

Annual Report 2025

DC on Children's Rights in the Digital Environment (DC-CRIDE)

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1. Reporting period

1 January to 31 December 2025

2. Compiler

Stiftung Digitale Chancen | Digital Opportunities Foundation Germany (DC Co-Chair)

3. Background info about the DC-CRIDE

The DC Children's Rights in the Digital Environment was established as the DC Child Online Safety (COS) in 2007 at the 2nd IGF in Rio de Janeiro by organizations working with and for children and youths, chaired by ecpat international with support from Digital Opportunities Foundation, Germany (Stiftung Digitale Chancen). Its aim was to establish a dialogue and address fundamental and practical issues impacting on child safety in the online environment.

Since 2007, there have been significant evolutions in the scale and nature of opportunity, risk and harm to which children are exposed in digital environments, and the relevance of the group continues to expand and grow.

From 2019 to 2021 members of the Dynamic Coalition were part of the working group supporting the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in elaborating General Comment #25 on children's rights in relation to the digital environment. When in March 2021 the GC #25 was adopted the Dynamic Coalition renamed from Child Online Safety (DC COS) to Children's Rights in the Digital Environment (DC CRIDE).

Since February 2025 Salla Huikuri, Head of Child Protection and Technology at ecpat int. and Torsten Krause, Head of project Child Protection and Children's Rights in the Digital Environment at Digital Opportunities Foundation co-chair the Dynamic Coalition CRIDE.

4. Key objectives

- Ensure a safer and more secure online environment for children and youth
- Establish on-going exchange of experiences between all stakeholders
- Encourage procedures for the improvement of legal regulations as well as self-regulation mechanisms towards child safety online
- Strengthen efforts on all levels to fight child sexual abuse imagery of all kind
- Strengthen efforts for the empowerment of children and youths themselves
- Discuss how to ensure that all tools such as web-based reporting mechanisms or age verification instruments restricting access for younger users to certain types of content and services provided to children such as awareness raising campaigns or educational content through digital platforms are employed reasonably
- Ensure that the needs and rights of children as users are respected in the development and provision of new services and applications online

- Create a platform for child rights agencies and freedom of expression advocates to dialogue on issues of mutual concern.

5. *Activities conducted in 2025*

a. *Intersessional Activities and Outputs of Members of DC CRIDE*

Members of the DC are working on the themes and questions addressed by the DC throughout the year. These activities contribute to the broad and deep collective knowledge base upon which the DC operates globally and inform the thinking of the DC and its approach to bring key child rights issues forward to the IGF community, although carried out on an individual base and not generally coordinated by or through the DC.

Please find below a non-exhaustive list of activities of DC CRIDE members:

i. Publications

Center for Online Safety and Liberty (COSL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report "Drawing the Line Watchlist"
Childfund Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey "Children and Youths in Risk of Grooming via Online Games"
Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk German Children's Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochure „Sharing is not Caring“ • Report "Kinderrechte und KI"
Digital Futures for Children centre (London School of Economics/5Rights Foundation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report: "The impact of General comment No. 25 in the UNCRC monitoring process". Sylwander, K R. & Livingstone, S. • Guideline: "Guiding principles for addressing technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse". van der Spuy, A., Witting, S., Burton, P., Day, E., Livingstone, S. & Ringmar Sylwander, K.
Ecpat International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report: Down to Zero Global Report: The role of the informal sector and the sharing economy within travel and tourism in the prevention and response to the sexual exploitation of children • Brief: Gender considerations in online child sexual exploitation and abuse: A focus on boys • Report: Children know better Child led research, global summary report • Toolkit: Tools for participatory advocacy • Guidelines: Terminology matters: Second Edition of the terminology guidelines • Toolkit: The myth behind the myths: Confronting harmful assumptions on child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) to better protect children
Jugendschutz.net Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report „Hass- und Gewaltpropaganda auf Discord“

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report "Virtuelle Influencer:innen" • Report "Social Commerce" • Report "Wie sicher ist Spotify?" „How safe is Spotify?" • Report "Antifeminismus online" "Antifeminism Online" • Report „Kindheit online“ • Guideline in cooperation with Save the Children Germany (lead): "On the Sensitive Handling of Children’s Photos and Videos in Institutions and Organisations" • Article "Islamistische Inhalte und Ansprachen in Sozialen Medien" in BzKJ Aktuell 3/2025
NetMission.Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study "The Escalation of Sexual Deepfake Crimes Among South Korean Youth: Analyzing the 2024 Telegram Scandal and Legislative Responses" • Report "Combating Sexual Deepfakes. Safeguarding Teens Globally Synthesis Document."
Stiftung Digitale Chancen Digital Opportunities Foundation Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article "Sexualisierte Gewalt online technisch erkennen und bekämpfen" by Croll, Jutta and Krause, Torsten. Published in merz Medien und Erziehung. Jg. 69 Nr. 2 (2025): Medienpädagogik und Klimakrise. Seite 66 bis 73.

