Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group V – Face-to-Face Meeting

Summary Report

6 April 2016

1. The fifth coordination meeting was open to all DCs, MAG members and participants of the Open Consultations. It was chaired by Markus Kummer, who made it clear at the outset that this was the end of the mandate that was given to him in order to facilitate the 2015 IGF DC Main Session. He also paid tribute to the co-facilitator Avri Doria (who was participating remotely) and thanked the IGF Secretariat’s Eleonora Mazzucchi for her support. The meeting was attended by 10 DC representatives and some MAG members.

2. The Chair opened the meeting with a brief explanation of the DCs’ work on the Coordination Group (DCCG) Terms of Reference, which was disseminated to all DCs through a common editable document and broadly agreed upon. Since the ToR is effectively settled, it was suggested each DC now put forward 1 representative member to the Group, with the understanding this representative may be replaced by a fellow DC member if unavailable for a particular meeting. It was also suggested the DCCG hold approximately one call per month, meeting with the same regularity since the IGF in João Pessoa. As to the question of potential voting procedures, it was recommended the DCCG move forward by consensus, as has been the practice on joint DC calls to date.

3. The proposal to appoint reciprocal liaisons from and to MAG and DCCG triggered off some sustained discussions and was met with some resistance. There were many questions asked. Among the issues raised were potential conflicts of interest in case a member of an existing DC would at the same time assume the liaison role. However, the point was made that last year’s co-facilitator had very effectively assumed such a role and was clearly able to separate her two roles as a DC member and a more neutral liaison between the MAG and the DCs.

4. There were some questions in need of clarification:
   - there would only be one MAG liaison working with the DCCG (and not a liaison per DC);
   - the DCs would not appoint one of their members to serve on the MAG. The primary role of the MAG liaison would be to facilitate communication between the two groups.

5. There was a call for common rules of procedures for all DCs. In particular, the point was made that all dissenting or minority points of view should be included in all DC output documents. It was underlined that the work of the DCCG will include building consensus on the development of such common rules.

6. Several participants highlighted the integrality of the DCs to the IGF and their historic role. They called for further mainstreaming of DCs’ work, continued joint substantive or analytical exercises by DCs, as was the case during their main session at last year’s IGF, and the possibility of standardized DC reporting. It was emphasized that this wish for
integrality and substantive coordination was the impetus for forming the DCCG in the first place.

7. The request to fund captioning of future calls has been brought to the attention of the MAG. It will be taken up with the Secretariat as a horizontal issue pertaining to all IGF calls. There was general agreement that captioning would produce a beneficial record for the broader IGF community.

8. The facilitator made it clear that his and his co-facilitator’s roles expire with this new IGF cycle. They were both asked to continue in their roles. In absence of any other suggestions, they agreed to do so.