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What have we learned from these past few weeks in **SPACE 2021** together?



Oct 4: Session One

WHY ARE WE INTERESTED
IN POLICY, ADVOCACY AND
GOVERNANCE?

with **Valeria Betancourt &
Gayatri Khandhadai**

**Do not be afraid to elbow for
your space in policy advocacy.**

Gayatri Khandhadai

**Many approaches to policy advocacy, but
they all share one common denominator**

They all put people and their lived experiences in the
centre, acknowledging that all of us live in broad
contexts in our lives.

Stakeholders are also non-homogenous

E.g. CSOs might have different perspectives depending
on their organisational frameworks.

Policy advocacy is a long-term process!

Listen empathetically. Question our preconceived
biases. Network and build trust. But also, get some rest.

Oct 8: Session Two

OUR GENDERED
EXPERIENCES IN POLICY
SPACES, CHALLENGES AND
NEEDS

with **Adriana Labardini &
Marwa Azelmat**

We didn't actually architect for prejudice, but we didn't design the system to combat it either.

Marwa Azelmat

Tech is not neutral!

More often designed by men with no gender-responsive lens, and by normalising centuries of exclusion and violence. We need to be aware of these and not normalise and replicate the harms.

The importance of representation

Include women and gender diverse people in all their diversities, so when we think of women in policy and tech, we no longer see the image of women in boardrooms, but also extend to women in communities with a variety of skills and capacities.



Oct 11: Session Three

UNDERSTANDING ICT LAWS,
POLICY AND GENDER

with Eleanor Sarpong &
Marwa Azelmat

More than access to the Internet, we need to be able to provide women the quality of experience needed and the safety required to stay online.

Eleanor Sarpong

Meaningful connectivity is the way to go

No more than just basic access, we need 4G mobile connection, smartphone ownership, unlimited broadband, daily internet use + content and literacy for meaningful use of the Internet.

Look at gender-responsive and inclusive policy holistically and strategically

Understand how it impacts and shapes lives, how others derive the benefits from the policy, and how do we include the groups and communities beyond the policy space.



Oct 15: Session Four

INFRASTRUCTURE IS NOT
GENDER NEUTRAL

with Erika Smith & Loreto Bravo

How much of the idea that “infrastructure is neutral” is used to serve the capitalists whose main interests are extraction, maintaining the patriarchy, and colonialism?

[Erika Smith](#)

Our values are embedded in each tech

Tech is more than just the technical products – it includes the values, relations, and contexts that made the production possible.

Consider care work in building tech & policy

Technical spaces are often dominated by men, with women relegated to admin and caregiving work. We can reimagine a more inclusive, participatory model where these tasks are not looked down upon and considered not as valuable.

It's possible to reimagine a new world!

Margarita Padilla on technical sovereignty – the possibility to design and dream the new horizons that we as women are building where in these processes, we are involved.

Oct 18: Session Five

AREAS OF REGULATION
AND POLICY IN TELECOMS
IN GENERAL AND
COMMUNITY NETWORKS
MORE SPECIFICALLY

with **Claire Milne &
Mariela Baladron**

What we can do as advocates is to point out to regulators that they need to work together, not just with other regulators, but also together with other stakeholders.

Claire Milne

The importance of regulation

To cater to the needs of the marginalised communities where big telcos will not serve, to ensure everyone has equal access to communication, to protect the rights of indigenous communities, and to further public interest.

Regulation can help open new pathways

Depending on the regulations, the process can lead to the opening of an entire path for the recognition of the licensing and access to the spectrum, and access of telecommunications and mobile services etc.

No unique solution

Learn from the regulation of other similar countries. Work with stakeholders. Adapt to each contextual need.

Oct 22: Session Six

HACKING LANGUAGE OF
INTIMIDATION: AN
ANTIDOTE TO JARGON

with **Adriana Labardini &
Karla Velasco Ramos**

We do not need to continue this battle for hierarchy. There are always other ways of governance, collaborative work and leadership, and collaborative language. Together we can build more inclusion than exclusion.

Adriana Labardini

Resist the masculinised spaces of policy

Regulatory spaces is a masculinised space related to power and influence. As such, this is reflected in their images, values, and language.

Resist internalised patriarchy

Sometimes women also do acts of intimidation. As such, it is important for women also to reflect and be self-critical. If you witness an act of intimidation, use all the powers you have to stop them and help elevate the voices of those intimidated.

Do not be intimidated by jargons

The antidote – learn the terminologies, create space for women, PWD, and gender diverse people, include storytelling, train and mentor young women.



Oct 25: Session Seven

ENABLING LOCAL AND INNOVATIVE ACCESS IN DIFFERENT REGIONS AND CONTEXTS THROUGH INCLUSIVE LICENSING FRAMEWORKS

with Jane Coffin & Adriana Labardini

Governments who do not recognise CN and not enable them with funding are not enabling them for public interest

Adriana Labardini

The importance of licensing & its advocacy

Gives security and credibility to CN, gives access to markets, opens new pathways for different mechanisms, distinction, and flexibility of licensing, to be recognised for USF, infrastructure, local content, training, and many others.

Understanding contexts before building the network

Listen to the community and their interests before talking to the policymakers and regulators. Know the market and the regulatory environment, depending on the country and local situation.

Sustainability and funding

Build a model to assess sustainability for CNs from all fronts – economic, financial, technical, cultural, governance, etc. Diversify the funding and revenues so we are not dependent on one source.