ii. Conferences and meetings

Childfund Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EVAC (Ending Violence against Children) Event in Tokyo with keynote by Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.
Digital Futures for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host of an expert roundtable for WSIS 20+, 31 January 2025 • Contribution to the WSIS+20 outcome document
Ecpat International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DigiAmen: Tech facilitated sexual exploitation and abuse of children MENA workshop in Rabat, Morocco, May 5-7, 2025 • C0C0N 2025 Hacking and Cybersecurity conference, Kerala, India, Oct 10-11, 2025 • Trustcon 2025 San Francisco
Jugendschutz.net Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input "Ai and Extremism" at the conference "Zukunftswerkstatt" of BzKJ (Federal Agency for Child and Youth Protection in the Media) • Attendance at INHOPE Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation at INHOPE's Data Exchange and Intelligence Forum • Input and presentation at INACH Annual Conference as well as INACH summit • Discussion Input regarding DSA guidelines and DFA at the Online Safety Experts Group • Webinar: "Gemeinsam gegen sexualisierte Gewalt im Netz" with FSM e. v. and eco e. V. • Input "Deep Talk zu Deep Fakes: Pädagogische Perspektiven zu KI und Jugendschutz" at Gutes Aufwachsen mit Medien (Growing Up with Media) • Presentation "AI as a challenge for youth media protection" at the meeting of the Advisory Board Safer Internet Germany • jugendschutz.net Insights Webinar: "Extremely funny – humor as a means of right-wing extremist propaganda" • jugendschutz.net Insights Webinar: "Islamist influencing: How Islamists reach young people online" • jugendschutz.net Insights Webinar: "Deepfakes in election campaigns, misanthropic AI content, or virtual influencers spreading problematic ideas" • Input: „Extrem lustig“: Sich mit Memes und Humor als Mittel von Hass, Hetze und Propaganda auseinandersetzen (“Extremely funny”: Using memes and humor as a means of combating hate, incitement, and propaganda) at the 18. Deutschen Kinder- und Jugendhilfetag (18th German Child and Youth Welfare Day) in cooperation with JFF
<p>Federal Office for the Enforcement of Children’s Rights in Digital Services (KidD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the course of its activities, KidD has built up a partner network and regularly organizes meetings within this framework to provide information on topics related to the protection of children and young people in the media, but also to obtain information and suggestions from the partner network's wealth of experience. Topics at these meetings have included “Structural precautions as a measure against sexualized violence against minors online” (June 2025) and “Artificial intelligence – opportunities and challenges on online platforms” (January 2026).
<p>Stiftung Digitale Chancen Digital Opportunities Foundation Germany</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution at the European Commission’s discussion „Media Consumption Habits of Young People” February 15, 2025 • Attendance at the Digital Policy Lab of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue: "Online Plenary Session: Emerging Online Risks and Youth Radicalisation", March 19, 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at European Commission’s conference „Global High Level Conference on Governance of Web 4.0 and Virtual Worlds“, March 31 and April 1st, 2025 • Input „Up2date im digitalen Raum – kinderrechtliche Impulse für den Jugendmedienschutz“ at the Deutschen Jugendhilfetag, May 15, 2025 • Input at the Meet&Greet „Sind Altersgrenzen in Social Media mit den Kinderrechten vereinbar?“ of the National Coalition Germany, August 20, 2025 • Moderation of the joint conference of ECPAT Deutschland, Innocence in Danger, DKHW and Stiftung Digitale Chancen “Digitale Grenzverletzungen – Ausbeutung von Kindern und Jugendlichen erkennen und bekämpfen”, September 16,2025 • Lecture “Extended and Virtual Reality and Children’s Rights” at the Final Conference of the project XR4Human, September 30,2025 • Attendance at the TikTok Safety Summit, November 3, 2025 • Participation at meetings to the WSIS+20 outcome process and contribution to the WSIS+20 outcome document • Attendance at the Digital@UNGA WSIS+20 Edition and WSIS+20 High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly, December 15-17, 2025
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iii. Other processes

- NetMission.Asia took part in the APAC Youth Joint Letter WSIS+20.

b. Activities within the IGF

Joint Dynamic Coalitions Session in Oslo, Norway (DC cluster session 1)
[An Inclusive, Lifelong Multistakeholder, Rights-Based Approach to Innovation in AI, the Metaverse, Web 4.0, and other Emerging Technologies](#)
Monday June 23, 2025

Speakers

Rajendra Pratap Gupta (DC-Digital Economy)
Surabhi Srivastava (DC-Journalism)
Janice Richardson (IS3C)
Dino Dell’Accio (DC-ET)
Amrith Kumar (DTC)
Torsten Krause (DC-CRIDE)

