

Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD) Annual report - 2023

DCAD works to (a) promote the participation of persons with disabilities in the IGF and other Internet governance processes, and (b) to ensure that ICT accessibility is included in the key debates around Internet governance and digital policy to build a future where all sectors of the global community have equal access to the information society. The coalition plays a key and ongoing role in the IGF by advising and collaborating with the IGF Secretariat and various national and regional IGF initiatives to ensure that their processes and meetings, both onsite and virtual, are accessible.

This year DCAD was very active contributing with the IGF. Our activities fall into six main areas:

- Work on creating new Governance documents and a Code of Conduct and other related Activities.
- Participating in the monthly NRI Calls and reporting on accessibility issues.
- Work with the IGF Secretariat on Accessibility issues relating to the website, the Venue and other accessibility issues.
- Active participation in the monthly Dynamic Coalitions Coordinating Group Calls and parallel work on organizing and participating in DCCG presentations and Main Sessions several times a year.
- Active Participation and presentations during MAG Consultation Sessions
- DCAD Travel Fellowship Program to the IGF

In 2023, DCAD developed a new Governance document in a working group headed by Lidia Best, Andrea Saks, and Deirdre Williams. Prior to the creation of a Governance document Dr. Shabbir and Judith Hellerstein investigated several different governance framework and spoke to several other DCs about their current framework. Dr. Shabbir and Judith presented their work to DCAD members, and a Governance framework and model of Governance was selected. Also at this meeting, a committee was chosen to help draft the Governance documents.

DCAD appointed two Coordinators to help manage and Coordinate the work of the DCAD. The two Coordinators were Dr. Muhammad Shabbir and Judith Hellerstein. In 2023, the Coordinators continued assisting the IGF Secretariat on accessibility improvements to the IGF Website and also we sent out our annual accessibility guide and tips to the Secretariat. DCAD also was active in the NRI and DC network to ensure that other NRIs are made friendly and accessible for people with disabilities. We worked with many of the NRIs to ensure accessibility was taken into account.

Other work this year relates to our accessibility work connected to the MAG meeting, WSIS, the Global Digital Compact, IGF Leadership Comments, and other related comments that the Secretariat was hosting. DCAD submitted extensive comments to all these groups and these comments can be found on the IGF website. DCAD also presented on the MAG Consultations on Digital Inclusion held this Past July.

DCAD Coordinators also were very active participants on the monthly DCCG calls and helped organize and participated in several organized sessions organized by DCCG members. Several of the DCCG members hosted several presentations in an effort to raise the profile of Dynamic Coalitions in the IGF and DCAD helped organize and participated in these sessions. The Coordinators also participated and contributed to the surveys created to help the team provided the primary data necessary to write the reports and/or comments.

The DCCG meets on a monthly basis and this year help revise and/or draft some new governance documents, which included a new charter, organized separate sessions at the MAG Meetings and also organized the Main session of the IGF. Here is a link to the new charter, <https://docs.google.com/document/d/109JPUWWArZneLqv-iQDfc4oyg-XILy1J/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=118065589054438901113&rtpof=true&sd=true>

The DCCG Organizers also drafted joint comments to the IGF in response to the Global Digital Compact, IGF MAG Consultations, the DCCG Report, and other reports that the DCCG issued. In addition to a joint report, the DCAD also published its own comments to these reports. DCAD worked with the DCCG on its presentation to the MAG meeting in the June/July time frame.

DCAD was also on the organizing team to plan the DC main session at the IGF and DCAD was also chosen as one of the few Dynamic Coalitions to speak at that meeting. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DKrbgJhkGuTY4KpfgKtMXCLgAI9GZeLMJ5ZvEQY-Vpg/edit>

DCAD was also successful in advocating for the addition of International Sign Language interpreters to the session. Originally none of the Main sessions had sign language interpreters assigned as these Interpreters were only arranged for the ceremonial and opening/closing sessions at the IGF

In the run up to this meeting DCAD worked closely with the DCCG, the NRIs and the Secretariat in preparing accessibility talking points and short paragraphs on accessibility issues which we sent to the Secretariat. We worked to ensure that the IGF sessions are accessible to all.

DCAD also contributed to the DCCG Paper on how Dynamic Coalitions can strengthen the IGF, which included a focus on accessibility and ensuring that persons with disability are included? This paper was submitted as an input to the IGF. Here is a link to the DCCG's Comments, https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/304/26767
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1poBPidhIKFJDDJmVZw_57b1WX89QtTKmfgbEJGmEXd0/edit

The DCAD coordinators also organized the DCAD session at the IGF and provided International Sign Language and Japanese Sign Language at this session. Our DCAD fellows were present and participated in this session. DCAD Coordinators also presented at other DC sessions, such as DC on Data Driven Health Technologies, and on Barriers to Inclusion: Strategies for People with Disabilities. Reports for these sessions are on the IGF website and can be found here as well. <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-dcad-re-envisioning-dcad->

[for-the-future](#)

<https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-dc-ddht-robotics-the-medical-internet-of-things-miot>

<https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-ws-481-barriers-to-inclusionstrategies-for-people-with-disability>

In 2023, DCAD launched our DCAD Travel to the IGF Fellowship. This fellowship funded by Vint Cerf allowed for 5 fellows to travel to the IGF. We hosted 2 Japanese fellows and 3 other fellows from Europe, Africa, and the Asia Pacific regions. In our first year we had a significant number of applications for the fellowship which was very competitive. The Coordinators were assisted by our Fellowship Committee members which were Deidre Williams, Masahito Kwaimori, Judith Hellerstein and Muhammad Shabbir. We had 70 submissions and narrowed it down to a short list of 20 members before selecting our 3 International fellows and 2 Japanese fellows. During the evaluation process we had to disqualify around 5 people whom had made it to the short list because they did not follow the criteria and requirements of the application. The fellowship in its first year really made a difference and allowed persons with disabilities to participate in an IGF. Our fellows wrote blogs and other postings about the impact that the fellowship had on them and on their involvement in Internet Governance.

As a follow up to the fellowship, DCAD contributed a list of items and issues to improve for next years IGF. DCAD responded to the two calls by the IGF to help them improve the outcome messages from the IGF and also the lessons learned from the IGF and what we can do better the next year. The link to this can be found here,

https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/304/26782

DCAD website and mailing list

DCAD's website and mailing list is ably managed by Joly MacFie, the Administrator of the Internet Society's Accessibility Special Interest Group. Joly also created the fellowship form and administered it on our Website. He then provided us with the results of the The website gives DCAD the flexibility to host the NRI survey and the DCAD Fellowship application form, for example. Joly MacFie also maintains the membership list that is made available on the website. Further information is at: <https://igf-dcad.org>