



Press Release
2020-12-14

COPANT MEETINGS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020

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.

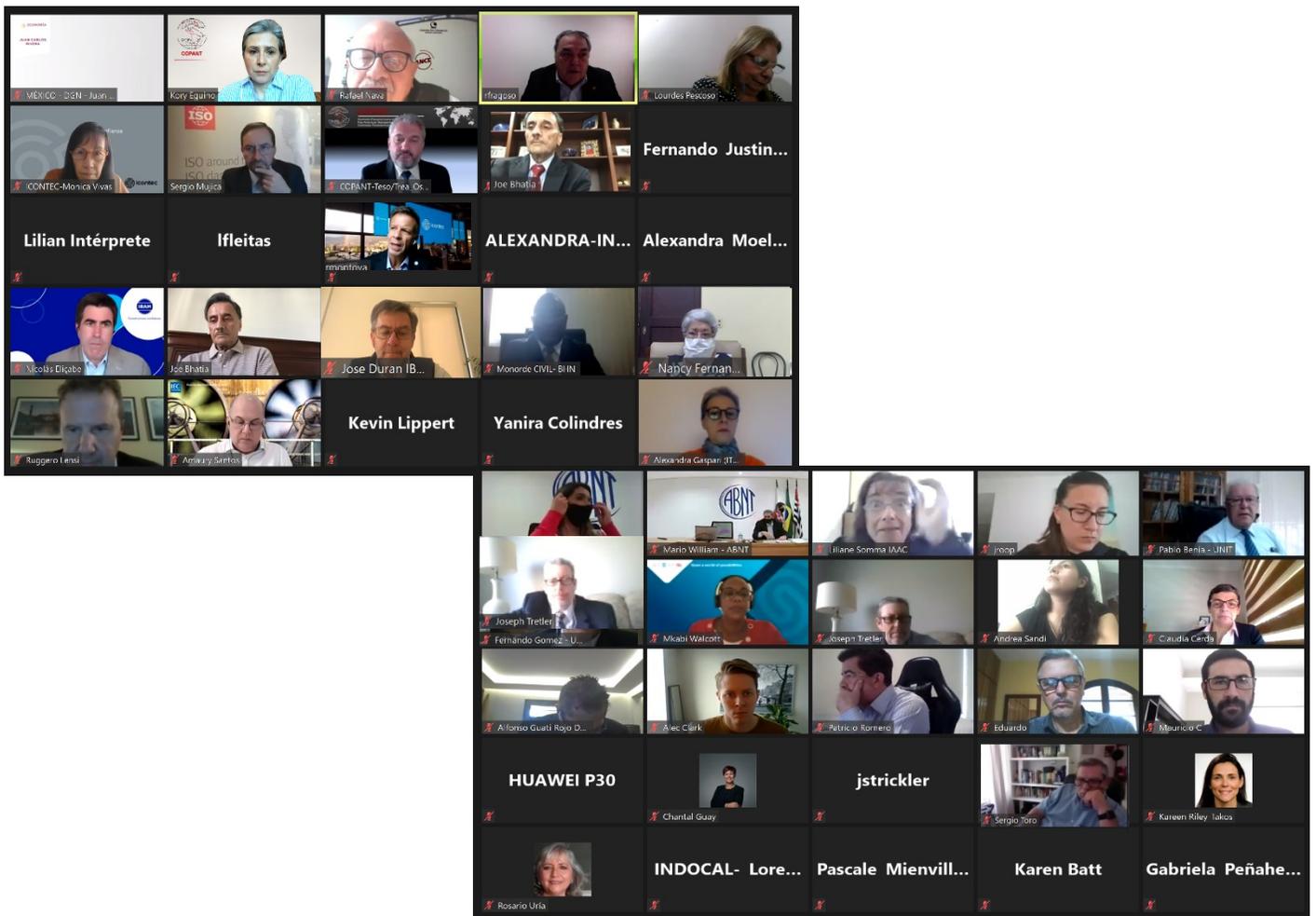
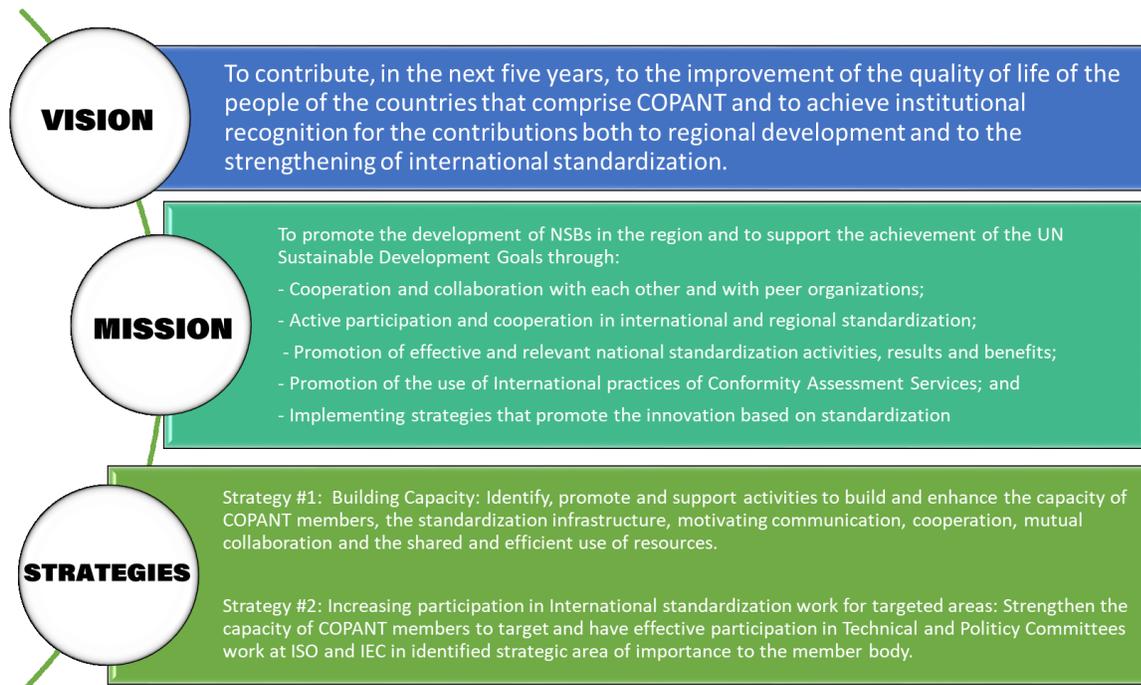
He mentioned that the ISO's Regional Engagement Policy has already been approved and then the scope of the policy and the importance of this engagement for our region was explained.

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:



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.