Onsite Moderator

Jutta Croll, German Digital Opportunities Foundation, CSO WEOG

Online Moderator

Wout de Natris Van der Borght (IS3C)

Rapporteur

Jutta Croll, German Digital Opportunities Foundation, CSO WEOG

Executive Summary

This Dynamic Coalitions cluster session at the Internet Governance Forum was moderated by Jutta Croll, Chairwoman of the German Digital Opportunities Foundation and co-facilitator of the Dynamic Coalitions Coordination Group. The session brought together representatives from six different Dynamic Coalitions (out of 32 currently active). Together with the DC on Digital Economy, the DC on Evolving Technologies, the DC Journalism, The Digital Teen Coalition and the Internet Standards, Security and Safety Coalition the Dynamic Coalition on Children's Rights in the Digital Environment were discussing human rights implications and potential risks of these technologies. In a dialogue with about 70 participants onsite and more online representatives of the above mentioned DCs discussed AI governance, Platforms' and developers' accountability, and policy pathways. The discussion focused on the need for more inclusive, ethical approaches to technology governance, while highlighting critical gaps in current frameworks that exclude key stakeholders, particularly teenagers and children.

Key Participants and Perspectives

Dino Cataldo Dell'Accio, Co-lead of the Dynamic Coalition on Emerging Technologies and Chief Information Officer of the United Nations Pension Fund, emphasized implementing innovative technologies responsibly and ethically. He shared concrete examples from the UN Pension Fund's work with digital identity solutions using biometrics and artificial intelligence, including serving diverse global populations with varying levels of digital access. Dell'Accio described implementing ISO 42001 standards for responsible use of AI and developing alternative solutions like kiosk modes for retirees without smartphones or data plans.

Surabhi Srivastava, representing the Dynamic Coalition on Sustainability of Journalism and News Media at RNW Media, presented concerns about how artificial intelligence is altering media landscapes. She highlighted the concentration of power in AI development and financial pressures forcing newsrooms to adopt AI tools despite potential ethical implications. Srivastava argued that AI tool costs create barriers for smaller media organizations, potentially exacerbating inequalities in information access and threatening freedom of expression through misinformation and content pollution.

Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, who leads the Dynamic Coalition on Digital Economy and runs the Global Think Tank Health Parliament, emphasized that 2.6 billion people still lack basic internet access. He described current technological changes as a civilizational transformation and advocated for treating certain technologies as digital public goods. Gupta introduced a framework of "three P's" – people, profits, and purpose – where purpose should guide the relationship between the other two. He also

mentioned “Gen Beta” – anyone born January 1, 2025 – as the next generation to consider in governance discussions.

Amrith Kumar explained that from the Dynamic Teen Coalition’s perspective the existing youth definitions (18-35) exclude teenagers from meaningful participation in internet governance discussions. He proposed a five-category age model encompassing child (0-12), teen (13-19), early career (18+), mid-career, and senior career participants. Kumar showed that even IGF programs like the 2025 Youth Mentorship Program maintain 18+ age requirements, thus hindering teen participation in governance processes that directly affect their digital experiences.

Torsten Krause, representing the Dynamic Coalition on Children’s Rights in the Digital Environment, pointed out that all technologies should serve people and respect their rights. To ensure this, he recommended focussing on the fact that one third of all users of the digital environment worldwide are under the age of 18 and are therefore considered children within the meaning of the UN CRC. He emphasized implementing child rights impact assessments for new technologies and services. Thus, the balance between the rights to protection, promotion and participation could be maintained and services could be designed to enable children and young people to participate safely. He also advocated for designing emerging technologies with children’s safety and meaningful participation in mind from the outset. Krause highlighted that biometric data collection from children requires higher protection standards and referenced General Comment 25 on children’s rights in relation to the digital environment.

Janice Richardson, representing the Dynamic Coalition on Internet Safety and Security Standards (IS3C) highlighted gaps in cybersecurity education and the need for improved collaboration between technology industries and educational sectors. Richardson emphasized that standards must be technically sound and accessible to all users, not just developers.

Digital Divides and Access Challenges

The discussion extensively examined how emerging technologies risk creating new forms of digital exclusion. Dr. Gupta’s emphasis on 2.6 billion people without internet access provided context for considering how AI and other advanced technologies might exacerbate existing inequalities. Dell’Accio supported this with practical examples, including work with Indigenous populations using remote sensing for health services and the need for alternative solutions for users without smartphones.

Inclusive Governance and Age-Based Participation

A central theme was the inadequacy of current participation mechanisms in internet governance. Kumar’s analysis of age-based exclusion challenged assumptions about inclusive governance, he stressed that teens are systematically excluded from IGF programs despite being active digital participants. Krause addressed these concerns from a children’s rights perspective, arguing for consideration of children’s rights and meaningful participation in technology development processes.

