

Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media



Annual Work Report 2025

Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media

*Submitted by the Global Forum for Media Development,
in the capacity of DC-Journalism Secretariat*



About the DC-Journalism

Established in April 2019 the Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media (DC-Journalism)¹ is a multi-stakeholder initiative formally operating within the Internet Governance Forum. It serves as a hub for the journalism, news media, press freedom, journalism support, and media development communities to engage with important Internet governance and digital policy matters.

The DC-Journalism was founded as a key recommendation in a [2018 issue paper](#) produced by the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) and its partners. The paper specifically identified the sustainability of journalism and news media in the digital age as an area urgently requiring greater policy support. Over the past five years, the coalition has evolved into a dynamic platform for discussions about media sustainability. With its global membership, it provides a space to assess national-level and global opportunities and challenges related to various solutions that governments, advocacy organisations, and newsrooms are exploring to diversify revenue streams. More information about DC-Journalism is available at: <https://groups.io/g/dc-journalism>.

1. Activities conducted in the past year

Activities within the IGF

Co-coordinators, secretariat and members of the DC-Journalism had an active participation during the 2025 Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Norway, despite not having a dedicated session in the programme.

This meant that DC-Journalism had to join other Dynamic Coalitions in the preparations for joint sessions. Although this change was met with reluctance, and it added an extra layer of resources to enable the coordination between different DCs and align the priorities for a joint session, it also enabled breaking the silos between the different Dynamic Coalitions.

In particular, DC-Journalism contributed to the joint Dynamic Coalition session on emerging technologies, where Surabhi Srivastava, DC-Journalism member and author of the 2024-2025 report, spoke in the discussion about how to ensure an inclusive, human-centric and human rights-based approach to innovation and governance.

The coalition was also represented in the Dynamic Coalitions Coordination Group (DCCG) Main Session, titled “Dynamic Coalitions in service of Internet Governance: Success stories from the

¹ In 2023, the Dynamic Coalition rebranded its short name to DC-Journalism from DC-Sustainability. This document uses the new short name throughout, including with reference to activities in the past.

past and for the future of the IGF.” During this session, Laura Becana Ball, representative from the DC-Journalism Secretariat spoke on behalf of several Dynamic Coalitions and highlighted the barriers many communities continue to face in accessing and influencing internet governance processes, including technical language, institutional complexity, and unequal political power dynamics.

Overall, IGF 2025 provided an important opportunity for DC-Journalism to reconnect with members in person, strengthen collaboration with other Dynamic Coalitions and stakeholders, and reinforce the coalition’s role as a space linking internet governance, media sustainability, and journalism safety and viability.

2024-2025 Annual Report: Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media.

Following delays in the coordination, drafting and editorial process during 2024, the coalition decided to postpone the launch of its Annual Report and align its publication with IGF 2025 in Norway. This resulted in the release of a combined 2024–2025 report, focused on the intersections between artificial intelligence and journalism.

The report reflected the coalition’s ongoing effort to provide practical and policy-relevant analysis on emerging issues affecting journalism and news media in digital spaces. It also offered a concrete output around which coalition members and external stakeholders could engage.

A key moment of engagement was the launch of the 2024–2025 DC-Journalism Annual Report, which focused on AI and journalism. Released during the IGF, the report provided timely and expert input to ongoing discussions among coalition members and broader stakeholders, including policymakers, technology actors, civil society organisations, and the Internet governance community. The report also served as an important advocacy and knowledge resource, helping position journalism and public interest media more clearly within internet governance debates.

Activities beyond the IGF

Digital Governance processes

Continuing the work on digital governance, the future of the Internet Governance Forum and the World Summit on the Information Society, in July, the DC-Journalism prepared a one-page position providing inputs to the WSIS+20 Elements Paper. This one-page position was incorporated into a shared submission made by several Dynamic Coalitions of the Internet Governance Forum.

This contribution built on the coordination efforts among different Dynamic Coalitions, and continued DC-Journalism ongoing efforts to **ensure that the media and journalism community is recognised as a relevant stakeholder in internet governance and digital**



policy processes, and to strengthen the visibility of journalism-related concerns in global governance spaces.

Learning Calls and Webinars

Following the precedent set in 2024, co-coordinators and the DC-Journalism Secretariat have tried to co-organise learning calls via their respective organisations, in which members of the DC-Journalism have been invited to participate, speak, or co-organise. This approach made the process of organising such calls more streamlined and effective.

In October, DC-Journalism co-coordinator Nompilo Simanje contributed to the Dynamic Coalition webinar on “Quantum Computing & How It Will Affect You.” Participation in this webinar was important from a coordination perspective. DC-Journalism understands that these webinars facilitated by the IGF Secretariat, provide a **valuable platform for collaboration, visibility and stronger coordination among Dynamic Coalitions throughout the year**. In that sense, this engagement also contributed to breaking silos between coalitions, enabling DC-Journalism to connect its work with broader conversations on emerging technologies and digital governance. Building on this experience, DC-Journalism will seek to participate more actively in similar cross-coalition exchanges in the future.

