



# Annual Report 2021

## Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media

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## 1. Background info about the DC

Established in April 2019 the Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media (DC-Sustainability) is a multi-stakeholder initiative formally operating within the IGF that is meant to be a hub for the journalism, news media, press freedom, journalism support, and media development communities to engage with important Internet governance and digital policy matters.

The DC-Sustainability arose as a key recommendation in our 2018 issue paper, and it specifically identified the sustainability of journalism and news media in the digital age as an area that urgently requires greater policy support. In the two years since it was launched, the Hub has evolved into a lively platform for conversations about media sustainability and with its global membership, the Hub has become a valuable space to collectively evaluate national-level opportunities and barriers to different solutions currently being explored by governments, advocacy organizations, and by newsrooms as they independently look to diversify income streams.

More information is available at: <https://groups.io/g/dc-sustainability>

## 2. Activities conducted in the past year

### Activities within the IGF

During 2021 Internet Governance Forum which took place in December in Katowice, Poland, the Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media (DC-Sustainability) hosted a panel on Trust Initiatives as the Future of News Media Sustainability<sup>1</sup>. Chaired in-person by Dr Courtney Radsch, GFMD's Tech Policy Advisor, and online by Daniel O'Maley of CIMA, the panel brought together members of the coalition to discuss the progress, effectiveness and interoperability of some of the leading journalism trust initiatives. Among the speakers were Guilherme Canela De Souza Godoi, Chief of Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists Section at UNESCO; Jason Lambert, Senior Director of Media Business at Internews; Olaf Steenfadt, Head of the Journalism Trust Initiative (JTI) at Reporters without Borders and Claire Wardle, US Director of First Draft News.

Radsch also participated as a speaker at the session organized by the Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality ROAM-X Indicators (IUIs) at IGF 2021, which aimed to engage with all countries and all stakeholders worldwide to promote free, open and accessible Internet for all

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<sup>1</sup> The session report can be [read here](#). The video recording of the session is available through [IGF's Youtube channel](#).

and provide a space for multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration through the new Dynamic Coalition on IUIs.

## Activities beyond the IGF

### DC-Sustainability coalition session at the WPDF conference 2021

As part of this year's UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day Conference, the DC-Sustainability coalition hosted a workshop to strategise the ongoing work of the coalition and discuss the links between media sustainability and digital policy decisions, with input from DC members representing Australia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the EU, and South Eastern Europe. Read the entire report here:

<https://gfmd.info/dc-sustainability-coalition-session-at-the-wpdf-conference-2021/>

## Outputs produced and/or research/studies conducted

GFMD's Executive Director Mira Milosevic was invited by the Open Internet for Democracy Initiative – with which we collaborate closely given that it is a project of CIMA, CIPE, and NDI – to contribute to their publication "The Internet In 2030: Digital Rights Experts on the Decade Ahead.", available here:

<https://openinternet.global/news/internet-2030-digital-rights-experts-decade-ahead>

## 3. Updates on internal processes

The GFMD-coordinated mailing list of the Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media (DC-Sustainability) is an active hub for discussion on the links between Internet governance and media sustainability. The group currently has 250 members. During 2021 there were around 160 updates sent to the mailing list, many of which sparked active discussion between members, creating more than 20 email threads. The most significant of these were one in response to an article about the Google News Showcase and the partnerships that Google has developed with publishers in many countries, and another on the attempt of the Korean government to pass a law on "fake news".

One of the group's core members, Corinne Podger, wrote a [short guest](#) post for the GFMD website summarizing the key topics discussed over the mailing list:

- In March 2021, DC-Sustainability members received links to resources on women's participation in journalism, as part of International Women's Day –

including links to GFMD webinars on [Gender Conscious Leadership](#) in Media and [Promoting Women's Voices in News](#).

The DC-Sustainability also organized and hosted several events including:

- a webinar focusing on the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)'s recent review of digital platforms (for more information see webinar section above).
- GFMD and the DC-Sustainability co-coordinators organized a Q&A session with Google's Madhav Chinnappa, Director of News Ecosystem Development.

## 4. Priorities/objectives for 2022

The Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media (DC-Sustainability) has welcomed a new co-coordinator in 2022, Waqas Naeem, programme officer for International Media Support (IMS) in Pakistan who has been developing various training resources for several journalism topics including data journalism, investigative reporting, and fact-checking, and trained over 300 local journalists through various training workshops and courses over the past decade.

The main aim of the 2022 work plan for the DC-Sustainability is to re-engage the community and seek more active participation of its members in the topics and issues related to internet governance and media development. In order to achieve that, three main activities have been outlined:

- **2022 DC-Sustainability Report:** Production of a collaborative report on issues that affect media sustainability in the digital sphere. The coordinators will launch a call for proposals to compile research and studies from the DC-Sustainability members.
- **Learning Calls:** The objective of this activity is to encourage DC-Sustainability members to exchange knowledge and facilitate interactive and constructive dialogue among them. These calls will also include the participation of relevant experts or platform representatives that could inform and update members on emerging issues, new policies developments, etc. At least two of these learning calls will be organized during 2022, in June and September/October.
- **IGF 2022:** The 2022 DC-Sustainability report will be launched during the session at the 2022 Internet Governance Forum. The session will address the current challenges for media and news sustainability in the digital sphere and it will seek active participation from the DC members to present their research and studies in this field.