

DC SIG 2022 Annual Report

2022 saw the beginnings of a transition in the DC Schools in Internet Governance. We are moving from a small group of experienced SIGs with a few dedicated members to a medium sized group consisting of many young and forming schools. Scaling up our ways of working is a task that has yet to be completed. 2022 featured the start of that changing dynamic. If the DC SIG is to successfully grow and remain useful, 2023 will need to be a year of transformation.

The year started in cooperation with the IGF Secretariat and its chosen contractor, to create a curriculum they felt comfortable distributing widely. A large part of the base work originated with the work the DC SIG had done over the years in creating its Toolkit and its Operations Guide.. This example of the usefulness of the work beyond our membership and new schools that found their way to the DC SIG was a good example for us and proved satisfying to those who had worked for several years on the base materials. It is work that the DC SIG appreciated doing but its use of DC SIG resources did put a strain on the unfunded DC SIG at times.

2022 was also a year where many new schools were beginning to operate. The DC started seeing more participants and more interest from schools in formation.. These new efforts brought new issues to the DC SIG which we have yet to work through. Scaling the work, in a time with limited funding, was a challenge in 2022 that is expected to continue in 2023. During the year, several schools started to widen their offerings and to innovate. Some of the innovations were discussed in Addis Ababa.

As part of the IGF goal of looking at the SDGs and the IGF's contribution to those SDGs, the DC SIG spent time looking at our work and its application to the SDGs. Schools were asked to discuss the SDGs their programs had contributed to. While this analysis has a ways to go, we had a strong contribution that can be seen in the slides from the IGF held. The main focus to this point has been on SDGs:

- SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Target [5.2](#), [5.5](#))
- SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (Target [7.a](#), [7.b](#))
- SDG 13 Take Urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (Target [13.2](#))
- SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions for all (Target [16.1](#), [16.7](#), [16.a](#))

It is expected that focus will continue to be worked on in 2023, with interest discussed in the group on the following SDGs:

- SDG 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere (Target [1.a](#), [1.b](#))
- SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well being for all at all ages (Target [3.9](#))

- SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life long learning opportunity for all(Target [4.5](#), [4.7](#))
- SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Target [6.b](#))
- SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (Target [9.1](#), [9.c](#))
- SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (Target [14.b](#))
- SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (Target [17.7](#), [17.16](#), [17.18](#))

These are all areas in which, at least some of the participating schools felt they had a contribution to make in their programs, but which they had not worked into their curricula yet.

Plans for 2023 include both work started in previous years, but as of yet incomplete, and new work that is being considered. The DC SIG is very interested in contributing to the capacity growth envisioned in the GDC and in plans for the evolution of the IGF.

In terms of continuing work, that will mostly be concerned with researching curricular materials and includes the following possible tasks:

- Ongoing development of the toolkit with additional topics and subject areas
- Further development of the Operations guide for how to form and manage a SIG.
- Developing special purpose programs for, especially
 - Parliamentarians
 - National focus programs
- Developing curricula on some specific topics, e.g.
 - Cybersecurity
 - Digital economy/Transformation
 - Human rights
 - Judiciary and the Internet
 - Health sector and data protection
 - Accessibility

There is a strong interest in continuing to work with the IGF Secretariat on sample curricula, but it is uncertain to what degree the IGF Secretariat is either interested or funded for such work.

Another segment of the work, some of which begun in 2022 and some of which is new, includes:

- Funding for Schools. While many new schools are opening, funding them is a problem. Additionally there is the problem that most schools apply for funds from the same funders. This is both confusing for the funders and frustrating for the schools as there is no funder that funds all schools. For schools to continue to be created and to thrive will take solving this problem.

- Funding for DC SIG work. Most of the work is done by a few volunteers, and funding for those volunteers is sparse when it exists at all. The DC SIG gets the most done when it can hire the appropriate consultants to do the work.
- Continue collecting interviews: There was a very successful program in 2021 collecting video interviews with the leaders of schools. These serve as examples and encouragement for new schools. This was a one person effort, and like most other DC SIG efforts, would need a funding source to continue and develop into an ongoing resource..
- Resource library: The DC SIG Wiki has the beginning of such a resource library, but it needs to grow and be maintained in order to avoid growing stale or fail to keep up with the developments in the field of Internet Governance and its education.

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