Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group – Virtual Meeting VI

Summary Report

25 April 2016

1. The sixth virtual meeting of the DC Coordination Group (DCCG) was held on 25 April 2016. The meeting was facilitated by Markus Kummer and Avri Doria, with Eleonora Mazzucchi representing the IGF Secretariat. The Webex recording of the meeting can be accessed here: https://intgovforum.webex.com/intgovforum/ldr.php?RCID=600b5e25c38221795cedd07660bf6f6f

2. An overview was given of the MAG’s discussion of DCs during the First Open Consultations and MAG Meeting, held earlier this month on 4–6 April. Drawing from the summary of that meeting, it was reported that the MAG agreed on a proposal to include once again this year a DCs main session in the IGF programme. The DCs’ positive momentum and coordination work since the last IGF was also noted by the MAG, in particular the preliminary adoption of a DC coordination ToR.

3. The DCs side meeting held during the overall MAG meeting was touched upon. It was noted that during this session, some MAG members raised the issue of common rules of procedure for DCs and the inclusion of minority or dissenting viewpoints in DC outputs. To address these concerns and move forward, it was suggested that language on this be added to the ToR for DCs’ consideration. And given the increasing expectation that DCs will move toward some common ground rules, it was also suggested that the ‘threeOpens’ – open membership, open mailing lists, open archives – be made formal requirements by the Secretariat and published on the DCs homepage. It was agreed that this formalization of the ‘Opens’ would be taken forward on the DC list for final discussion and consensus approval.

4. The so-called ‘liaison’ functions between DCs and the MAG were discussed again, with some resisting the term ‘liaison’. Overall the group agreed the functions were necessary as a communication and organizational tool, regardless of the word used to describe them. A suggestion had been made that perhaps two liaisons would be better, but once again it was noted that an individual who is both a member of the DCs community and the MAG could effectively do this job, as Avri did last year.

5. Markus and Avri reflected on the expiration of their roles as DC coordinators, tentatively agreeing to continue in those capacities this year. The continuation of their roles would be contingent on support from the MAG and the MAG chair, which was in fact extended during the MAG call on 26 April.

6. Looking forward to the planning of the DCs main session for IGF2016, it was widely felt that it should be made as ‘interesting and entertaining’ as possible, with a focus on engaging the participants in the room and stimulating debate. One concrete suggestion was to have the session divided in three segments, with a first on presentation of outputs, a second on debate, and a third for a feedback mechanism like last year’s idea rating sheets.
7. Remarking that Best Practice Forums had produced a ‘handbook’ or compilation of outputs last year, it was suggested something similar could be created for DCs’ outputs. Given that BPFs work much more closely with the MAG and that their outputs are more deliberately reviewed, it would have to be seen what form exactly this compilation should take, if not identical to BPFs’. It was agreed this would continue to be explored as DCs identify reporting modalities and plan for a main session.

8. It was agreed the next virtual meeting would be held in approximately one month’s time, with an agenda emphasizing format ideas for the main session.