Assessment of the priorities and objectives for 2025

Priority / Objective	Month - Activity	Outcomes/Discussion
2024-2025 DC-Journalism Report	<i>June</i>	The launch of the 2024-25 DC-Journalism Annual Report on AI and journalism during IGF, provided timely and expert input that informed many member’s IGF discussions and strengthened collaboration with policymakers, tech actors, and the Internet governance community. Access the report here.
IGF 2025	<i>June</i>	Session organised by the co-coordinator Lei Ma (via its former organisation, RNW Media), explored ethical challenges surrounding AI-generated content. It featured diverse perspectives from civil society, journalism, and digital rights advocates. Participants stressed the need to embed ethics into everyday workflows, warning that standalone AI checklists risk becoming “bureaucratic hurdles” if not meaningfully integrated. Recording of the session is available here.
		Dynamic Coalition Session

		<p>Surabhi Srivastava, member of DC-Journalism and one of the authors of the 2024-2025 report participated in this joint DC session, exploring how to ensure an inclusive human-centric, rights-based approach to innovation and governance, balancing economic interests with the rights and well-being of all users. Recording of the session is available here.</p>
		<p>DCCG - Main Session Laura Becana Ball, in her capacity as DC-Journalism Secretariat, spoke at the Main Session organised by the Dynamic Coalitions Coordination Group “Dynamic Coalitions in service of Internet Governance: Success stories from the past and for the future of the IGF”. She spoke on behalf of several Dynamic Coalitions, and addressed the the barriers many communities face in accessing and influencing internet governance, such as technical language, institutional complexity, and political power struggles. Recording of the session is available here.</p>
<p>Learning Calls and Webinars</p>	<p><i>January</i></p>	<p>This policy meeting explored the effectiveness of reporting mechanisms and escalation channels for journalism organisations online, their challenges and lessons learnt, and why their data matters to ensure evidence-based policies that address the gaps in safeguarding media freedom online. This discussion gathered civil society organisations, journalism support organisations, media advocacy groups, and policy experts, academics, and researchers.</p> <p>Key takeaways: https://gfmf.info/briefings/protecting-media-freedom-online-old-challenges-new-solutions/</p>
	<p><i>October</i></p>	<p>DC-Journalism co-coordinator, Nompilo Simanje, spoke at the DC Webinar on “Quantum Computing & How It Will Affect You”</p>
	<p><i>December</i></p>	<p>As part of the side-event programming of the WSIS+20 UN GA High-Level Meeting, an online session was organised on “Affordable and Secure Digital Infrastructure for Media and Journalists.” The meeting report is available here.</p>

<p>Engagement with DC-Journalism members</p>	<p><i>January - December</i></p>	<p>The mailing list has been the main source of engagement throughout the year.</p> <p>Active participation IGF 2025 allowed in person meetings and exchanges for members attending in person.</p> <p>24 new members joined the mailing list.</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p><i>July</i></p>	<p>On July 25, some Dynamic Coalitions of the Internet Governance Forum prepared a joint submission that incorporated some of their own positions. The submission is available here: https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2025/Inputs%20to%20Elements%20Paper/DCCG_submission.pdf</p> <p>The Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media prepared a one page position to be added to the joint submission.</p>

2. Updates on internal processes

The GFMD-coordinated mailing list of the Dynamic Coalition on the Sustainability of Journalism and News Media (DC-Journalism) remained an active hub for discussion on the links between Internet governance and media sustainability and the main coordination and engagement mechanism for its members.

The group currently has 352 members. During 2025, there were around 100 updates and messages sent to the mailing list, many of which sparked active discussion between members, creating more than 60 email threads.

At the same time, the coalition is not immune to the financial and capacity constraints that affect most of the human rights and civil society sectors worldwide. In particular, DC-Journalism operates on a voluntary basis and has no dedicated funding, which inevitably limits the capacity of its Secretariat and co-coordinators. In addition, much of DC-Journalism’s membership comes from civil society organisations, many of them NGOs, whose engagement is often shaped by multiple competing priorities and limited resources. These challenges continue to influence the pace and scale of the coalition’s activities, and remain an important consideration for future planning.

3. Priorities/objectives for 2026

The main goal of the DC-Journalism work plan for 2026 is to keep re-engaging the community and encouraging its members to be more involved in topics and issues related to internet governance and media development. Learning from the challenges encountered in 2025, and with the constraints of limited capacity, funding and already over-worked members, the DC-Journalism will do its best to continue organising and coordinating:

- **2026-2027 DC-Journalism Report:** We will aim for a 2026 report, but due to the lack of funding and the capacity limitations, we may consider merging 2026-2027 reports, as we did for the previous one.
- **Learning Calls and DC Webinars:** The objective of these activities is to encourage DC-Journalism members to **exchange knowledge and facilitate interactive and constructive dialogue among them**, and also among other Dynamic Coalitions. Based on 2025's performance, the DC-Journalism aims to co-organise at least two learning calls during 2026.
- **Engagement with DC-Journalism members:** To ensure an open-participation of the members of the Dynamic Coalition, coordination calls, email threads and other communications with planning purposes will be open to all members. As a novelty for 2026, a periodic newsletter or update is being considered as a way to improve the regularity of the communications as well as to provide timely updates and information about events, opportunities for engagement or new themes or topics that could be relevant to the members.
- **IGF 2027:** DC-Journalism will aim to remain actively engaged in IGF 2026, whether through a dedicated contribution or session proposal or via the collaboration with other Dynamic Coalitions in joint sessions.