Ethical Frameworks and Standards

Panelists discussed balancing ethical guidelines with practical implementation. Gupta warned against over-regulation that could stifle innovation, advocating for ethical frameworks that prioritize human purposes. Dell’Accio emphasized the importance of explanation and transparency in AI systems. Richardson highlighted the gap between existing standards and their practical understanding and implementation.

Children's Rights and Digital Protection

The discussion addressed protecting children's rights while ensuring meaningful participation in governance processes. Krause emphasized that children who are usually the early adopters of emerging technologies face unique vulnerabilities but also possess rights to participate in decisions affecting their digital experiences according to the UN Convention on the rights of the child. The conversation explored tensions between protection and participation.

Key Areas of Agreement

Multiple speakers agreed that technology development must prioritize human needs and rights over pure profit motives. Gupta's "people, profits, and purpose" framework resonated across different coalition perspectives. Despite representing different constituencies, speakers consistently agreed that current digital governance structures inadequately serve various age groups, particularly teens and children. Speakers across coalitions agreed that existing digital divides risk being amplified by emerging technologies, requiring proactive inclusion strategies.

Structural Recommendations

- Development of child rights impact assessments for new technologies
- Adoption of "inclusiveness by design" principles alongside existing "privacy by design" and "safety by design" approaches
- Discussion of Kumar's five-category age model for inclusive participation and assessment whether it is fit for purpose
- Stronger partnerships between educational sectors and technology industries

Framework Development

- Development of multi-stakeholder ethical frameworks for AI governance
- Focus on making standards understandable and widely adopted
- Treatment of certain technologies as digital public goods

Conclusion

This Dynamic Coalitions cluster session demonstrated both consensus around human-centric technology development and significant challenges in current governance approaches. The discussion revealed strong agreement on the need for inclusive participation, ethical frameworks, and addressing digital divides, while highlighting structural barriers that prevent meaningful engagement. The session's focus on practical solutions and concrete recommendations provides a foundation for continued work toward more inclusive and effective governance and toward the implementation of safety and security standards for emerging technologies.

The panelists' emphasis on moving beyond purely technical approaches toward comprehensive frameworks addressing economic, social, and rights-based dimensions suggests that internet governance itself may need to evolve alongside the technologies it seeks to govern. The unresolved questions around implementation mechanisms and structural changes underscore the need for sustained engagement and innovative approaches to ensure that emerging technologies serve human purposes while respecting fundamental rights.

Key take-aways

- All technologies should serve people and respect their rights; new and emerging technologies need to be assessed in regard of human rights implications and potential risks in advance.
- The digital divide is growing “digital and metaverse divide” impacting access and participation across age, region, and socio-economic status.
- Platform accountability, implementation of the principle safety-by-design, and transparency in digital infrastructures are assumed to be adequate strategies to address issues coming along with new and emerging technologies

Action Points

- Make use of the potential of the multistakeholder platform of IGF not only to discuss AI governance, platform providers’ and developers’ accountability and policy pathways but also to pave a human rights respecting way forward.
- Employ representative standards in regard of new and emerging technologies through inclusive, lifelong multistakeholder frameworks grounded in rights-based governance.
- Promoting strategies and building movements for the development and deployment of new technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, especially in the Global South.

Joint Dynamic Coalitions Session in Oslo, Norway (DC cluster session 2) [Safety and Security? Learning the hard way. Cybersecurity and Safety lessons for the 21st century](#)

Tuesday June 24, 2025

Speakers

João Falcão Moreno (IS3C)

Liz Orembo (IS3C)

Jutta Croll (DC-CRIDE)

Jonathan Cave (DC-IoT)

Matthias Hudobnik (DC-IoT)

Elif Kiesow Cortez (IS3C)

Onsite Moderator

Wout de Natris Van der Borght, (IS3C)

Online Moderator

Maarten Botterman, GNKS Consult, ICANN Board

Rapporteur

Torsten Krause, German Digital Opportunities Foundation, CSO WEOG

Executive Summary

The Dynamic Coalitions on Internet Standards, Security and Safety, on Children's Rights in the digital environment as well as on the Internet of Things discussed in this joined session the current state of the ICT security and safety, actions and measures to ensure online safety for different groups, the role of certification and labelling to support users and how procurements may advance ICT security by design.

The IoT perspective was specifically applied to the discussion of emerging priorities and the challenges and prospects of global alignment. As IoT has evolved to include billions of devices, operating across many physical environments (e.g. smart cities, supply chains and infrastructures) enabling or carrying out data-driven decision-making, automation and new services; this raises new challenges in privacy, security, and interoperability. As the IoT - and latterly AI - have become more and more ubiquitous, the potential for unconsidered reliance, insensitivity to emerging risks and changes in human behaviour driven by technological change have grown. Therefore nations worldwide are recognizing the urgency and launching proactive programs to secure their digital futures.

