

DCCG PAPER ON DYNAMIC COALITIONS FOR THE IGF EGM

How the Dynamic Coalitions strengthen the IGF

Summary

This information paper explains the role, aims and achievements of the IGF's Dynamic Coalitions as multistakeholder groups of experts with ongoing mandates to discuss, research and develop policy recommendations and guidance relating to specific issues, opportunities and challenges in Internet governance and digital cooperation. There are currently 22 Dynamic Coalitions covering a diverse range of themes such as connectivity, security, emerging Internet and digital technologies, human rights, child protection and children's rights, and accessibility and disability.

The coordination and awareness-raising of the Dynamic Coalitions is undertaken by the Dynamic Coalitions Coordination Group (DCCG). Following consultations undertaken by the DCCG, recommendations are made in this paper for maximising the contribution of the Dynamic Coalitions to strengthening the IGF. This would be achieved notably through ensuring that the reformed IGF's strategic governance, activity planning and preparatory processes take fully into account the diverse range of activities, objectives and projected outcomes of the bottom-up Dynamic Coalitions.

1.i Status of the IGF's Dynamic Coalitions

Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) emerged at the first Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting in Athens in 2006 as autonomous, voluntary and self-organised groups of dedicated expert stakeholders who have been brought together by the global IGF, to cooperate on specific individual issues the outcomes of which would be presented at the annual IGF meetings. There are currently 22 DCs. They are diverse in their composition, including participants from all stakeholder groups, geography, gender and age. Youth has also organised its own DC which is included within the framework of DCs. The list of the IGF's accredited Dynamic Coalitions (as at March 2022) is provided at *Annex B* of this paper.

Although structurally independent of the IGF's decision-making structures and formal governance, the DCs abide by the same fundamental IGF principles of an open, inclusive, diverse, transparent, consensus-based bottom-up process for developing outputs. They are referred to as dynamic because, while focusing on long term policy goals, they undertake specific projects as complementary ongoing and agile instruments for deepening the understanding and analysis of Internet and digital policy issues, opportunities and challenges.

Furthermore, the broad range of themes and issues which DCs address and their agile working structures enable the DCs to be well-positioned to react rapidly to ongoing and up-coming matters of Internet Governance, in both times of crisis and of calm.

1.ii. Examples of concrete outcomes from Dynamic Coalitions

Dynamic Coalition projects are often undertaken with the aim of delivering targeted policy solutions, greater understanding of digital evolution and transformative technologies, and generally acceptable and effective practice. Significant DC outputs include the following:

- [Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet](#) developed by the Internet Rights and Principles Coalition
- [The Community Network Manual](#) developed by the DC on Community Connectivity
- [Recommendations on Terms of Service and Human Rights](#) developed by DC on Platform Responsibility
- [The Value of Internet Openness in Times on Crisis](#) published by DC on net neutrality and DC on Community Connectivity
- [Policy options for connecting and enabling the next billion](#) proposed by the DC on Public Access in Libraries
- [Toolkit for Internet Governance Schools V1](#) & [Living document](#) released by the DC on Schools in Internet Governance

1.iii. The supporting role of the Dynamic Coalitions Coordination Group (DCCG)

The Dynamic Coalitions Coordination Group (DCCG) emerged following the 10th IGF in João Pessoa, Brazil, during what was the first-ever main IGF session dedicated to the specific work of Dynamic Coalitions. Members of various coalitions had already developed the practice of exchanging views on interrelated aspects of their respective issues and areas of work and organisational practices, and the establishment of the DCCG provided a formal basis for undertaking such cross-fertilisation of ideas and mutual sharing of examples of successful outcome-oriented objectives.

The DCCG then proceeded to develop a framework of modalities for Dynamic Coalitions based on agreed common principles, and recommended generally applicable rules of procedure. Accreditation by the IGF Secretariat of individual Dynamic Coalitions is based on adherence to these principles. The DCCG has also issued guidelines for inclusiveness relating to the membership of the coalitions and the operation of open mail lists and the maintenance of open archives.

