

## Candidacy of Carolina Rossini for the Best Bits Steering Committee

- **Bio:**

Carolina Rossini works at [Public Knowledge](#), as the VP for International Policy, where she leverages more than 13 years of experience in international law and advocacy, negotiations of transactions (contracts and licenses) and policy, with a specific focus on internet, telecom, intellectual property, and human rights.

Previously, Carolina was a Project Director at New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute, the International Intellectual Property Director at Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), and a fellow at the Berkman Center at Harvard University. Carolina founded and led the [Open Educational Resources Project](#) in Brazil, which resulted in legislative and policy changes at national and state levels. Before moving to the US in 2007, Carolina worked at the Center for Technology and Society at FGV-Rio as a project coordinator and lecturer of law, and as in house counsel for Terra/Telefonica. She has done consulting work for Freedom House, UNESCO, ALADI, UNDP, USAID, and the Wikimedia Foundation. Carolina is a [Global Partners Digital International Associate](#) and serves in advisory roles for the [Open Knowledge Foundation](#), the [Saylor Foundation](#), and [Instituto Educadigital](#).

Carolina has an LL.M. in Intellectual Property from Boston University (US), an MBA from Instituto de Empresas (Spain), an MA in International Economic Negotiations from UNICAMP/UNESP (Brazil), and a JD from University of Sao Paulo - USP (Brazil).

- **Your vision for Best Bits. What do you think you can contribute on the steering committee?**

Coordination hubs such as Best Bits that act as fluid knowledge connectors are essential if we are to blend of policy, advocacy, communications, and technical know-how into good policy. Internet governance is often decided in the small details of massively complex technical systems, from infrastructure to applications to content to social layers. And from ANATEL in Brazil to the ITU, many non-transparent and non-multistakeholder decision-making bodies, often acting under excessive private sector influence, seek to expand their authority beyond the traditional telecom infrastructure. This will have enormous impacts that could be disastrous to the basic human rights and livelihood of the world's citizens.

The development and enforcement of internet governance rules by local, regional and international government, bodies or organizations is a clear form of political and economic control over this vastly complex system. The issues are not widely known, and it is difficult to rally large public support to create change from the outside-in, and thus Best Bits must find a way to work inside the set of stakeholders.

My own work is to build transnational collaboration among non-governmental organizations, and to build multidisciplinary knowledge among different groups with different goals and outcomes. This gives me unique experience in forging the connections among otherwise disagreeing parties that allows policy to move forward, and I would cherish the opportunity to bring that skillset to Best Bits. We must have a strong and vibrant organization that can last as long as the internet governance debate lasts, because the corporations and governments of the world have the resources to make these battles take a very long time, and to win the spending battles that can govern public awareness.

Best Bits is a perfect counterweight to the biases of the stakeholders described above. It is in this complex context that I discussed above that I envision Best Bits as a platform that supports public interest civil society strategy development - both horizontal and vertical coordination and action. From a petition-initiating platform, Best Bits has evolved into a community of individuals and organizations from around the world who have come together to highlight their various initiatives and foster mutual learning and broader engagement to advance a positive agenda for advancing civil society interests in Internet governance.

- **That you can commit time of up to several hours per week to devote to Best Bits. This may include facilitating the broader community of participants to organise meetings, draft joint statements or interventions, improve website resources, mediate disputes, etc. Where do you think your strengths lie?**

I am happily able to commit the time that is required into Best Bits and acknowledge that it may vary immensely from week to week. Over the years I have been deeply involved and committed to both paid and pro-bono projects that I believed, and still believe, can foster an open internet. I also have the full support of my management and organization to invest the time as needed.

My skills and background - law, policy, and negotiation, mediation and community organizing - give me a diverse variety of tools that are needed within many communities. I strongly believe in the power of openness and innovation to enrich lives and empower people, but more importantly, I know how to build management plans and take ideas from birth to practice in this space. I know that the kind of partnerships that Best Bits will undertake in the future will require not only a strong voice at the table, but also an understanding of how to “close the deal.” I have long been a diligent student of the art of dealmaking and the craft of contracts and papers. This experience gives me a unique perspective into the amount of work it takes to bring partnerships to life and to successful conclusion.

I know I can be a strong public voice for Best Bits, whenever it might be needed. I am fortunate enough to have represented my organizations and myself globally on many occasions, making me an experienced presenter and spokesperson. I am fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and have lived in Spain, England, and the United States in addition to my roots in Sao Paulo. As a result, I am comfortable working with diverse languages and cultures in international settings whether I am at the negotiating table or the podium.

- **Familiarity with the existing statement of objectives at <http://bestbits.net/organizer/best-bits/> and the draft procedures at <http://bestbits.net/wiki/main/procedures/>. (These are not written in stone, but they are a useful guideline to our current practices.)**

I have reviewed and I declare to understand the rules and procedures mentioned. I do also understand there is space for improvement of this rules and procedures based on community needs and consensus. I aim at serving as a channel of any expressed needs and facilitate discussions in order to achieve consensus.