Protecting long-term privacy, meeting evolving data regulations, and mitigating the potential costs of quantum-enabled breaches are major challenges. This applies e.g. to the 'generational' problem in which devices of many vintages must interact, and in which permissions and access may need to be updated for the stock of devices as uses evolve. At the moment, security updates tend to be based on assumed lifetimes, creating security holes for end-of-life devices, lack of response to the pace and nature of changing use cases and 'bottom-up' or user-led innovation. This 'closed-loop' orientation leads to potential failures at a systematic scale and disadvantage for less-prosperous regions or older and younger generations.

With billions of Internet of Things (IoT) devices rapidly connecting our world, from smart homes to critical infrastructure, the vulnerability of current cryptographic systems to future quantum attacks is a pressing concern. A current report provides a comprehensive overview of the Post Quantum Computing (PQC) policy landscape in the US and EU. It shows distinct yet converging approaches. Both regions emphasize public-private collaboration international coordination to ensure a harmonized and effective global transition to quantum-resistant security, recognizing the shared imperative to protect critical digital infrastructure. The report also emphasizes the social, legal, economic, and environmental implications of the PQC transition. PQC is crucial for maintaining trust in digital infrastructure, preserving long-term privacy against "harvest now, decrypt later" attacks, and securing critical services. The report concludes with strategic recommendations for national governments, regulators, industry, and service providers and emphasizes a call for international collaboration.

The session raised the awareness that data breaches and other insecurities may lead to risks and harms regarding the user of devices and services. Therefore it become clear that security updates, encryption and safety-by-design approaches are foundational for the safety of human beings especially vulnerable groups like children and elderly people and not just for the integrity of tools and software. Against this backdrop threats to services and devices should be understand as threats to persons and users.

To handle and prevent current and upcoming risks key strategies should include developing national PQC roadmaps, fostering public-private partnerships, investing in domestic PQC innovation, integrating quantum-resistance in the design of IoT devices and making informed procurement decisions. International collaboration, global standardization, and robust capacity building are vital for a unified, secure response. Also governments and large corporations may use their economic impact by demanding later generation, security-related internet standards and ICT best practices build in secure by design when procuring their ICTs, their organisations and services will be more secure and safer for all concerned, including themselves. Procurement is also a strong economic driver for industry to manufacture and design ICT-services, devices and applications secure by design.

Dynamic Coalitions work from the shared goal of making online activity and interaction more secure and safer for all users. This would be achieved by more widespread and rapid deployment of existing security-related Internet standards, transparency, awareness raising and literacy and ICT best practices.

Key take-aways

- AI enabled devices can harvest, elicit and change data and information of users.
- Quantum computing will lead to the opportunity to decrypt currently protected data and information (harvest now, decrypt later).
- Threats to infrastructures, services and devices result in threats to users and humans.

Action Points

- Trust in safety and security of services and applications must be raised and can be evidenced by standard conformity.
- Security must be built-in on every layer of the internet.
- Updates, encryption, safety-by-design, capacity building and transparency is needed to enhance the safety of services and applications as well as the protection of users and humans.
- Governments can make a difference in the deployment of internet standards by procuring their ICTs secure by design and use their economic.

Joint Dynamic Coalitions Session in Oslo, Norway (DC cluster session 3)

[Capacity Building as a fundamental human right and requirement](#)

Thursday June 26, 2025

Speakers

Dr. Muhammad Shabbir (DCAD)

Ayden Férdeline (DC-DFI)

Janice Richardson (IS3C)

Jutta Croll (DC-CRIDE)

Avri Doria (DC-SIG)

Eleni Boursinou (OER-DC)

Onsite Moderator

Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta (DC - Digital Economy)

Online Moderator
Judith Hellerstein (DCAD)

Rapporteur
Torsten Krause, German Digital Opportunities Foundation, CSO WEOG

Executive summary

Living in an increasingly digitised world requires deep knowledge of and active engagement with the digital environment. To participate freely, equally, and meaningfully in society, individuals must develop the capacities and skills necessary to navigate and shape this environment. The human rights to non-discrimination, freedom of speech and access to information, right to privacy, and right to peaceful assembly and association oblige us to enable everybody to take part in the digital age, building their capacities by providing them with skills and competencies necessary for responsibly and safely navigating the digital environment. Digital literacy is key for seizing opportunities and managing challenges. Importantly, there is a near-universal recognition of the need for capacity building in every new digital governance framework. Each of the DCs within the IGF ecosystem produces output that helps build capacity within the IGF ecosystem as well as within their own communities. In some cases, this is a direct goal, and in others, it is a valuable by-product of their work. These contributions, while sometimes under-recognized, play a significant role in shaping inclusive governance and digital empowerment, also counteracting potential discrimination that results from a lack of digital literacy. Recognising these contributions is central to fulfilling the principles outlined in the Global Digital Compact, particularly in advancing human-centric digital cooperation.

