

Resource persons' profiles

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Introduction to global policy advocacy | Maria Paz



Maria Paz Canales

Session: Introduction to
global policy advocacy
7 August | 7:00 - 8:30 UTC
8 August | 15:00 - 16:30 UTC

✉ mariapaz@gp-digital.org

María Paz Canales is a Chilean lawyer and holds a Master's Degree with specialisation in Law and Technology from the University of California, Berkeley. Currently she is the Head of Legal, Policy and Research at Global Partners Digital (GPD). Between 2017 and 2021, she served as the executive director of Derechos Digitales, an independent non-profit organisation based in Chile, working across Latin America on human rights in the digital environment, particularly freedom of expression, privacy, and access to knowledge and information. She was part of the group who founded the organisation in 2005. She was also a member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) (2019-2021) and the programming committee of the Latin America and the Caribbean IGF (2017-2022). Previously, her work in private practice and academia covered telecommunications regulation, competition, data protection and intellectual property.

Legal framework for global advocacy | Sheetal



Sheetal Kumar

Session: Legal framework for
global advocacy

7 August | 9:30 - 11:00 UTC

8 August | 17:30 - 19:00 UTC

✉ sheetal@gp-digital.org

Sheetal is an independent consultant with expertise in internet governance, human rights and digital technology policy. She was previously Head of Global Engagement and Advocacy at Global Partners Digital (GPD) where she led GPD's engagement in multilateral forums across policy areas (Trust and Security, Online Content and Emerging Tech) with the aim of shaping global policy-making processes so that they are more open, inclusive and transparent, and lead to policy outcomes that are human rights-respecting.

UN & other spaces for digital rights advocacy | Anriette



Anriette Esterhuysen

Session: UN & other spaces
for digital rights advocacy

9 August | 7:00 - 8:30 UTC

12 August | 15:00 - 16:30 UTC

✉ anriette@apc.org

Anriette is an APC associate as well as a senior advisor on internet governance, and in that capacity she is the convenor of the African School on Internet Governance. She was the APC executive director until March 2017. She was also the executive director of SANGONet, an internet service provider and training institution catering to civil society, labour and community organisations in South Africa. Anriette, in collaboration with other APC members, contributed to establishing email and internet connectivity in South Africa in the 1980s and 1990s, and together with APC's Karen Banks she was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame as a Global Connector in 2013. She has also served on the African Technical Advisory Committee of the UN Economic Commission for Africa's African Information Society Initiative and was a member of the United Nations ICT Task Force from 2002 to 2005. In addition, Anriette was a member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the UN Internet Governance Forum from 2012 to 2014 and served as the chair of this group from 2020 to 2021.

Strategies for effective engagement | Gayatri Khandhadai



Gayatri Khandhadai

Session: Strategies for
effective engagement

9 August | 9:30 - 11:00 UTC

12 August | 17:30 - 19:00 UTC

✉ khandhadai@business-humanrights.org

Gaya joined the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre in February 2022 as the Head of Technology and Human Rights. She is a lawyer with a background in international law and human rights, international and regional human rights mechanisms, research, and advocacy. She previously worked with national and regional human rights groups, focusing on freedom of expression. More recently, she worked as the Asia Policy Regional Coordinator at the APC, where her focus was on digital rights and policy in Asia with specific emphasis on the freedoms of expression, religion, assembly and association on the internet.