A link to the DCCG's terms of reference is provided in Section 3 below. The DCCG meets regularly in open sessions as a convener of open and constructive discussions. In this way, the DCCG prepares the ground for an overarching framing of the broad diversity of themes and issues addressed by Dynamic Coalitions.

Through its liaison with the IGF Secretariat, the DCCG also provides a valuable forum for seeking cooperative support within the IGF network to promote awareness of DCs' focussed activities, to advance their interests and objectives consistent with the IGF's strategic planning and delivery of concrete IGF outcomes. Likewise, by including a MAG liaison, the DCCG maintains an active communications channel with the MAG. The DCCG provides updates on the cooperative activities of the Dynamic Coalitions at the MAG's open consultations and preparatory meetings.

The DCCG also has the facility to make specific requests for thematic main sessions led by the Dynamic Coalitions at the annual IGF event and advises on sustaining the practice of allocating slots in the programme for those individual Dynamic Coalitions that request them.

1.iv. Next steps for integration of dynamic coalitions in “IGF Plus”

Consistent with the overall aim of strengthening the IGF in the architecture of digital cooperation, it is important to enhance the inclusion of the Dynamic Coalitions in the “IGF Plus” system as existing channels for exploring and developing tangible outcomes for IGF support and endorsement.

The experience of successive recent IGFs has demonstrated that Dynamic Coalitions have great value as pools of global expertise that can serve as policy incubators for the IGF process committed to enhancing active collaboration amongst the global community of IGF stakeholders. They are well-positioned to flag key current trends, achievements and transformative opportunities in their respective Internet and digital technology fields, and to evaluate the pros and cons of policy options for addressing for example risks to citizens’ online welfare and combatting private and public sector cyber-based threats and attacks.

In practical terms, individual Dynamic Coalition coordinators and the DCCG should be included in the Leadership Panel’s and the MAG’s consultations on the IGF’s multi-year strategy, in the decisional process for agreeing priority themes, and in the delivery and cascading of IGF outcomes to policymakers and decision-makers worldwide.

With regard to the annual global IGF meeting, there should accordingly be systematic involvement of representatives of Dynamic Coalitions in the innovative IGF programme planning, and the various activities and events in the IGF’s preparatory phases, and developing the IGF multi-year strategy. Similarly, mutually supportive benefits would flow from greater interaction between the Dynamic Coalitions and the global network of national and regional IGFs (the NRIs), in particular with regard to digital capacity building and sustainable development.

Consideration should also be given to developing a network of the Dynamic Coalitions’ liaisons with the IGF’s Policy Networks and Best Practice Forums (BPFs). This network would also serve to underpin and facilitate the consultations undertaken by the IGF’s Leadership Panel, the Experts Group Meeting and the Office of the Envoy on Technology on issues relating for example to the Global Digital Compact and the Summit on the Future.

The DCCG, with the support of the IGF Secretariat, issued a report in 2021 which included proposals outlining suggestions for strengthening DCs and their contribution to IGF processes. The DCCG looks forward to comments from the EGM, and to working with the MAG and the IGF Secretariat on the implementation of these proposals.

2.i. How Dynamic Coalitions contribute to the annual IGF meeting

The Dynamic Coalitions contribute to the annual global IGF meeting in three important ways:

- Many of the individual DCs are entitled to create their own session programmes during the IGF, linked as much as possible to the themes and subthemes established by the MAG consistent with the remits of their individual areas of focus and scope of activity.
- Interested DCs, with the support of the DCCG, hold a joint main session related to the theme of the IGF.
- Some DCs present and promote their outputs within the IGF framework.

2.ii Summary of participation of dynamic coalitions in IGF 2021

At IGF 2021 in Katowice, 18 Dynamic Coalitions held individual sessions to discuss the Internet policy and digital cooperation issues within their specific remits and focus, to present updates on their work, and to engage in global stakeholder outreach and networking. Pointers to their session outcomes as “*takeaways and calls for action*” are provided in Annex A of this paper.