In counteracting the global digital divide, it is necessary to recognize that we are facing a digital literacy divide now that is even widening in the course of fast innovation cycles of new technologies and services. Due to these developments, the lessons we are teaching today to address the literacy divide will be outdated tomorrow. But an agile concept like the Dynamic Coalitions fits perfectly into such a dynamic field. In order to achieve this, it is essential to continually analyse and understand the outcomes and impacts of emerging technologies. Creating and organising new knowledge is fundamental to raising awareness and building new competencies for everyone. This must be realised through organised teaching and opportunities for teachers to develop their own capabilities. Developing the capacity to understand and analyse new and emerging products and services will lead to meaningful and safe participation in, and usage of, the digital environment, as well as the ability to create and organise new knowledge. Also digital literacy should include an improved understanding of the impact technology is having on the individual, human interaction and society.

Funding is required for this cycle of knowledge acquisition and facilitation, as capacity-building and media literacy training are not free. All DCs share the responsibility of holding governments accountable for financing the capacity building of organisations and institutions, setting standards, and achieving a common level of quality, as well as supporting cooperation between civil society, the private sector, and governments. Sustainable funding mechanisms must be established, moving beyond short-term projects to long-term systemic change. Given the rapid pace of evolution of digital technology, capacity building needs to be ongoing, customised to the specific needs of the different sectors of population. Especially for vulnerable groups like people with disabilities and children capacity building must be recognized as a fundamental,

enabling their full and effective participation in digital governance and the information society. In this regard capacity building is not limited to technical training; it must include awareness-raising, advocacy skills, and policy literacy so that vulnerable persons can shape governance processes themselves, take part in the evolution of the digital environment and to move from being passive beneficiaries to active co-creators of a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable digital future.

Finally DCs mentioned the urgent need to make capacity building a priority of policy and implementation in national digital strategies. Capacity building must extend to include policymakers, developers, and civil society actors, ensuring that accessibility knowledge is embedded across the internet governance ecosystem as well as local contexts, languages, and cultural relevance are prioritised to address diverse needs e.g. across the Global South.

Key take-aways

- Capacity is a prerequisite for benefiting from the digital environment and fulfilling one's human rights.
- To educate people and increase their understanding of emerging technologies, funding and cooperation are needed.
- Every level of the education and capacity-building process must be inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory.

Action Points

- We need to adapt services to people, to meet their needs with age-appropriate and ability-appropriate design and functionalities.
- We have to agree on common quality standards.
- It needs joint effort to hold governments accountable, e.g. for funding capacity building.

Joint Dynamic Coalitions Session in Oslo, Norway (DC cluster session 4)

[Future of multistakeholder governance](#)

Friday June 27, 2025

Speakers

Wout de Natris Van der Borght (IS3C)
Dr. Muhammad Shabbir (DCAD)
Jutta Croll (DC CRIDE)
Tatevik Grigoryan (DC UI)
Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta (DC - Digital Economy)
Olivier Crépin-Leblond (DC CIV)
Roberto Gaetano (DC-Interplanetary)
Avri Doria (DC SIC)
Markus Kummer (DCCG)

Onsite Moderator

Judith Hellerstein (DCAD)

Online Moderator

Torsten Krause, German Digital Opportunities Foundation, CSO WEOG

Rapporteur

Torsten Krause, German Digital Opportunities Foundation, CSO WEOG

Executive summary

This panel discussion explored multi-stakeholder governance through the lens of Dynamic Coalitions within the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) ecosystem. Moderated by Judith Hellerstein, co-coordinator of the Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability, the session brought together representatives from six Dynamic Coalitions: Accessibility and Disability, Core Internet Values, Interplanetary Networks, Internet Standards Security and Safety, Schools of Internet Governance, and Children's Rights and the Digital Environment.

The discussion focused on making internet governance more inclusive and accessible, particularly for marginalized communities including persons with disabilities, children, and youth. Participants examined both achievements and limitations of current multistakeholder governance models while highlighting the role of Dynamic Coalitions who are working intersessionally as experimental spaces for developing innovative governance approaches.

What Are Dynamic Coalitions?

Dynamic Coalitions are bottom-up, open groups within the IGF that work on specific internet governance issues. As Judith Hellerstein explained in her opening, they emerged from WSIS 2020 outcomes and operate as flexible, inclusive spaces where anyone can participate by subscribing to mailing lists or applying for membership. Information about joining was provided at the IGF booth in the village and is available at the IGF website in the section on intersessional activities.

