COVID-19 and the Dynamic Coalition on Core Internet Values

Paper to be submitted on how the COVID-19 has affected the Coalition's work and the lessons learned through 30 June, co-edited by Alejandro Pisanty and Olivier Crépin-Leblond.

1.   Effect on the work of the coalition relating to 6F Framework

The 6F Framework, first presented to the DC in the 2019 session of the IGF in Berlin, uses six factors to map online and offline behaviours peeling away the effects of the Internet from the underlying human and social conduct and motivations. The 6 factors are: 1. mass scaling (including network effects), 2. identity and anonymity, 3. transjurisdictional effects, 4. barrier lowering, 5. friction reduction, and 6. memory and forgetting. These factors derive organically from the core technical principles of the Internet, *viz.* best-effort, interoperability, openness, robustness, etc.

The global crisis engendered by the COVID-19 pandemic has been managed in an important way through the Internet. Health, public-health strategy, statistics, emergency responses, as well as work-from-home, teleconferencing, e-commerce, e-government, and emergency implemented distance education have been among the major responses to the necessary, painful and costly confinement required in most countries in order to slow the spread of the virus. We have used the 6F Framework to analyze this response and to point to possible pain points, risks, and improvements [1]. At six months into the pandemic, it is time to perform this exercise again in order to present results in the upcoming session in November 2020.

2.   Effect on the work of the coalition relating to Future Internet

The Coalition will retake the exercise of previous years of assessing the impact of the year's events on the core principles of the Internet, this time enhanced with the tools the 6F framework provides. Work in progress applies the framework to: 1. Books, libraries and publishing; 2. Education; 3. Network Neutrality. Upcoming efforts will concentrate on the effects of COVID-19 responses on free speech and controls on the flow of information, as well as the tradeoffs between contact tracing and privacy, which are also the work of other Dynamic Coalitions with whom we collaborate. Our focus will remain a technical focus to complement the input of other Dynamic Coalitions.

3.   Effect on coalition logistics and face-to-face meeting

The effect of the emergency on the Coalition's logistics has been to enhance the value of online collaboration, which we perform mostly by email in order to deal with the widespread of timezones our members reside in, and to their increased job-related and family workloads due to confinement and response to it. Attendance at our recent mid-term EuroDIG day zero meeting relating to the Future Internet has been higher than at any other prior mid-term face to face meeting. Whilst the coalition has benefited from renewed interest in the topic of Core Internet Values, part of the reason for this renewed interest has stemmed from international geopolitical and technical developments which make this topic more important today than ever before.

---

1 A. Pisanty, « Open Internet Governance: the 6F Framework and COVID-19
        https://www.medianama.com/2020/05/223-open-internet-governance-6f-framework/