YCIG Annual Report 2021

Submitted to the IGF Secretariat on 27-01-2022

This document constitutes the mandatory annual report of the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (YCIG), as required by the DC Coordination, following the updated guidelines[1] that were approved in July 2020.

In January 2021, the new Steering Committee members took office, namely: *Eileen Cejas (second term) representing Latin America and the Caribbean, Aleksandra Ivankovic for Eastern Europe Group, Elliot Mann[2] representing Western Europe, Noha Ashraf (second term) for Africa Group and Mohammad Atif Aleem representing Asia Pacific region*. Since they took office, the Steering Committee held several internal meetings through Zoom with the support via Telegram; and they have been engaging with the members through different channels of communications, mostly the YCIG mailing list and the Facebook group.

YCIG WORK IN 2021 COMPRISED:
- Attending each DC Coordination meeting.
- Contributed to the development of the DC Paper.[3]
- Elaboration of a DC Substantive paper[4] related to our intervention at the DC main session[5].
- Community engagement, capacity development activities.

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[1] "Updating the DC Guidelines" compiled by Michael Oghia is available at
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S2XDqI1hK4A-0q0hjqtQATFYAgb4hLgN6o9uHWGxvfI/edit
[2] Note: Steering Committee member Aleksandra Ivankovic was not reachable after her participation in EuroDIG. Moreover, Elliot Mann resigned for his position after EuroDIG and conducted an Ad-Hoc election, to which there were no candidacies, therefore, the position remained vacant for the rest of the 2021 term.
[3] The full version of the DC Paper is available at this link
https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/186/18941. The short version can be found here
https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/186/18940
[4] Submitted DC briefing paper for the DC Main session
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_9_MRZgbbO44VlSXoFv_X71t0-6FE87VSSV4IbSF5eg/edit?usp=sharing
[5] DC Main Session took place on December 8th in a hybrid format, with the representation of our Steering Committee member Eileen Cejas on behalf of the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance
https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2021-main-session-digital-cooperation-in-practice-igf-dynamic-coalitions

● Expanding cooperation with youth organizations, DCs, and NRIs, especially with the Youth IGF Poland, for the organisation of the Youth Summit.

LIST OF EVENTS ORGANISED/ATTENDED:

1) **MozFest sessions**: YCIG SC members Eileen Cejas and Noha Asraf participated in several sessions organised in collaboration with other youth and non-youth initiatives. The sessions were:

   - March 11, 12:00-13:00 UTC, **"Try Connecting to Mother Earth through Youth4DigitalSustainability"** with speakers Elisabeth Schauermann (German Informatics Society/Youth4DigitalSustainability), Raashi Saxena (Missions Publiques), Eileen Cejas (Youth Observatory/YCIG), Noha Abdel Baky (YCIG) and Pedro Peres (Laboratory of Public Policy and Internet, LAPIN).

   - March 16th, 14.45-15:45 UTC, **"Regulation Artificial Intelligence with Collective Intelligence"** with speakers Raashi Saxena (Missions Publiques), Eileen Cejas (Youth Observatory/YCIG), Jean F. Queralt (The Io Foundation), Manon Potet (Missions Publiques), Jon Stever (i4policy) and Antoine Vergne (Missions Publiques).

   - March 16 at 18.15 UTC, **"Mama works at home"** with facilitator Noha Ashraf (YCIG).

2) **EuroDIG + YouthDIG**: YCIG SC member Eileen Cejas was invited to speak about "Youth and Mechanisms of Participation - Intersessional work at the IGF" at the YouthDIG as part of the **Networking event** in the Human Library format organised by YouthDIG Meri Baghdasaryan and Debora Barletta. This event took place on June 25, 2021 in a virtual setting environment, combining Zoom and Gather Town.

3) **RightsCon 2021**: YCIG participated in several sessions, co-organised with Youth Observatory.

The sessions were:

- June 9th, 15:30-16:30 UTC, **"Reset rewind; building agency towards the future by looking at the present as if it were the past"** with the facilitation of our YCIG SC member Eileen Cejas.

