

Charter of the Dynamic Coalitions

History of the Dynamic Coalitions

The Dynamic Coalitions (DC) were first established at the IGF's inaugural meeting in Athens in 2006, with the goal of holding discussions on Internet governance issues in between the annual IGF meetings. This idea became the origin of the intersessional work of IGF.

Principles of the Dynamic Coalitions

DCs are formed with the aim of being fair, open, collaborative, multistakeholder-based, and bottom-up initiatives dedicated to specific Internet governance issues.

Anyone interested in participating is welcome to join and contribute to a DC group, regardless of their stakeholder group, policy positions, or relationship to the topic. Any DC outputs or statements shall reflect not only areas of agreement, but also minority and dissenting viewpoints.

A newly formed DC needs to be recognized by the IGF Secretariat.

To attain this recognition, a DC is required to submit a written statement outlining the following:

- The need for the proposed DC
- An action plan
- A mailing list
- The name and contact details of the contact person(s)
- A list of DC members representing at least three different kinds of stakeholder groups

Once recognized by the IGF Secretariat, the above statement is published on a dedicated webpage attributed to the individual DC on the IGF website. DCs are encouraged to provide periodic updates on their webpage, and the IGF Secretariat is responsible for including the updates upon request by a DC.

Common Guidelines of the Dynamic Coalitions

I. Basic Principles

The DCs follow the three basic principles to maintain inclusivity and transparency in their work:

- Open Membership: Anyone interested in the DC's work can become a member.
- Open Mailing List: A DC subscription list must be clear and accessible. DCs can require disclosure of new subscribers.
- Open Archives: The archives of a DC mailing list must remain accessible to the public.

II. Obligations of Dynamic Coalitions

a. Annual Report Submission

DCs are required to submit an annual report to the IGF Secretariat to provide an update on their activities and fulfill their status of being active. Submission of the annual report is an important condition for DCs to be considered for an individual session at the annual IGF meeting.

The annual report shall outline the activities conducted by the DC including sub-groups of members of the DC over the previous year including events organized/attended; regular meetings held; and substantive outputs produced by DCs in line with their missions and visions.

The annual report is required to be submitted by the end of the first quarter of the following year. Extension of the deadline must be requested to and approved by the IGF Secretariat. Any DC that fails to submit an annual report after a period of two consecutive years will be considered and listed inactive.

b. Attendance of Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group (DCCG) Meetings and Broader Events

DCs are encouraged to attend monthly meetings organized by the DCCG and other events relevant to their interest. Whenever possible, at least one co-coordinator should represent an individual DC at monthly DCCG meetings and one or more of the following, either virtually or in-person: Internet governance and digital policy events, MAG open consultations, and events that promote coordination with other IGF groups. In case a coordinator cannot be present, they may appoint an official representative.

c. Other Requirements

An active DC shall organize at least one annual meeting among the group or produce at least one output. An output is defined as a document on the focus issue (other than the annual report), an event, or a project dedicated to the issue.

III. Membership Governance

DCs organise their membership in a way best suited to reach their objectives.

- It is understood that not every member will be equally active in their respective DC work. However, members are expected to comply with minimum participation standards as outlined in the terms of reference and are encouraged to actively participate in their DC discussions and respond to consultations and communications from the coordinator(s), the IGF Secretariat and their DC leadership.
- DCs are requested to publish a list, or other indication, of active members who participate in their group meetings or other activities on their websites. DCs are also invited to include a description of their active membership in their annual report.

The DCCG and IGF Secretariat will conduct a yearly review and update on the member status of each DC. Only full members are listed as “Participating DC Members” in the meeting summary reports. Names of full members are available to all members of the DC and are published on the DC email list of the IGF website. All full members and observers must subscribe to their DC mailing list and update their contact information annually.

IV. Mission and Vision of the Dynamic Coalitions

Dynamic Coalitions are formed to engage with a given Internet governance issue by raising awareness, providing open space for multistakeholder dialogue and cooperation, conduct research and analysis, and promoting inclusivity of disadvantaged communities and voices.

In light of the growing significance of DCs’ role in global Internet governance processes, DCs embrace close partnership with the global IGF and the broader IGF community including National, Regional, and Youth Initiatives (NRI), Best Practice Forums (BPF), and Policy Networks (PN), and other IGF groups on equal footing.

Dynamic Coalitions aim to empower anyone who wishes to actively participate in the IGF’s intersessional activities and initiatives by supporting the IGF, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), and the IGF Secretariat, in facilitating the active involvement in Internet governance issue

discussions, negotiations, processes, and strategies. It endeavors to mobilize stakeholders and influence public opinion regarding a given Internet governance issue to engender fair and balanced discussions.

V. Records and Archives

The DCCG will coordinate its efforts through its official online mailing list: dc@intgovforum.org. The list will maintain public archives in accordance with the officially established guidelines for DC. Email list is the sole tool to record and archive DC messages, documents, and input.

VI. Charter Review and Modifications

The DCCG commits to reviewing the Charter every year for two purposes: 1) Updating it to reflect new realities that impact the DCs' operations, a better understanding of the DCs' needs, and evolving policy landscapes; 2) Addressing any outstanding issues of concerns that members have with the Charter and/or the operating procedures of the DCCG.

Amendments to the DC Charter can be suggested by any interested full member of the DC via the DC official mailing list, followed by discussion over the mailing list or monthly DCCG meetings. If consensus about the Charter amendment is reached, the DCCG will initiate a ratification vote among the DC membership. If the amendment passes, the DCCG will update the Charter by incorporating the amendment into the relevant component of the Charter.