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## URGENT TO PROMOTE MEASURES TO ERADICATE VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE, WHICH AFFECT WOMEN

On Monday, March 6th, within the framework of the International Women's Day commemoration, the first edition of the GPA Dialogues took place, an activity organized by the Chair of the Global Privacy Assembly, with the purpose of opening spaces for public discussion on cutting-edge and common-interest issues regarding privacy and personal data protection.

It is urgent to develop and promote preventive measures to eradicate violations and abuses of the right to privacy in the digital age, especially where women, the LGBTIQ+ community, and other vulnerable populations are affected, said Josefina Román Vergara, Commissioner of the National Institute of Transparency, Access to Information and Protection of Personal Data (INAI), in her capacity as representative of the Plenary of the institution, as the acting Chair of the GPA. "With the adequate formulation of mechanisms and tools with a gender perspective, we are certain that the existing gap between men and women can be reduced, both in access to justice and in the full enjoyment of their human rights, especially in the digital world," she emphasized on behalf of the Plenary Board of the INAI.

Leading the first session of the Global Privacy Assembly Dialogues (GPA Dialogues), Ms. Román Vergara said that entry into the digital world has brought various benefits in the social, educational, commercial, cultural, and even political and labour sectors; however, it also represents threats to people's rights. "Threats to the human right to privacy and data protection motivate us to promote activities such as the one that brings us together today, with the intention of seeking efficient solutions that address, first and foremost, the reduction of violence and discrimination against gender diversity and, secondly, its eradication," she pointed out.

During her intervention, Eva Blum-Dumontet, an independent consultant on technology and gender issues, spoke about the origins of the right to privacy, which was initially defined as a right that was intrinsically linked to the notion of privacy and private property, which does not have much to do with universality. "Historically, women have been excluded from this, and if we do not limit ourselves only to gender issues and this gender perspective, and adopt an intersectional perspective, we begin to take into account groups excluded from private property."

In her turn, Marit Hansen from the Schleswig Holstein Data Protection Authority emphasized the importance of having authorities for the protection of personal data due to the imbalance between those responsible for its processing, such as companies, authorities, or institutions, and the data subjects. "We see a power imbalance, and this implies the need to take a big step to achieve a change in society and achieve a fairer system."

Ana Karen Cortés, an independent consultant on privacy and digital rights, stated that when there is no gender perspective in data protection, the violence or injustices perpetrated through technologies remain invisible. "The lack of inclusion of this gender perspective in norms, policies, and practices is what allows digital violence, which is part of the real world, to continue to manifest."

Karla Velasco Ramos from the Association for Progressive Communications pointed out that the existing gender digital divide intersects with other gaps that women face, such as age, sex, or race. "If we look for studies on the gender digital divide, we find very few publications and research in Latin America because it is a pending issue on the continent, but necessary to know how women are using technologies."

Finally, Gloria González Fuster, law professor and expert in data protection at the university of Vrije in Brussels, Belgium, stated that, from her perspective, the integration of the gender perspective is already happening, and although it is not constant and uniform, there are commissioners and authorities for protection who are already doing something about it. "It is important to recognize when there are already good practices and initiatives, despite disparities. This can inspire others and help generate more actions that lead to helping more women in situations such as cyberbullying, for example."

Lastly, in his closing remarks, Commissioner Adrián Alcalá Méndez, member of the Plenary Board of the INAI and also a GPA Chair, stated that, as data protection authorities, it is an obligation to safeguard the rights of people in vulnerable situations, especially in the context of technological advancement and the expansion of digital spaces, where the participation of women and LGBTIQ+ people has increased, but so has violence based on gender. "In a world where women face structural barriers on the path to equality, we must be aware that without systemic change, we will not have tangible results. Worrying about it is not enough; we have to deal with this issue. "There is still much to be done, but there is no doubt that we must all, men and women, be active participants and achieve the necessary systemic change that will allow us to change the patterns that prevent progress towards equality," he emphasized.