- June 11th, 12:30-13:30 UTC **"Open book, turn off WiFi: accessing online education during the COVID-19 pandemic"**. Our YCIG SC member of the Asia Pacific region Mohammad Atif Aleem facilitated this session.

- June 11th, 13:45-14:45 UTC **"The Way you see your wor(l)ds: fighting against gender-based violence online"** with the facilitation of YCIG SC member for the GRULAC region Eileen Cejas.

4) **YouthLACIGF Open Course in Spanish**: YCIG SC member Eileen Cejas, who is also part of the Organising Committee of the YouthLACIGF, gave a lecture on the topic **"intersessional work of the IGF"** for the Open Course of the YouthLACIGF. This Open Course was organised for a second time as a preparatory phase toward the YouthLACIGF, with four webinars that included experts from the LAC region, and it was held completely in Spanish.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

- **YCIG Survey**: In March 2021, we launched a survey to understand the needs and priorities of the community for this year. The main outcomes from the YCIG Survey were:

- Most young people are involved in the IGF process as follows: 22, 9% expressed that they participate in national and regional initiatives; 19, 8% in Capacity building programs; 18, 8% in Activism. There was a draw between Research and Participation at the MAG Groups in 14, 6%. This was followed by minor levels of participation in Best Practice Forums (5, 2%) and in last place the participation in Dynamic Coalitions (4, 2%).

- Regarding the type of webinar they would like to participate in, most of the participants said "Fireside chat" (27, 8%), followed by "All hands session" (25%),

"break out groups" (22, 2%). Then they suggested "Panel Discussion" (16, 7%) and finally "Keynote speaker" with 8, 3%.

- We also asked if there is any <u>DC or BPFs, they would like to hear from</u> and they mentioned several DCs[6]. We could not collaborate with all of them in our activities but we will look forward to achieving this in the upcoming years.

- **<u>YCIG Webinars</u>**: After the survey, we started to plan how to produce webinars with concrete results. Finally, we managed to conduct two webinars: <u>the first one, on Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change</u> with speakers Jaewon Son (Youth4IG), Ranitya Nurlita (Rumah Millennials), Maria Dzholos (Middlebury College), and our YCIG SC member Mohammad Atif Aleem was the assigned moderator for the session; and the <u>second one on "Inclusive Internet Governance ecosystem and Digital Cooperation"</u> with speakers Dr. Olivier M.J. Crépin-Leblond (EuroDIG, DC on Core Internet Values), Marwa Azelmat (APC & BPF Gender), Carolina Rojas (MGCY) and the moderation of YCIG SC member Eileen Cejas. Each webinar had different scenarios facilitated by our guest facilitators, and participants were split into break out rooms to discuss for approximately 30 minutes in the rooms. Afterwards, facilitators shared the main outcomes in the main room.

The main suggestions that emerged from the **first webinar** can be summarized in these few points:

- It is important to provide educational materials to citizens of every country regarding environmental sustainability practices, following the UN SDGs.
- Encourage companies to adopt environmental policies in coordination with the governments, civil society and other stakeholders.
- The implementation of multistakeholder advisory groups, taking into consideration the communities affected by the policies.
- Adapt legal frameworks to have a balance between the workers affected by the pandemic and safe practices for the environment.

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[6] The named DCs were: BPF Cybersecurity, BPF Gender and Access, DC Sustainability Dynamic Coalition on Sustainability of Journalism and News Media, DC-ISSS Dynamic Coalition on Internet Standards, Security and Safety, DC-PAL Dynamic Coalition on Public Access in Libraries, DC-SIG Dynamic Coalition on Schools of Internet Governance, DC-IOT Dynamic Coalition on Internet of Things, DC- Blockchain Dynamic Coalition on Blockchain Technologies, DC-DT Dynamic Coalition on Data and Trust, DCRP Dynamic Coalition on Platform Responsibility, DC- Jobs Dynamic Coalition on Internet and Jobs, and DCNN Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality.

