

Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality Indicators

Annual report 2021

1. Background info about the DC

Based on its deep engagement with the Internet Governance Forum community in the past 15 years, UNESCO has been strongly supported by IGF, working together with its multi-stakeholder community to place Internet governance at the center of the global debate.

UNESCO has also been advocating for a human-centric, universal Internet for a long time. In 2015, the General Conference endorsed the [Internet Universality ROAM Principles](#), which call for an Internet that is (R) human Rights-based, (O) Open, (A) Accessible by everyone, nurtured by (M) Multi-stakeholder participation and governance.

With the support of the IGF community and MAG chair, UNESCO launched the **Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality ROAM-X indicators at IGF 2020**, as a new shared space for sharing experiences and raising awareness of the value of ROAM principles and indicators. The dynamic coalition seeks to engage with all countries and all stakeholders worldwide to promote free, open and accessible Internet for all and provide a space for multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration.

The coalition serves as an umbrella platform for facilitating digital collaboration on countries' alignment to UNESCO's ROAM principles via national assessments and implementation of recommendations to harness Internet and advanced technologies' potential to achieve the 2030 sustainable development agenda. It also aims to strengthen UNESCO's synergies and partnership with IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group, National and Regional IGFs (NRIs), Best Practice Forums (BPFs) and other Dynamic Coalitions to jointly advance the evidence-based Internet policies at national, regional and global levels.

2. Activities conducted in the past year

2.1. Activities within the IGF

Out of the 20 advocacy, sessions organized by UNESCO to promote the ROAM principles and the Dynamic Coalition on IUIs, 6 sessions were linked to the global IGF and the NRIs:

- **IGF 2021:** [“Advancing Internet Universality ROAM principles and Indicators \(IUIs\) for the Internet United“](#)

- [“UNESCO’s Call to all stakeholders: Promote Internet Universality ROAM principles and Join the Dynamic Coalition”](#) :
- **West-African IGF 2021:** Advancing digital transformation in the West Africa SubRegion via applying UNESCO’s Internet Universality ROAM Principles and Indicators
- **Africa IGF 2021:** [“Advancing digital transformation in the Africa region via applying UNESCO’s Internet Universality ROAM Principles and Indicators“](#):
- **Namibia IGF 2021:** [“Advancing Internet Universality ROAM principles and Indicators”](#)
- **Asia-Pacific regional IGF 2021:** [“Inclusion and Trust, touching on key issues including Digital Rights and Human Rights”](#)
- **European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) 2021:** [“Assessing Internet Universality in Europe and beyond”](#)

2.2. Activities beyond the IGF

In 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, including at:

- **Rightscon 2021:** [“Advancing human rights and digital collaboration: UNESCO call for participation in the IGF Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality Indicators \(IUIs\)”](#)
- **WSIS 2021:** [Advancing Internet Universality for responding to the pandemic and supporting SDGs](#)
- **EU’s Fundamental Rights 2021:** [“Advancing human-rights with ROAM at the digital age”](#)
- **Stockholm Internet Forum 2021:** [Building Trust and advancing human rights through evidence-based Internet policies and Internet Universality](#)
- **International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR):** [Breaking borders and boundaries: UNESCO’s holistic framework of Internet Universality ROAM principles and indicators](#)

Pioneering supporters, donors and partners of the Dynamic Coalition (such as the German National Commission, Poland National Commission, Internet Society, Council of Europe, ICANN, CETIC, Association for Progressive Communication, African ICT commission and more) were invited to discuss the strategic relevance of the Internet Universality ROAM principles and Indicators in fostering sustainable development, peace and security, shape global digital transformation and digital collaboration.

Through the establishment of the Multistakeholder Advisory Board (MAB), mandatory to complete the ROAM assessment, stakeholders from various sectors were able to

engage actively with each other resulting in a collaboration to formulate recommendations and digital policies to advance digital transformation at national level. These practices are shared to the DC members and interested Member States during knowledge-sharing sessions and orientation meetings.

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

With the Internet Universality Indicators (IUIs) project progressing in above 30+ countries across five continents in 2021, the IUIs team sought to engage more closely with Field offices, Member States and all stakeholders worldwide to help shape digital transformation using the UNESCO's Internet Universality ROAM principles (Rights, Openness, Access and Multistakeholder) and advance the evidence-based Internet policies at national, regional, and global levels through the launch of the DC of IUIs newsletter.

The 3rd newsletter of the Dynamic Coalition of IUIs was published on 2 December 2021, highlighting upcoming advocacy events and progress in the IUIs project.

The final report of ROAM in Germany was published in English and German by UNESCO as the 5th edition in the ROAM-X assessment series in September 2021. It was shared with DC partners and global stakeholders as the first national assessments of [Internet Universality ROAM-X Indicators](#) (IUIs) in Europe and was presented to the Digital Agenda Committee of the German parliament in June 2021.

4. Updates on internal processes

A webpage of the Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality indicators was recently launched to encourage stakeholders to join the Dynamic Coalition and subscribe to the newsletter dedicated to the IUIs project. Kindly visit the following webpage to join the DC:

<https://en.unesco.org/feedback/join-our-internet-universality-community>

5. Priorities/objectives for the following year

- UNESCO's Internet Universality Indicators, as an "internationally recognized research tool", are widely acknowledged as a unique and comprehensive tool relevant for all stakeholders and countries and were referred as key resources by key stakeholders in a number of global normative and standard-setting publications.
- National assessments of IUIs progressing in more countries. We aim for the process to attract high level attention and support from countries key ministers, policy makers and multistakeholder actors, and its strong impact on policy improvement has been evident, with multistakeholder approach and mechanism

being strengthened to promote human rights in the policy making process at national level. Thus, UNESCO is currently focusing on the importance of scaling-up the ROAM assessment in the Central African and Micronesia sub-regions to present the UNESCO Internet Universality ROAM Indicators and emphasize the relevance of ensuring this evaluation in at least 5 countries of the sub-region (Cameroun, Burundi, Congo, Gabon, République Démocratique du Congo) as well in small islands in Micronesia (Tuvalu, Tonga, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu).

- Trigger more projects and actions alongside members of the Coalition to implement the recommendations from national assessments such as reinforcing the national digital laboratory in Senegal, Benin and Kenya, enhancing privacy in Uruguay and gender equality in Brazil and Thailand. The recommendations formulated in the assessment in Germany were discussed in the German Parliament for their further action.
- Build synergies with global stakeholders and institutions via the Dynamic Coalition on ROAM to shape global digital transformation, foster digital collaboration and formulate the global digital compact.
- UNESCO Internet Universality project and Dynamic Coalition on ROAM further contributing to inform and address human rights concern in the COVID-response but also on Internet governance related issues amidst warfare.