

Template to be filled in by each Dynamic Coalition taking part in the main session

Name of Dynamic Coalition	Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD)
Representative in the main session	Gunela Astbrink
How has the work of the DC during the COVID-19 pandemic helped contribute to the socio-economic renewal of the economy ¹	<p>Discrimination towards persons with disability has been thrown into the spotlight during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>DCAD members have raised issues in a variety of forums about:</p> <p>Inaccessibility of some key websites, apps and online services for persons with disabilities that we rely on during pandemic lockdowns. COVID-19 information may be provided quickly and normal accessibility checks are not done.</p> <p>Persons with disability who are fortunate enough to retain their employment but working from home are faced with limited bandwidth and lack of face to face technical support.</p> <p>A government program in the UK, Access to Work, assisting persons with disability to adapt the working environment and to pay for communication access, has introduced a fast track for those whose situation has changed due to COVID-19. While it is a useful model, it does not cover transcription costs but only captioning for persons with hearing impairments.</p> <p>While many women with disabilities endure physical abuse and cultural discrimination, some who are working online from home have found greater value and safety. Digital literacy becomes even more important to avoid cyberbullying.</p> <p>Students with disabilities may be especially disadvantaged due to lack of affordability of devices</p>

¹ For example: *identifying ways to ensure access and safety for groups at risk; addressing issues of connectivity, sustainability and freedom of speech under the crisis*

	<p>and bandwidth for home use.</p> <p>These issues together with limited digital literacy are exacerbated in many rural areas of the Global South.</p> <p>On the other hand, sign language interpretation of key government COVID-19 messages has become more prominent and increased the visibility of Deaf people.</p> <p>These are just some factors that DCAD members will continue to highlight and work for attitudinal change with governments, industry and the technical community through implementation of standards, regulation and legislation.</p>
<p>Has the work of the DC during the COVID-19 pandemic identified any activities related to its work that could contribute to the socio-economic renewal of the economy after the pandemic ends</p>	<p>Guidance on accessible online participation has been developed and disseminated by DCAD members. Some key communication tools are accessible indicating that it is financially feasible to develop systems that meet the needs of the majority of the population including persons with disability.</p> <p>DCAD has reached out to NRIs to implement accessibility provisions in physical venue and online interaction.</p> <p>A positive example is the 2020 Asia Pacific Regional IGF. One of the opening plenary speakers was a person with a disability thus mainstreaming accessibility. The session on accessibility and disability included sign language interpreters. All sessions were captioned. This sets a good example of inclusion for the whole IG community.</p> <p>We need to retain a raised awareness of the challenges faced by many people in our society and a greater sense of community responsibility.</p>
<p>How can this DC, in collaboration with other DCs, engage the wider IGF community to develop innovative ways to achieve global,</p>	<p>The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterras launched the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy in 2019 and stated: ‘when we remove policies or biases or obstacles to opportunity for persons with</p>

inclusive socio-economic renewal, and get the SDGs back on track?

disabilities, the whole world benefits.'

<https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/>

This Strategy aims, amongst others, to work with the SDGs, seven targets of which explicitly refer to persons with disability.

The Strategy states that disability inclusion is a cross-cutting issue thus aligning with DCAD's expressed plan to collaborate with other DCs for engagement with the wider IGF community. A positive example was the successful workshop on IoT and accessibility in 2018.