IGF 2016 Report

Dynamic Coalitions Main Session

Thursday 8 December 2016, 15.00-16.30

Dynamic Coalitions came together for a main session for the second time at IGF 2016. Driven by a shared desire to present their work collectively, expressed clearly during their first main session in 2015, DCs, with the support of two co-facilitators and the Secretariat, devised this year's main session programme over the course of regular coordination meetings throughout the year.

The session's "interview style" approach , in which the moderator, Tatiana Tropina, questioned DC representatives with a provocative slant, served to highlight the current and most significant areas of work for each of the 12 participating coalitions. The questions and answers given were drawn from substantive output documents produced by the coalitions ahead of the meeting. As emphasized by co-facilitator Markus Kummer, who also chaired the session, this format was agreed upon as a preferred alternative to straightforward reports on those outputs. The richness and variety of DC topics, referenced in opening remarks by the honorary chair, Victor Lagunes, was evident in the session.

Participants learned that the *DC on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD)* has annually produced accessibility guidelines which have helped to greatly improve IGFs for persons with disabilities, including the 2016 one, and that the next target will be the training of on-site IGF staff. DCAD is working to promote the standardization of key technologies, including the Internet of Things, in continuous support of persons with disabilities. The *DC on Gender and Internet Governance (DC-GIG)* is focused on the experience of the Internet user as tied to gender identity – both in terms of access and the rights accorded – and that the "user" of common parlance can no longer be seen as generic, but rather as female, male, trans, gay, etc. The coalition makes its own important contribution to annual IGFs with the "IGF Gender Report Card", which looks at the participation of women in the meeting. Among the several initiatives endorsed by the *DC on Child Online Safety (DC-COS)* are age-verification systems to protect children against explicit content on commercial pornography websites. These online innovations, and legal measures such as fines, are part of the DC's advocacy work. In response to a participant question, DC-COS also critically noted that the majority of Internet users worldwide are children or minors and that the Internet Governance discussion so far has not been sufficiently inclusive of them.

The *DC on Community Connectivity (DC3)*, new in 2016, shared its analysis of community networks and their relationship to connectivity, finding not only that the networks help provide access but render it sustainable over time. Community networks are also important contributors to the extensive data gathering work of the other new coalition this year, the *DC on Innovative Approaches to Connecting the Unconnected (DC-Connecting the Unconnected)*. The DC will produce a narrative report on the more than 200 innovative methods recorded for connecting people to the Internet, and will rely on the IGF community to help it gather further case studies. The *DC on Public Access in Libraries (DC-PAL)* is similarly committed to the issue and study of connectivity, particularly for under-served communities. It reminded participants of the vital role libraries play in providing open, accessible spaces for Internet use in rural and remote areas, as well as in delivering locally-produced content and Government services online.

The work of the *Internet Rights and Principles Coalition (IRPC)* is not just represented by its charter of rights, which is available in 7 languages, but by the guidance and advice it provides to institutions as well as Governments. Participants were told the charter served as a basis document for policymaking in both Italy and New Zealand. Internet rights should be differentiated from, but may very well be linked to, what are understood as the technical-facing values with which the *DC on Core Internet Values (DC-CIV)* is concerned – such as interoperability, openness and decentralization. The recent work of the coalition asks whether these values are now evolving. The Internet of Things, as studied by the *DC on IoT (DC-IoT)*, is part of that ultra-rapid, changing Internet landscape and raises many security-related questions. The coalition suggests that the best way to address these is through a multistakeholder effort by businesses, service providers, regulators and individual users, who should take responsibility for being better informed and technologically aware.

In its latest publication, the *DC on Net Neutrality (DCNN)* has looked at the relationship, or what is often seen as the tension, between net neutrality and zero rating. Among the views presented in DCNN's book, both favouring and critically deconstructing zero rating, it questions the notion that the zero rating policy is an important enabler of access, in light of the several other measures and policies that accomplish the same objective. Another hyped or highly topical issue is that of blockchain technologies, which the *DC on Blockchain Technologies (DC-Blockchain)* has argued are often being used in an indiscriminate way. The coalition seeks to examine the cases which are most appropriate for decentralized architecture and the application of blockchain. The *Dynamic Coalition on Internet and Climate Change (DC-ICC)* brings to the fore an issue that is too seldom discussed in the IGF context. Part of its aim is to ensure that the role of ICTs in climate change - they both contribute to and mitigate climate change - especially as this relates to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), continues to be discussed at the IGF.

Participants were encouraged to join coalitions in their discussions throughout the year by subscribing to their mailing lists, as well as to add their own views to DCs' ideas and proposals in a direct way, through the "DC Issue Surveys" available on the IGF's website. Coalitions will use this feedback to further refine their work.

Main Session Co-Facilitators: *Avri Doria and Markus Kummer*

Honorary Chair: *Victor Lagunes, Chief Information Officer in the Office of the President of Mexico*

Chair: *Markus Kummer*

Moderator: *Tatiana Tropina*

Remote Moderator: *Arsène Tungali*

Speakers: *Jeremy Malcolm (introduction on DC Issue Surveys); Andrea Saks (DCAD); Carla Reyes (DC-Blockchain); John Carr (DC-COS); Luca Belli (DC3 & DCNN); Olivier Crépin-Leblond (DC-CIV); Bishakha Datta (DCGIG); Christopher Yoo (DC-Connecting the Unconnected); Preetam Maloor (DCICC); Maarten Botterman (DC-IoT); Stuart Hamilton (DC-PAL); Hanane Boujemi (IRPC)*

Rapporteur: *Eleonora Mazzucchi (IGF Secretariat)*