

## Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality Indicators Annual report 2022

### 1. Background info about the DC (short)

UNESCO has actively engaged with the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) community for over a decade, receiving strong support in their collaborative efforts to prioritize Internet governance in global discussions.

UNESCO has consistently advocated for a human-centred universal Internet. In 2015, UNESCO's General Conference [endorsed the concept of Internet Universality](#), embracing four ROAM Principles: (R) human Rights-based, (O) Open, (A) Accessible to all, and (M) Multi-stakeholder participation.

In 2020, with the support of the IGF community and the MAG chair, UNESCO launched the Dynamic Coalition on [Internet Universality ROAM-X](#) indicators. This Coalition serves as a platform for sharing experiences and raising awareness about the importance of the ROAM-X indicators and good practices in applying them in more countries. It seeks to engage all countries and stakeholders globally to promote free, open, and accessible Internet for all. In 2022, thanks to the efforts of ROAM-X expert groups and DC partners, the framework made an impact through multi-stakeholder consultations and capacity-building workshops.

The coalition brings together diverse stakeholders to facilitate digital collaboration and encourage countries to adhere to UNESCO's ROAM principles. It achieves this by supporting countries to conduct voluntary national assessments and implementing recommendations that leverage the Internet's potential and harness advanced technologies to achieve the 2030 sustainable development agenda. Furthermore, the coalition aims to strengthen UNESCO's partnerships and synergies with key entities, including the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group, National and Regional IGFs (NRIs), Best Practice Platforms (BPP), and other Dynamic Coalitions to jointly advance the evidence-based Internet and policies at national, regional and global levels.

### 2. Activities conducted in the past year

#### a. Activities within the IGF

In 2022, UNESCO organized 18 advocacy events and training sessions to promote the ROAM principles and the Dynamic Coalition on IUIs. Among these events, eight sessions were linked to the global IGF and the NRIs:

1. "UNESCO ROAM-X framework for understanding and improving digital governance" - **West-Africa Internet Governance Forum 2022**, 26 May 2022
2. [Assessing Internet Universality ROAM-X indicators to advance digital transformation in Europe](#) - **European Dialogue on Internet Governance** (EuroDIG) 2022: June 20 2022
3. [Scale up the Internet Universality ROAM-X indicators assessment in Africa for inclusive and humanistic digital transformation](#) – 19 July 2022, Africa Internet Governance Forum
4. Closing remarks addressed by Marielza Oliveira, UNESCO's Director for Partnership and Operational Programme Monitoring - **Asia-Pacific Internet Governance Forum 2022**, September 2022
5. [Internet Governance Forum 2022](#)  
Day 0 pre-event: [Shaping global digital governance and measuring meaningful connectivity for all: the ROAM approach](#) – 28 November 2022

DC session: [Strengthening Digital Ecosystems through Shared Principles](#) – 2 December 2022

6. Training on the ROAM principles - **North Africa School of Internet Governance:** 12-14 December 2022
7. ["Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Human Rights"](#) - **North Africa Internet Governance Forum 2022** - 15-16 December 2022

#### b. **Activities beyond the IGF**

During external advocacy events, sessions were dedicated to the presentation of the Dynamic Coalition on IUIs to global stakeholders who were called on to join this new shared space for digital transformation and collaboration. Notably, these sessions took place at various events, including:

##### **Global advocacy:**

- ["Advancing Internet Universality to support sustainable development, digital collaboration and the WSIS+20 review"](#) - World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2022: 26 April 2022
- ["Advancing digital inclusion and sustainable development with the Internet Universality ROAM-X Indicators \(workshop and roundtable\)"](#) - ICEGOV 2022: 4 – 6 October 2022

##### **Internal meetings:**

- [Kick-off meeting of the ROAM-X assessment in Cambodia](#), 13 January 2022
- [Kick-off meeting of the ROAM-X assessment in Cote d'Ivoire](#), 7 March 2022
- [Regional dialogue on the IUIs project in Central Africa with CIPESA](#), 26 October 2022
- Orientation meetings:
  - Mongolia, 9h-10h30, 19 May 2022
  - [Central Africa](#), 10-12h, 31 May 2022.
- [Kick-off meeting of the ROAM-X assessment in Congo DRC](#), 31 October 2022
- [Kick-off meeting of the ROAM-X assessment in Congo RC](#), 7 November 2022
- Experts meeting on the update of the ROAM-X framework, 29 November 2022