Key Coalition Perspectives

Dr. Muhammad Shabbir from the Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability emphasized that approximately 15-16% of the world's population—equivalent to the entire population of India or China—consists of persons with disabilities who are not meaningfully benefiting from current digital governance systems. He argued against tokenistic representation, stating: "The system might be functioning for some, but there is a very huge number of people who are not benefiting or meaningfully benefiting from the processes or the systems that our so-called perfect technologists, policy makers have evolved." Dr. Shabbir emphasized that Dynamic Coalitions function as facilitators rather than top-down directors, providing guidance and resources while maintaining their bottom-up character. He noted that while formal power structures may not voluntarily redistribute power equally, Dynamic Coalitions retain "the power of the people which cannot be taken away from us."

Olivier Crepin-Leblond from the Dynamic Coalition on Core Internet Values outlined fundamental internet principles including global accessibility, interoperability, decentralized control, end-to-end connectivity, and robustness. He noted that many of these core values are being eroded and require active protection as the foundation for other internet governance work. The coalition emphasizes openness, requiring no subscription or approval process and welcoming new members. Olivier committed to working one-on-one with other Dynamic Coalitions to identify partnerships and defend their work through core internet values.

Roberto Gaetano from the Dynamic Coalition on Interplanetary Networks introduced the emerging area of interplanetary internet governance, explaining that interplanetary communication requires different protocols due to delays and moving nodes in space. He referenced the São Paulo Declaration of NetMundial Plus 10 and emphasized the need to develop multi-stakeholder governance models for interplanetary internet before it becomes shaped only by telecom operators and space agencies. Gaetano stressed that multi-stakeholder models must be truly global and equal, with stakeholder groups participating on equal footing, warning against the monopolization of voices within stakeholder groups.

Wout de Natris van der Borght from the Dynamic Coalition on Internet Standards, Security and Safety highlighted a concerning gap between available security standards and their implementation, noting that many companies fail to deploy internet security standards that have existed for 20 years. He advocated for governments and companies to procure ICT that is secure by design. De Natris argued that Dynamic Coalitions should advocate for representation on the MAG (Multistakeholder Advisory Group) to better integrate their work into IGF processes, noting that while coalitions have improved visibility through clustering approaches over the past 2-3 years, they need greater influence to move from being “an appendix on the side.”

Avri Doria from the Dynamic Coalition on Schools of Internet Governance described comprehensive work in developing curricula, providing practical training, and theorizing multi-stakeholder models. She emphasized that many people lack practice in multi-stakeholder participation and need safe spaces to develop these skills. The coalition provides coursework, practica for participation skills, and theory development, with students entering industry and institutions to create change “one classroom at a time.” Doria strongly advocated for maintaining independence from MAG and UN structures to preserve flexibility and grassroots engagement.

Jutta Croll from the Dynamic Coalition on Children’s Rights in the Digital Environment highlighted that one-third of internet users worldwide are under 18, thus being children in the sense of the UN Convention on the Rights of the child, and deserve meaningful voice in internet governance. She referred to the UN-CRC being adopted by the General Assembly in 1989 the same year that the world wide web began its triumphal procession into the broader population. With regard to this coincidence she noted that digital environments have opened new opportunities for children and youth to participate directly without adult accompaniment, fundamentally changing traditional participation models. Children’s rights to protection, provision and participation need to be respected and fulfilled also in Multistakeholder Governance, Croll said.

Markus Kummer, co-facilitator of the Dynamic Coalition Coordinating Group, referred to a fresh perspective on age categorization provided by the Dynamic Teen Coalition, suggesting that children under 12, teenagers aged 13-18, and various adult categories have fundamentally different needs and capabilities.

Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta from the Dynamic Coalition on Digital Economy addressed the Digital Divide Challenge and provided an economic analysis of digital exclusion, noting that one-third of people globally—approximately 2.7 billion individuals—remain unconnected to the internet. He criticized current governance approaches as “reactive, not proactive,” arguing that at the current pace of progress, “it’ll take more than a decade for us to connect the people.” Dr. Gupta challenged current priority-setting in

internet governance, arguing that artificial intelligence is being prioritized over basic internet access. He suggested that “the issue is not with multi-stakeholder governance. The issue is governance of multi-stakeholder governance,” indicating that meta-governance structures need reform.

Interaction with participants from the floor

The discussion took a critical turn when participant from the floor Kjetil Kjernsmo directly challenged the panel’s premise, stating: “The power of internet governance is not in this room. It is chiefly with big tech... Shouldn’t we be moving towards polycentrism rather than multi-stakeholderism?” This intervention forced participants to confront where actual power lies in internet governance and whether current approaches are adequate. The question of formal representation versus independence remained a key tension throughout the discussion. Henry Wang contributed thoughts about decentralized protocols and infrastructure for the future, while Vasiliy Zudin extended an invitation for collaboration with Russian NGO’s Global Digital Forum, demonstrating the international scope of Dynamic Coalition work.

