated between equal parts, as those with greater power can imposed certain conditions over the other.

Carolina Aguerre asked who should have the mandate or the right to impose discussions to advance in trade. She said that various controversies exist and highlighted that last week the WTO did not renewed the mandate regarding e commerce, what in her opinion shows that there are different perceptions and scenarios

on this subject. She pointed out that the implementation of this type of agreements, for example, still represents a big problem and discussion.

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

The discussion that took place during the workshop was basically about the scope of trade and the relation with party legal tradition. Mainly, the panelists discussed over the topic of how the different trade agreement should affect or not the local legal frameworks.

The panelist deeply addressed the different controversies that exist around trade and how diverse foras are becoming everyday more relevant for the development of Internet. Moreover, some of them analyze the relation of certain actors within others. Finally, the panelist also discuss how the implementation of the trade agreements could challenge local and regional frameworks.

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

Regarding steps forward or potential next steps, all participant agreed (in different ways) that trade agreements are starting to shape some parts of the digital development. This means that the Internet community (all stakeholders) will have challenges in order create awareness about all the impacts that certain trade provisions could have in diverse digital topics (data protection, copyright, etc).

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session: 30 (thirty)

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session: 10 (ten)

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment? -

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion: -