The Dynamic Coalition convened discussions with its pioneering supporters, donors and partners, such as the German National Commission, Poland National Commission, Internet Society, Council of Europe, ICANN, CETIC, Association for Progressive Communication, African ICT Commission, CIPESA and others, on the strategic importance and relevance of the Internet Universality ROAM principles and ROAM-X Indicators. Additionally, the agenda of these discussions involved updating UNESCO's IUI ROAM-X framework to further increase the efficiency of the framework, to incorporate new dimensions that address the present digital requirements and contribute to sustainable development, peace, and security in both online and offline contexts and to expediate the implementation process.

The mandatory Multistakeholder Advisory Board (MAB) brought together stakeholders from different sectors to collaborate on developing recommendations and digital policies that drive digital transformation at the national level. The valuable insights and practices derived from these collaborations were shared with members of the Dynamic Coalition (DC) and interested Member States during knowledge-sharing sessions and orientation programs.

### 3. **Any outputs produced and/or research/studies conducted.**

- In 2022, Internet Universality Indicators (IUIs) project was progressing in over 30 countries across five continents. To foster closer engagement with UNESCO Field Offices, Member States, partners, and stakeholders worldwide, the IUIs team resumed the Dynamic Coalition's newsletter. This newsletter effectively disseminated content related to ROAM-X and provided information on activities that contribute to shaping digital transformation using UNESCO's Internet Universality ROAM principles. The newsletter not only kept the IUI community informed about ongoing and planned activities but also encouraged stakeholders to contribute to discussions and exchanges. (The 4th newsletter of the Dynamic Coalition of IUIs was published on 8 December 2022).
- The webpage for the Internet Universality Indicators project underwent an update in 2022 and is currently being enhanced. Notably, a newly created interactive map has been included on the webpage, displaying information on the status of the ROAM-X project in all concerned countries.

#### 4. Updates on internal processes

- Ms Tatevik Grigoryan has assumed the role of UNESCO's Internet Universality ROAM-X indicators project's focal point and will coordinate the [Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality indicators](#) to enhance and foster greater involvement in and engagement from stakeholders with the Dynamic Coalition.

#### 5. Priorities/objectives for the following year (short)

1. The Internet Universality Indicators developed by UNESCO hold significant importance as an internationally recognized research tool. They are widely acknowledged for their unique and comprehensive nature, making them highly relevant for all stakeholders and countries. Notably, these indicators have been referenced as crucial resources by key stakeholders in numerous global normative and standard-setting publications. Recognizing their value, prioritizing the dissemination and utilization of these indicators is crucial for fostering a shared understanding and promoting inclusive and effective digital policies worldwide.
2. In light of the rapidly evolving digital landscape, the experience of implementing the indicators, and consultations with leading experts, including through the Dynamic Coalition, ROAM-X indicators will be reviewed and updated to ensure their continued relevance and efficient and accelerated application, engaging all relevant stakeholders in consultations.
3. Our objective is to expand the project's reach to more countries and garner support from key ministers, policymakers, and stakeholders at a high level. The framework's unique strength lies in its holistic multi-stakeholder approach, which has the potential to drive impactful policy improvements that prioritize human rights at the national level. With this in mind, UNESCO is currently prioritizing the scaling-up of the ROAM-X assessments in four Central African countries, including, Burundi, Congo, Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the South Pacific (Tuvalu, Tonga, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu), and further supporting the ongoing assessments in all countries. We are emphasizing the importance of regional trainings and orientation meetings to ensure the successful evaluation in these regions.
4. In response to the United Nations Secretary General's recent initiative on the Global Digital Compact, the ROAM-X project aims to forge stronger connections with the 2030 Agenda and contribute to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs). In this vein, the Coalition will aim to further establish synergies with global stakeholders and institutions to shape global digital transformation, promote digital collaboration, and contribute to the Global Digital Compact.

5. Our priority is to encourage increased initiatives and actions among Coalition members to effectively implement the recommendations derived from national assessments.