In addition, a Dynamic Coalitions main session on the theme “*Digital Cooperation in Practice: IGF Dynamic Coalitions*” presented a comprehensive overview of how the coalitions contribute to advancing the debates on the main themes of IGF 2021 and related specific issues. The session also included a strategic discussion on how coalitions could contribute in future to broader digital cooperation efforts and a strengthened IGF.

3. Links for further information about IGF Dynamic Coalitions

Listing of IGF Dynamic Coalitions:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalitions>

Dynamic Coalitions: Digital Cooperation in Practice (December 2021) Abridged version::

https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/186/18940

Coordination of Dynamic Coalition activities:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dc-coordination-activities>

Terms of Reference of the Dynamic Coalitions Coordination Group (DCCG):

<https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/terms-of-reference-dynamic-coalitions-dc-coordination-group-dccg>

Dynamic Coalitions Main Session at IGF 2021 “*Digital Cooperation in Practice: IGF Dynamic Coalitions*” :

<http://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2021-main-session-digital-cooperation-in-practice-igf-dynamic-coalitions>

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Annex A:

The “takeaways and calls for action” of the Dynamic Coalition sessions held at IGF 2021

The reports of the DC sessions held at IGF 2021 in Katowice are accessible [here](#) and they include the following specific statements of key takeaways and calls for action:

- [1. DCAD Challenges & Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities \(PWDs\) in a Post Covid World](#)
- [2. DCCOS Regulate or prevent to protect children – a false dichotomy?](#)
- [3. DC3 Sustainable Funding Models for Community Networks](#)
- [4. DC-CIV Internet Regulation during Crisis One Year Later](#)
- [5. DC-DDHT Health Matters: Data & Technology In The Healthcare Sector](#)
- [6. DC-Gender Tangled like Wool: Gender, Social & Digital Inequalities](#)
- [7. DC-Jobs Changing Jobs & Skillsets Post COVID - How Internet can Help](#)
- [8. The IRPC Charter of Human Rights & Principles for the Internet at 10: Achievements, challenges and what's next?](#)
- [9. DC-ISSS: Making the Internet more secure and safer](#)
- [10. DC-IUI UNESCO's call to all stakeholders to support ROAM and the DC](#)
- [11. DCNN Device Neutrality and Interoperability for Internet Openness](#)
- [12. DCPR Platform Interoperability: Understanding a Complex Issue](#)
- [13. DC-PAL Public Access: Driving a Community-Based Development Model](#)
- [14. DC-SIG Rising to current challenges facing Schools of IG](#)
- [15. DC-SIDS The Pandemic Internet: Ensuring SIDS do not fall behind](#)
- [16. DC-Sustainability Internet governance and news media sustainability](#)
- [17. YCIG Youth in the decision-making process: hear us!](#)
- [18. DC on Data and Trust](#)

Descriptions of all currently active Dynamic Coalitions

Descriptions of DCs

1. Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD)

DCAD works to (a) promote accessibility as a pre-condition for the participation of persons with disabilities in the IGF and related activities, and other Internet governance processes, and (b) to ensure that ICT accessibility is included in the key debates around Internet governance and digital policy, in order to build a future where all sectors of the global community have equal access to the information society. The coalition advises and collaborates with the IGF Secretariat and various national and regional IGF initiatives to ensure that their processes and meetings are accessible.

2. Dynamic Coalition on Blockchain Technologies (DC-Blockchain)

DC-Blockchain is dedicated to raising awareness about current trends and policy developments regarding blockchain, and providing a platform for discussion on related best practices, policies and regulations. The coalition also aims to elaborate a model framework on blockchain technologies to cover: (a) the application of existing legal and oversight regimes to financial applications of blockchain; (b) smart contracts or selfexecuting transactions and interactions between humans and machines or between multiple entities which are automatically enforced by the underlying code of the technology; and (3) decentralised autonomous organisations that offer new forms of participatory governance and economic activity.

3. Dynamic Coalition on Children's Rights in the Digital Environment

While the Internet can be a wonderfully positive tool for children, it also exposes them to risks, and therefore needs to be addressed at global, regional and national levels to ensure all children can benefit safely from the opportunities that internet and associated technologies can bring. The members of the Dynamic Coalition on Children's Rights in the Digital Environment (formerly Dynamic Coalition on Child Online Safety), believe in the importance of advocating for and positioning children's rights to protection, provision and participation within the agenda of the Internet Governance Forum.