Oct 29: Session Eight

Connectivity is just the stepping stone to solve the gender digital divide

GENDER IN CNS -
COMMUNITY POWER
DYNAMICS AND ROLES -
RECLAIMING A SEAT AT
THE DECISION-MAKING
TABLE

with Sarbani Belur &
Josephine Miliza

Create spaces where everyone can share experiences in an open heart, so we are able to create and provide more tools and possibilities.

[Lilian Chamorro \(Colnodo\)](#)

More initiatives are needed: enabling environment, equitable access to all resources, the need to understand connectivity from women's perspective, and the quality and ease of access for women's day to day use covering all types of use.

Equal participation for women

Ensure women have the safe space and the choice to be where they want to be, and if they want to change their minds, they always have the access and information to do so. Empower them through role models. Invite all women to participate, praise their roles and understand their fears.

Nov 1: Session Nine

ENABLING INNOVATION
FOR INCLUSION: SPECTRUM
SHARING POLICIES,
SPECTRUM INNOVATION;
THE COMMONS REVISITED;
SHARING ECONOMY,
AUTONOMOUS NETWORKS

with **Martha Suarez & Steve Song**

The analogy of having spectrum as property rights: in cities, spectrums are like houses, restaurants, shops, etc. Unlicensed spectrum is like a public park — everyone can use it.

Martha Suarez

Spectrum is limited not by resource, but by legal

What should we do to expand connectivity, especially when the tech is cheap? We need to create conditions and lock the regulatory framework for a wider ecosystem so we could have different entities deploy networks according to their needs.

Ways to open spaces for the creation of public policies

Through public consultation, and networking and building trust with regulators.

Collective action is key!

Our resources are small compared to big operators when it comes to engaging regulators. The African proverb – "If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far go together."

Nov 5: Session Ten

FEMINIST TECH
INNOVATION LED BY
WOMEN, GENDER AND
SEXUALITY-DIVERSE
INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS
FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

with **Jac Sm Kee & Tania**

These stories taught me about where to invest my time – is it related to how to do what we want to do? Coming from my ego or coming from innocence, or utter desire to just do something?

Tania

Feminist tech innovation is mindful in not only whom it builds for, but who is involved in the processes and output, and how and why they are built

Who is it for? Why is it being done in the first place? Whose reality does it envelop? Who will be actually benefiting? Who is being made central in this innovation? How to not reproduce the colonialist views that can exclude more people and women who had been oppressed?

Dispel the tech ageism

The idea that elder people do not use tech is not true – if the tech is relevant, everyone would use it. Wisdom in the moderation that older people have with their body and relationships in tech.



Nov 8: Session Eleven

KEYS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
(1): BACKHAUL, CN
MODELS, COOPERATIVES,
SMEES.

with Michuki Mwangi &
Penelope Partida Martínez

Backhaul technologies and services

Radio spectrum, wireless (licensed and unlicensed spectrum), fibre, and satellite. Services –IP transit and IP transport.

Before making backhaul strategies for CNs, it is important to think from CN perspectives

Questions can include: what is the location of the CN, what service provider is available, what is the market pricing for bandwidth in the area, what technologies, etc.? Consider also Qs to save cost: If the closest and most flexible transit provider is about 100 kilometres away, what options does that present you? Do you have your own transport? Are they flexible enough to be able to do it? etc.



Nov 12: Session Twelve

THE ROLE OF WOMEN,
GENDER INCLUSIVE
MODALITIES AND OTHER
DIVERSE COMMUNITY
MEMBERS IN NETWORK
AND COMMUNITY
SUSTAINABILITY

with **Sol Luca De Tena &
Débora Prado**

**We are good for all types of
construction.**

Brunz

Community sustainability is made of many bodies and knowledge

The operations of CN required a relationship between multiplicity of individuals and social groups and different lived relations and equality affected by socio-technical system and power relations.

Bridge the gaps

Technical engineers need to understand technology is more than just tools, they need to understand its relation to the people and community who will use them. This also applies to the gaps in policy spaces + more diversity.

Consider a holistic approach interlinked with telecom issues

Sustainability will not persist if issues rooted in communities e.g. food security, access to water, sanitation, etc. are not addressed.

Nov 15: Session Thirteen

KEYS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
(2):USF IN THE DIFFERENT
AREAS OF THE WORLD +
SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

with **Dr Emma Otieno &
Adriana Labardini**

**How can the very last person
access the ICT services?**

[Dr Emma Otieno](#)

Universal access (UA) has been one way to ensure isolated communities can participate and benefit from the ICT field

ICT field is often dominated by private sectors. Governments need to protect UA where citizens, regardless of region or location, socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender, disability, or any other factor, have access to the benefits of critical services.

The importance of USF

Ensure availability, affordability, and accessibility. Promotes inclusion, diversity, gender equality, the local economy and needs, and engages with the target communities, and is mindful of their culture, environment, and preferences.

Nov 19: Session Fourteen

KNOWLEDGE KEEPING,
KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER,
DIGITAL SKILLS AND
CONTINUITY IN THE
COMMUNITY

with **Mariana Fossati Cabrera &
Tigist Shawerga Hussen**

Quoting is political. We need to know who is doing the work researching the technological issues in our continental perspectives.

Tigist Shawerga Hussen

Can we do feminist work without branding it 'feminist'?

Yes, if it brings more harm to you and the people you work with. Do not forget to reflect on the research experience after.

Ethics is not a one-off event

Ethics and consent is not limited to signing forms. Reflect on the time we have done our research in which we have unintentionally silenced the voices of our research participants, or misrepresented them. What can we do to navigate the precarities of the relationship?

Resist expert indulgence

Researchers are not the experts, they only have more access to knowledge and skills. The impacted communities are the experts in their own lived experiences



Good luck!

