

Dynamic Coalition on Gender and Internet Governance 2022 Annual Report

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. Among others, the DC wants to promote women and other marginalised genders' visibility at the IGF and related fora, and to promote more effective linkages between local, regional and global initiatives on gender and information society.

Work undertaken in 2022

Within the IGF

DC Gender was one of the panellists on the *IGF 2022: Dynamic Coalitions Main Session, Our Digital Future: How IGF Dynamic Coalitions support*. We shared our focus from a gender perspective during the second panel on this session. This panel focused on how individual dynamic coalitions can contribute to the development of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) to be agreed at the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024; and to the consultations undertaken during the UN General Assembly's "WSIS+20" Review in 2025. Aligning with Commitments 1 and 5 of the Global Digital Compact to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to leave no one behind and place women and girls at the centre, DC-Gender contributed our learnings and experiences to rethinking how we can:

1. Ensure that the voices of gender minorities from the Global South, their needs and realities can be meaningfully represented in the Global Digital Compact;
2. Reimagine digital inclusion centering women, girls and marginalised genders;
3. Promote gender parity by addressing gender discrimination and gender-based violence in digital spaces; and
4. Ensure that the GDC addresses issues around digital inclusion, digital access, and the digital gender divide as they impact gender minority communities in the Global South.

DC-Gender's session at the IGF was strongly intertwined with the IGF theme of *Addressing Advanced Technologies, Including AI*. We organised a panel discussion titled, '*Who's watching the machines? New tech, gender, race & sexuality*' that addressed building a shared sustainable and common future by moving the onus of challenging the impact of emerging technologies on human rights and people away from individuals, instead pushing for systemic reforms. To achieve this end, through country-specific examples, speakers discussed the importance of voice, agency, and

people being central to data and bodies, both within online and offline communities. We unpacked several questions around the impact of advanced technologies on different communities, and what needs to be done to course correct. Do we want to reject certain technology, like banning CCTV cameras with facial recognition in some places? How are advanced technologies undermining our right to freedom of expression, among other freedoms? Who is profiting off these technologies? How do we understand and address the role of big data and data systems in talking about new technologies and how DO they impact our rights?

Beyond the IGF

Prioritising 'Resilient Internet for a shared sustainable and common future', DC-Gender continued our work on bridging the digital literacy and skill gap by conducting capacity building workshops among grassroots communities of women, queer and transgender persons. These are communities that are disproportionately affected by the digital divide, be it a lack of access to digital devices, digital literacy and knowledge as well as facing targeted attacks owing to their gender identity or sexuality. These issues are further exacerbated by patriarchal norms that limit the access to digital devices and online spaces to women and LGBTIQ+ persons. Addressing their needs and supporting their healing from their past and present is vital to build *a resilient Internet for a shared sustainable and common future*. We organised hybrid workshops for LGBTIQ+ activists from South Asia on a broad spectrum of digital rights, digital security, and digital literacy issues, including privacy and security, peer support and the creation of resilient and safe digital support networks using the principle of healing justice. It's important to demystify jargon around internet governance through public engagements that bring in non-tech policy stakeholders and audiences. With that in mind, we organised a workshop on gender and internet governance with civil society organisations that work on gender and sexuality as well as organisations working on technology policies to enable cross-learning and collaboration between these different groups. The intent was to simplify internet governance in a manner that '*enables safety, security and accountability*'.

Priorities for 2023

We will continue our work at the intersections of gender and technology, taking into account the changing needs and realities of women and other marginalised genders in the context of building a resilient internet for a sustainable and common future. We aim to reach many more women, girls and queer persons from diverse demographics across the country, amplify their voices in national, regional and global internet rights spaces, and improve gender equality and inclusion within internet governance spaces and dialogues.