

Dynamic Coalition on DNS Issues (DC-DNSI) 2022 Annual Report

Background information about the DC

The Dynamic Coalition on DNS Issues (DC-DNSI) has been working within the Internet Governance Forum since 2018. The DC-DNSI was created with the aim of providing an open avenue through which such issues may be discussed and debated at the IGF. Stakeholders can convene under the IGF's multistakeholder mantle to share information and exchange best practices on DNS-related policy challenges and, if desired, produce non-binding, more tangible outputs in line with the recommendation of the CSTD Working Group on IGF improvements.

The DC-DNSI has contributed to building a constructive, informed dialogue on DNS issues at IGF that complements work undertaken by the crucial organizations that develop the standards for and manage the DNS. Prior coalition work has focused on building support for the universal acceptance of Domain Names and internationalized Domain Names; promoting and raising awareness around Domain Name Security Extensions (DNSSEC); reviewing mechanisms to minimize Internet fragmentation from emerging regulations such as those on privacy, data localization, and data access; and canvassing the challenges faced by policymakers and decisionmakers when deciding to implement universal acceptance.

Activities conducted in 2022

a) Activities within the IGF

With the reactivation of the DC, the coalition devoted a significant portion of 2022 developing a pragmatic approach to tackle emerging threats that impact the functionality of the DNS. To this end, the DC began to lay the groundwork for establishing a cohesive group of various stakeholders from the multistakeholder community to discuss and promote responsible best practices in securing the DNS.

Luminary representatives of the DC's membership participated in various conversations during the 2022 IGF in Addis Abba, Ethiopia discussing issues around development of DNS policies and standards, highlighting good practices within the industry that use evidence to inform policy choices, and different approaches to data-based decision-making. These conversations highlighted existing and emerging governance gaps in the DNS value chain, and the need for renewed multistakeholder cooperation to render the Internet's core more secure and robust. These conversations laid the basis for proposed actions for 2023 and beyond.

b) Priorities/Objectives for the following year

The DC-DNSI priorities for 2023 include (but are not limited to):

- The DC plans to hold a session on Day 0 at EuroDIG 2023 in Tampere, Finland. The title of session: "[Mind the governance gap! Broadening the multistakeholder response to DNS-related cybersecurity threats.](#)" The goal of this session is to discuss ways to broaden multi-stakeholder responses to DNS abuse and identify potential governance gaps. The DC will present a roundtable discussion to explore these complex issues, and foster European multistakeholder responses, which will ultimately feed into the coalition's updates at the IGF in Kyoto, Japan, and annual DC activity report for 2023.
- The DC also will hold a session during IGF 2023 titled: "Close the Governance Gaps: New Paradigms for a Safer DNS." From evolving regulatory frameworks in Europe to the emergence of voluntary, industry-led responses to combat DNS-related online threats, multiple stakeholders are actively exploring ways of mitigating DNS-related cyberthreats and online harms. With these ongoing developments, clear governance gaps remain, and new ones are emerging. This only warrants the timing an urgency to hold these discussions on the global stage among the various experts and voices of the IGF community.
- The DC-DNSI recognizes that challenges remain, and others have emerged since the coalition's inception. During 2023, the DC plans to revisit its action plan, and re-focus its efforts to ensure the work being performed over the next two-years also addresses policy conversations around the WSIS+20 review. Coalition participants and the IGF community will continue to convene under the IGF's multistakeholder mantle to share information and exchange best practices on DNS-related policy challenges and, if desired, produce non-binding outputs.