- The usage of electronic devices for farming should also consider cybersecurity practices.
- Raising awareness to farmers and citizens overall on recycling as one essential step for achieving sustainability.

From the **second webinar**, these are the main inputs raised in the discussion:

- At the first room, the discussion on an United Nations Resolution draft on the future of Internet Governance concluded that 5 principles should be: security, fight for disinformation, privacy, actions against data colonialism, and better control of data flows; and 3 Internet Core values, named: net neutrality, robustness and freedom of information. These points were discussed among representatives of Russia, United States, and the Global South as a way to explore how these regions/countries could work on a joint set of principles and core values following the guidelines of the UN Roadmap on Digital Cooperation.
- Regarding the topic of gender disinformation, the facilitator remarked how the Global South and Global North have different perspectives and how this topic affected the vulnerable communities. The facilitator pointed out the importance of providing these communities safe spaces that guarantee gender equality. In this way, youths can highlight the need for diversity in these spaces and sensitizing the platforms in terms of gender. Finally, the research on intersessional data related to discrimination to marginalized communities can help to improve the said platforms.
- In the last room on Digital Cooperation, it was highlighted that youth is the most active stakeholder in digital engagement and we should advocate for youth to be part of the decision-making process through targeted campaigns for the different stakeholders to achieve that. On other remarks, having open source software can definitely help multistakeholder participation as it is needed to reach broader audiences related to inclusive digital cooperation. In addition, leaders of the scientific community to foster inclusivity could support having youth-led initiatives or workshops. For example, youth can propose new ways to use digital technologies to improve educational curriculum; and provide knowledge to companies or academic institutions co-created with youth. Regarding human rights and human agency, the education for youth is necessary to properly interact with the digital technologies

ecosystem and understand human rights, being youth a key actor to advocate for their human rights protection while implementing policies for safe discussions in those countries that do not have protocols policy yet.

- **Partnership with Internet Society for the ISOC Youth Ambassadors Program**: we conducted for the second time the mentorship for the Internet Society's IGF Youth Ambassadors Program. On August 27, we launched the call for applications to become mentors at the program. After the selection process, mentors reached their mentees and prepared them for several months with several activities in order to increase their knowledge and engagement at the IGF2021. The chosen mentors worked closely with Internet Society staff and YCIG Steering Committee members. As part of the mentorship activities, the ISOC Youth Ambassadors conducted interviews to Internet Governance experts involved in the Intersessional work of the IGF.[7]

- **Partnership with Youth IGF Poland for the Project Youth Summit:** Starting from December 2020, we began to discuss with Youth IGF Poland on how to coordinate the Youth Summit activities in 2021. The planning of the activities for young people included:
*Selection of participants to integrate the Working Groups of the Youth Summit.[8]
*Coordination of two Working Groups: YCIG Steering Committee member Mohammad Atif Aleem (coordinated the Working Group on Environment and Digital Sustainability) and Eileen Cejas (coordinator of the Working Group on Inclusive Internet Governance and Digital Cooperation).
*Presentation of the outcomes of the Working Groups at the Roundtables 1 and 2, that happened on December 1 and 2 respectively; and at the Youth Summit, on December 6 by remote mode.

- YCIG submitted comments related to the Roadmap: the Steering Committee submitted comments on the paragraph 93 a) of the Roadmap on Digital Cooperation to reply to the

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[7] *Note: all the interviews can be found on this post of our website:*
https://ycigweb.wordpress.com/2021/12/20/mentorship-2021-interviews-ambassadors/
[8] The 8 Working Groups were: 1. Universal access and meaningful connectivity; 2. Digital education; 3. Environmental sustainability and climate change; 4. Inclusive IG ecosystems and digital cooperation; 5. Emerging regulation: market structure, content, data and consumer/users rights regulation; 6. Cybersecurity; 7. Privacy and data protection; and 8.Artificial intelligence

open consultation launched by the IGF Secretariat in March 2021. Some of the comments raised included the composition of the MHLB, funding, and highlighting the importance of the role of youth as stakeholder.