4. Dynamic Coalition on Community Connectivity (DC3)

DC3 is dedicated to fostering multistakeholder analysis of the various types and models of community networks, with the aim of identifying and promoting best practices and sustainable approaches to Internet connectivity in the context of communities. DC members have been engaged in discussions on principles, norms, rules and programmes that are meant to shape the evolution and use of Internet connectivity via community networks.

5. Dynamic Coalition on Core Internet Values (DC-CIV)

DC-CIV is focused on defining and emphasising core Internet values – technical architectural values by which the Internet was built, as well as ‘social’ values that emerge from the way the Internet works. Coalition members strive for a commitment to the core Internet values across stakeholder groups, and seek to promote these values as a reference standard for Internet policy.

6. Dynamic Coalition on Data and Trust (DC-DT)

DC-DT encourages an inclusive policy dialogue among stakeholders interested in exploring issues of data and trust in the online environment, and the extent to which actors in one segment of the ecosystem can take effective action to curb abuse in other segments. The coalition’s aim is to deepen understanding of issues of data and trust, build consensus, and identify best practices and other actions to improve quality of data and information. It also showcases voluntary industry initiatives aimed at raising quality of data and enhancing trust.

7. Dynamic Coalition on Data Driven Health Technologies (DC-DDHT)

DC-DDHT works to facilitate a multistakeholder dialogue on issues related to e-Health, m-Health (mobile), and e-Wellness Technologies, so as to seek common ground on related values, principles, ethics, norms, culture, standards, and best practices. DC activities include providing guidance and interpretations, risk management, advocacy and making recommendations for data standards, best practices and providing input into other related and associated policies and legislation.

8. Dynamic Coalition on DNS Issues (DC-DNSI)

DC-DNSI brings together stakeholders to share information and exchange best practices on domain name system (DNS) related policy challenges and, if desired, produce non-binding, tangible outputs. Examples of issues explored by the coalition include the universal acceptance of domain names and internationalised domain names; promotion of and awareness raising around Domain Name Security Extensions (DNSSEC); and reviewing mechanisms to minimise Internet fragmentation from emerging regulations such as those on privacy, data localisation, and data access.

9. Dynamic Coalition on Gender and Internet Governance (DC-Gender)

DC-Gender aims to ensure that gender perspectives are included in key debates around Internet governance issues, such as content regulation, privacy, access, freedom of expression. The coalition works to promote women’s visibility at the IGF and related fora; to conduct research and input on the main topics of IGF debates; to support capacity building of gender advocates and to promote more effective linkages between local, regional and global initiatives on gender and information society.

10. DC on Innovative Approaches to Connecting the Unconnected

The Dynamic Coalition on Innovative Approaches to Connecting the Unconnected seeks to collect and disseminate information about innovative technological and business practices that help provide last mile connectivity as well as explore various supply and demand side drivers of adoption in unconnected communities. Their output includes case studies and

project database that tie to the ways in which the ICT innovations affect the UN Sustainable Development goals .

11. DC on Internet and Jobs (DC-Jobs)

The DC on Internet and Jobs looks at the potential impact of technologies and tools built to leverage the Internet, on jobs. The work is motivated by the realisation of the need for sustainable and responsible automation, the potential of the Internet to create jobs, and to boost local economies.

12. DC on the Internet of things (DC-IoT)

The DC Internet of Things examines Good Practice which aims at developing IoT systems, products, and services taking ethical considerations into account from the outset, in the development, deployment and use phases of the life cycle, thus finding an ethical, sustainable way ahead using IoT to help to create a free, secure and rights enabling based environment: a future we want. The Dc has produced a paper that discusses IOT Good Practice Policies.

13. Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition (IRPC)

The IRPC functions as a platform for multistakeholder dialogue and collaboration, bringing together organisations and individuals who work to uphold human rights in the online environment and to root Internet governance processes and systems in human rights standards. The coalition has been focusing on translating existing human rights to the internet environment to build awareness, understanding and a shared platform for mobilisation around rights and principles for the Internet.

