This year the General Assembly and Board of Directors meetings were held remotely, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The General Assembly was held on November 3, 2020, through the Zoom platform. 83 delegates representing 25 active members, 9 adherent members, and 7 special guest bodies, in addition to COPANT authorities, attended it. Simultaneous Spanish-English translation was provided for the meeting.

The President of COPANT, Ricardo Fragoso (ABNT), while welcoming all the attendees, highlighted the role that the standards bodies have had at national level to help authorities, companies and organizations, stakeholders and consumers, to be able to face the health emergency using the standards, guidelines, and protocols that their organizations have provided quickly, responding promptly and effectively to the emergency. He continued by saying that it is interesting to know the individual experiences of each organization in their national territory and the IT tools that they have been rapidly developing to continue providing the service, to continue developing capacities at the national level and to support their local authorities. The different workshops of exchange of experiences of Best Practices that COPANT organized during the year, have demonstrated the capacity of fast response that our member organizations have and the importance that they have had in their national territories. He invited the participants to visit the recordings of these workshops on COPANT's website.

On the other hand, he mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented an interesting opportunity for our members, especially for developing countries, being the possibility of participating more actively in the meetings of technical committees, sub-committees and working groups in international organizations, since all meetings are held virtually. We hope that this option of participating virtually in the international standards development process will be maintained, to ensure the participation of more countries.

He mentioned that the ISO's Regional Engagement Policy has already been approved and then the scope of the policy and the importance of this engagement for our region was explained.

The representatives of the international organizations ISO and IEC gave brief reports regarding their vision and plans for 2021 and the foreseen contingency regarding the impact of COVID-19 on standardization activities.

Five Directors were elected by acclamation to renew the Board of Directors. The following were elected: SCC (Canada), for North America; OSN (El Salvador), for Central America; and IRAM (Argentina), INN (Chile) and INEN (Ecuador) for South America.

It was announced that COPANT Week 2021 will take place virtually during the third week of April 2021.
One of the most important points discussed at the meeting was the approval of the new **COPANT Strategic Plan 2021-2025**. which was presented by the Vice-President of COPANT, Mauricio Céspedes (INTECO), and which has the following characteristics:

- **Vision**: To contribute, in the next five years, to the improvement of the quality of life of the people of the countries that comprise COPANT and to achieve institutional recognition for the contributions both to regional development and to the strengthening of international standardization.

- **Mission**: To promote the development of NSBs in the region and to support the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through:
  - Cooperation and collaboration with each other and with peer organizations;
  - Active participation and cooperation in international and regional standardization;
  - Promotion of effective and relevant national standardization activities, results and benefits;
  - Promotion of the use of International practices of Conformity Assessment Services; and
  - Implementing strategies that promote the innovation based on standardization.

- **Strategies**:
  - **Strategy #1**: Building Capacity: Identify, promote and support activities to build and enhance the capacity of COPANT members, the standardization infrastructure, motivating communication, cooperation, mutual collaboration and the shared and efficient use of resources.
  - **Strategy #2**: Increasing participation in international standardization work for targeted areas: Strengthen the capacity of COPANT members to target and have effective participation in Technical and Policy Committees work at ISO and IEC in identified strategic area of importance to the member body.
21 delegates representing the 10 members of the Board of Directors and COPANT authorities attended the Board of Directors meeting, held on November 5 through the Zoom platform. The meeting had simultaneous Spanish-English translation.

The main topics discussed were the approval of the Operational Plan for 2021, the Budget for 2021, taking into account the operation of the organization in the face of the new reality.