PARTICIPATION IN THE IGF2021: The YCIG Steering Committee formed the Working Groups to submit workshop proposals with the Youth Observatory by May 2021, from which 6 session proposals on the thematic issue areas[9]. We participated in the following sessions at the IGF2021:

IGF 2021 WS #259 Digital Cooperation process - Analysis from Youth lenses: This session explored the three models of architecture of Digital Cooperation: IGF Plus, the Co-Governance and Digital Commons model. Participants agreed on the importance of educating youth on Internet Governance topics. Our Steering Committee member Eileen Cejas also remarked that youth should become a separate stakeholder in order to obtain more impact to create agency in the Internet Governance field.

IGF 2021 WS #271 Youth Talk about IoT Security and AI misuse. Speakers discussed Artificial Intelligence and IoT from a youth perspective, exploring advantages and disadvantages of both, and how young people should take action and be involved especially in standardization for an inclusive and robust standard.

IGF 2021 Town Hall #63 Tackling the menace of E-Waste through greener ways. The session covered wide points and approaches on greener ways, policy oriented solutions to e-waste challenge, and it encouraged the young audience through exploring innovation in the e-waste management sector, catering to newer avenues for environmental education as well.

IGF 2021 WS #240 Education 4.0: Who is looking at cybersecurity?: The goal of the session was to tackle the issue of cybersecurity given the context of the pandemic and the transition

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[9] *Note: the accepted sessions submitted on behalf of YCIG were WS #259 "Digital Cooperation process: Analysis from Youth Lenses", Town Hall #63 "Tackling the menace of E-Waste through greener ways", WS #272 Youth in IG policy-making process: Let's talk about the MHLB" and DC YCIG "Youth in the decision-making process: hear us!"*

from traditional education to online education. It addressed the challenges for privacy and safety of children and youth, who are the most impacted by online educational platforms and the roles of each stakeholder in improving the trust of digital educational spaces for the purpose of expanding teaching and learning to the Internet.

[IGF 2021 WS #115 Fan the Flames? Regulating Competition in Digital Markets:](#) The session co-organised with Youth Observatory analysed that local small and medium-sized enterprises are not often in the same level with big tech companies in complying with those regulations that can even be destructive to the SMEs, that is why governments should take into consideration these companies while regulating the digital markets and use a multistakeholder approach considering the future impacts of their regulations.

[IGF 2021 WS #272 Youth in IG policy-making process: Let's talk about the MHLB](#). The speakers shared some insights from the MHLB and youth participation in this body, the role of the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance and the Youth Summit process. As part of the session, we also compiled the inputs into a document called "Youth position towards the present and future of Digital Cooperation" which are available [here](#).

We also participated in these sessions:
[Day 0 Event #123 Global Youth IGF- Presenting Successful Initiatives](#)[10]: YCIG gave an introduction of the work done during the year and invited people to join our DC.

[Global Youth Summit:](#) YCIG SC members Mohammad Atif Aleem and Eileen Cejas presented the results of their Working Groups.[11]

[DC Main Session IGF 2021 Main Session Digital cooperation in practice: IGF Dynamic Coalitions](#) YCIG SC member Eileen Cejas presented the youth position at the DC Main Session, based on the DC briefing paper we submitted some weeks before the IGF2021.

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[10] *Note: The Youth IGF Poland submitted this session. As part of our partnership, we participated in this session as part of youth initiatives.*
[11] *Note: The summary of the outcomes made from each Working Group can be found on this link:*
[*https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/247/20484*](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/247/20484)

YCIG Session IGF 2021 YCIG Youth in the decision-making process: hear us! At our DC session, we discussed the youth engagement in the IGF2021, looking at the youth's opinions on the Multistakeholder High Level Body and the Leadership Panel. We also created this "Map to Youth Initiatives" that gathers the outcomes of all our YCIG meetings so far.

ELECTIONS: Outgoing Steering Committee members coordinated the elections period. It started on December 13, after one week the IGF2021 started in order to comply with the time limit of 6 weeks. Elected candidates were notified in mid-January and they will be taking office effectively on January 30.