14. Internet Standards, Security and Safety Coalition (IS3C)

The aim of the global coalition on Internet Standards, Security and Safety (IS3C) is to make online activity and interaction more secure and safer through addressing the gaps in the deployment of security-related Internet standards and best practices. The coalition is undertaking research to develop policy recommendations, guidelines and toolkits in support of this objective. The specific areas of current focus are i. Internet of Things (IoT) security by design; ii. education and skills; iii. public and private sector procurement and supply chains as a driver for adoption of security-related standards.

15. Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality Indicators (DC-IUI)

DC-IUI seeks to engage with stakeholders worldwide to promote free, open and accessible Internet for all and provide a space for multistakeholder dialogue and collaboration. The coalition is intended to serve as an umbrella platform for facilitating 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.

16. Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality (DC-NN)

The goal of DC-NN is to educate, inform and disseminate information on current trends and policy developments with regard to network neutrality. It provides a discussion arena aimed at scrutinising the various nuances of the network neutrality debate, so as to contribute to the elaboration of best practices, policies and regulations. As a promoter of network

neutrality principles, the DC advocates for an open and secure Internet, accessible to all people.

17. Dynamic Coalition on Platform Responsibility (DC-PR)

DC-PR was formed with the goal of fostering cooperative multistakeholder efforts to elaborate concrete and interoperable solutions to protect the rights of platform users. As such, the coalition works to stimulate debate regarding what can be considered to be the responsible behaviour of platform providers. Activities undertaken so far include an analysis of the application to digital platforms of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the development of a set of recommendations on core dimensions of platform responsibility.

18. Dynamic Coalition on Public Access in Libraries (DC-PAL)

DC-PAL facilitates action and policy dialogue to leverage public access – shared, low-or no-cost access to the internet and ICT in libraries and similar facilities – to power digital inclusion. The coalition also acts as a hub for learning and exchange around the ways public access solutions are leveraged to support key policy goals in the information society – including digital skills- building, equitable access to digital content, sustainable development, employment and education, and others.

19. Dynamic Coalition on Schools on Internet Governance (DC-SIG)

The work of the DC-SIG is focused on bringing the many schools of Internet Governance into dialogue on effective and useful methods for initiating and maintaining such schools. The work focuses on curricular and operational aspects of such schools. While not defining requirements for such schools, or similar programs, it does strive to give enough information to help schools make their own decisions based on a foundation of what has worked for other schools and programs. The DC-SIG has developed and continues work on several living documents that describe this foundation and collect materials and experience from those who run current schools.

20. Dynamic Coalition on Small Island Developing States in the Internet Economy (DC-SIDS)

DC-SIDS was established to create new networks and contacts enabling actors in small island developing states (SIDS) in the Pacific and the Caribbean to share experiences, interests and concerns about Internet developments within their nations and regions. The coalition provides SIDS with a space for dialogue, firstly amongst themselves, and then with the wider global community, on a broad range of issues relating to, and affecting issues such as the modernization of critical Internet and infrastructural resources, the economics of telecommunications service provision, and telecom and Internet service pricing. The joint Pacific-Caribbean group have held intersessionals as proposed during the Global IGF session, and are planning their first joint IGF during 2022.

21. Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media (DC-Sustainability)

DC-Sustainability aims to provide a space for – and encourage participation by – the journalism, news media, press freedom, journalism support, and media development sectors in local, national, regional, and international Internet governance and digital policy

discussions, negotiations, processes, and strategies. It also works to address key policy challenges that impact the sustainability of journalism and news media in the digital age in a collaborative, inclusive, bottom-up, and multistakeholder fashion.

22. Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (YCIG)

YCIG was established to advocate for the voice of children, young people, and young professionals in local, regional and international Internet governance fora and processes. Most of its work is dedicated to empowering youth to actively participate in activities of the IGF and other Internet governance and policy spaces. The coalition also facilitates exchanges and dialogue among young people on various Internet and digital policy issues of relevance.