As an example for worldwide acknowledgement Tatevik Grigoryan from UNESCO presented their Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality Indicators - IUI. She emphasized that multistakeholder participation represents UNESCO’s official position, endorsed by 194 member states.

Commitments from Dynamic Coalitions

The discussion generated several concrete commitments:

- Dynamic Coalitions coordination group will work on making coalition membership and participation pathways more visible and accessible
- The Dynamic Coalition on Core Internet Values will work with other coalitions to identify partnerships
- Coalitions will continue their clustering approach while considering advocacy for MAG representation
- The Dynamic Coalition on Internet Standards, Security and Safety will continue advocating for secure-by-design ICT procurement
- All coalitions committed to focusing on substantive work and measurable impact

Conclusions

This discussion demonstrated the maturity of thinking within the Dynamic Coalitions community about multistakeholder governance challenges. While participants acknowledged significant limitations in current approaches—including power imbalances and slow progress on connectivity—they maintained focus on collaborative work and bottom-up innovation. The conversation revealed Dynamic Coalitions as crucial experimental spaces within the IGF ecosystem, providing flexibility for innovation that more formal structures might not accommodate. The ongoing tension between seeking formal influence and maintaining independence reflects broader challenges in internet governance about balancing effectiveness with authenticity. The session reinforced that multi-stakeholder governance remains a work in progress, requiring continuous adaptation to address emerging challenges while maintaining core principles of inclusivity, openness, and collaborative problem-solving.

Key take aways

- The future of multistakeholder governance must be genuinely inclusive—not only in principle but in practice
- Standards for safety, security and accessibility are a key element for ensuring an open and inclusive Internet.
- Dynamic Coalitions function as engines of innovation, dialogue and community driven research on some of the most pressing issues in Internet governance

Action point

- Strengthen the recognition of Dynamic Coalitions as an indispensable resource in Multistakeholder Governance

Workshop in Oslo, Norway (#70)

[Combating Sexual Deepfakes: Safeguarding Teens Globally](#)

Wednesday June 25, 2025

Speakers

- Ji Won Oh, Civil Society, Asia-Pacific Group
- Yi Teng Au, Technical Community, Asia-Pacific Group
- Janice Richardson, Civil Society, Western European and Others Group
- Juliana Cunha, Civil Society, Latin American and Caribbean Group
- Kenneth Leung, Civil Society, Asia-Pacific Group

Lightning Talk in Oslo, Norway (#109)

[Ensuring the Personal Integrity of Minors online](#)

Friday June 27, 2025

Speakers

- Lea Peters (ECPAT Deutschland e.V., Civil Society, WEOG)
- Michael Terhörst (Federal Office for the Enforcement of Children's Rights in Digital Services, Government, WEOG)

Members of the DC were also involved in other sessions of the IGF 2025.

c. Further IGF related activities beyond the annual IGF meeting

Stiftung Digitale Chancen contributed to the following sessions and meetings:

- Joint Dynamic Coalitions webinar on Capacity Building, May 22, 2025.
- Input on Childhood Well-being in a Digital World at the School on Internet Governance Argentina, May 22, 2025.
- Input on children`s rights regarding AI and the European Union AI act at a webinar of the Policy Network Artificial Intelligence, June 3, 2025.
- Joint Dynamic Coalitions webinar on “The Future of Multistakeholder Governance”, June 12, 2025.

d. Activities within the NRIs of the IGF

Stiftung Digitale Chancen co-organised the following sessions at the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (May 9-11, 2025):

- [Transatlantic rift on Freedom of Expression](#) (Main Topic 4) and
- [The Age Verification Dilemma: Balancing child protection and digital access rights](#) (Main Topic 5).

The Digital Futures for Children centre (LSE/5Rights Foundation), participated in the UK IGF in the "[Panel Session: How do we protect children's rights online in 2025?](#)" on 11 December 2025.

ChildFund Japan, supported an online seminar on Generative AI CSAM as a panelist, organized by [IGF Japan](#).

Stiftung Digitale Chancen co-organised the session "[Sichtbar. Verwundbar. Geschützt? Persönliche Integrität im digitalen Raum.](#)" at the IGF Germany (September 10, 2025). The session was moderated by Torsten Krause.

6. Updates on internal processes

Since February 2025 the position of the Head of Child Protection and Technology at Ecpat is occupied. Henceforth Ecpat and Digital Opportunities Foundation will co-chair the DC together.

Report finalised on 27 March 2026 by the Co-Chair of the Dynamic Coalition on children's rights in the digital environment: Salla Huikuri – Ecpat International – and Torsten Krause – Stiftung Digitale Chancen | Digital Opportunities Foundation Germany–

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