Report by the IGF Dynamic Coalition on Gender and Internet Governance on Work Undertaken During 2020

The Dynamic Coalition on Gender and Internet Governance (DC-Gender) aims to ensure gender perspective is included in the key debates around internet governance issues, such as privacy, access, freedom of expression, content regulation, among others.

Work undertaken in 2020

DC-Gender prioritised 'bodies and data' in our work as Data was one of the primary Internet Governance Forum themes in 2020. We conducted and participated in various events on and intersecting with this theme.

Let's Face It - a consultation on digital technologies and 'women's safety'

In February 2020, we conducted a daylong consultation in Kolkata, West Bengal (India) where we invited activists, researchers, practitioners, and lawyers who work directly on either gender-based violence, sexuality or digital rights — or with communities of women. The aim of the consultation event was to: 1) dive into research that explains digital technologies including facial recognition, CCTV cameras, drones, and GIS mapping, and some of the concerns around them; and 2) start to evolve a position on what could be a nuanced response to the use of digital technologies technologies in the context of women's safety and 'safe city' initiatives general. We explored a range of issues including adoption and regulation concerns around facial recognition technologies; intersections of technology and gender, and how they manifest in a space where we engage with technology on a daily and consistent basis; indivudal and structural harms resulting from surveillance, including implications for women and queer persons; and legal concerns surrounding automated facial recognition technologies.

Online events, workshops and webinars

In December 2020, we conducted a two-day (four-session) webinar on digital gender-based violence, which largely intersected with the theme of 'bodies and data'. The webinar explored various issues including privacy violations, platform accountability, legal framings, and feminist notions of sexual consent and data protection.

Throughout 2020, we spoke at and participated in various webinars, events, interviews and podcasts on and intersecting with the 'Data' theme on issues including cyber crime trends and digital safety during the COVID-19 pandemic; embodied experiences of surveillance and control during the COVID-19 pandemic in India; gender, technology and violence, etc. The list of these events can be found [here.](#)

IGF 2020 session

DC-Gender's session at IGF was titled 'Future Unclear: data and bodies in the post-pandemic times'. The session explored issues including: 1) data, privacy and boundary management - where we explored how the concept of 'privacy as boundary management' is central to whether and how we share our data, what happens with our data, what information about ourselves do we want to share or not share, etc.; 2) gendered implications of data collection by apps, where we reflected on menstrual apps and how they track data, what these apps do with the data. who handles the data, who has access to it, how is it used, and for how long is it stored; and 3) feminist values for building transfeminist futures, where we thought about what the future would look like if algorithms that command our daily interactions were developed based on feminist values.