



ICT on the Public Agenda

Civil Society Organizations/Academia Activities

July 2020

Sector: ICT



Intelligence

Industry groups and civil society organizations in Mexico have been active this month in promoting their key initiatives and positions related to the internet and digital economy, particularly with their responses to public policy actions in the wake of the USMCA's entry into force on July 1. Organizations such as the [Latin American Internet Association \(ALAI\)](#) expressed optimism over the potential opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (PyMEs) in Mexico that could be facilitated by the trade agreement's chapter on the digital economy, as Mexican businesses could be better positioned to access the United States market and services through e-commerce. However, ALAI's leadership also underscored the importance for Mexico of [further developing its digital public policy framework](#) in order to instill more certainty and stability in the growing sector. Additionally, the [Mexican Association of Online Sales \(AMVO\)](#) [released a detailed report](#) on July 2 in partnership with a number of industry groups, featuring survey analysis on the large growth in e-commerce use among Mexicans since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 20 percent of survey respondents stated that they will conduct more of their shopping online moving forward. The report underscores the significant opportunities in Mexican e-commerce amid both the pandemic and the launch of the USMCA.

Keeping in mind the rapidly growing importance of technology in multiple sectors, the [Mexican Chamber of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technologies \(CANIETI\)](#) hosted its annual ["Interactive Nights" forum](#) virtually on July 29, focusing its primary discussions on the current challenges presented by the digital transformation across the country. The event featured representatives from a diverse array of industries, including officials from the government, technology, health education and financial sectors, among others. These kinds of broad discussions and networking events are likely to gain importance as sectors become increasingly digitized over time.

On the other hand, there was also significant backlash and concern expressed by academia and civil society this month in response to government actions covering digital policy. The passage of the new digital copyright law in accordance with the USMCA sparked widespread concerns that the law was heavy-handed and would lead to censorship of the internet, in part due to its mandate of potential prison time for individuals committing minor copyright violations or certain repairs to their digital devices. In response, a group of more than 30 civil society and advocacy organizations spearheaded a movement on social media and accompanying online petition against censorship and restrictions, or [#NiCensuraNiCandados](#). A wide range of domestic and international groups have announced their support for the petition, including the [International Federation of Library Associations \(IFLA\)](#), a leading global advocate for information services.

An additional area of concern for civil society amid the attention paid to digital regulation this month has been over net neutrality, particularly in the context of so many new regulations covering Mexico's digital sector. In response to the new [Federal Institute of Telecommunications \(IFT\)](#) announcement of reforms governing internet access and communications, a [multi-stakeholder initiative](#) comprised of civil society, advocacy groups and businesses based both in Mexico and globally came together to organize [salvemosinternet.mx](#) and voice their joint concerns over internet censorship as well as threats to user privacy and equality of services that could result from the new IFT policy proposal.

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This report was prepared by



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All information presented is based on official sources and reliable media. It is a compilation of the most relevant events of the month. AGIL(E) uses the information gathered to provide a conceptual analysis.

The information presented covers July 1st - August 1st