

Report of inaugural meeting of Dynamic Coalition on Trade and the Internet

10:40-11:40 on Tuesday, December 19 in Room XII - A

Moderator: Jeremy Malcolm, EFF

Agenda:

1. Brief update on current state of play in trade and Internet governance, including presentation of the background paper

Jeremy Malcolm from EFF gave a presentation on the DC's history, objectives, and demographics, revealing that there were 42 members including at least one representative from all of the stakeholder groups, though the DC was dominated by civil society (which is not unusual for an IGF Dynamic Coalition).

Jyoti Panday, also from EFF, presented the [background paper](#) that had been prepared for the DC with contributions from various DC members. Although the paper is not a normative document it does contain information on both multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations, and explains the main issues that relate to the online and digital environment.

2. Discussion and adoption of the draft resolution on transparency

Jeremy Malcolm presented the draft [draft resolution on transparency](#) and explained the process by which it had been drafted online by DC members. Those present were given the opportunity to provide their feedback on the text, with a view to having it further endorsed by the rough consensus of those present in the room.

Parminder Jeet Singh from IT for Change and Sanya Reid Smith from Third World Network raised suggestions about the extent to which the second paragraph of the draft resolution could be interpreted as presupposing that the treatment of digital issues in trade agreements would support a free and open Internet. It was suggested to either delete that paragraph or to revise it. In the end, it was agreed by a straw poll of those present to delete the paragraph. [EFF blogged](#) about the approval of the revised text.

3. Discussion on priorities and work program for 2018

There was general discussion of the priorities and work program of the Dynamic Coalition for 2018. William Drake, from the University of Zurich, referenced discussions that had taken place at other IGF sessions about initiatives to link the

trade and Internet governance communities and discussions. He mentioned, in particular, that UNCTAD's e-commerce week comes up in April 16-20, and suggested that the DC and/or its members could do something to build a process of outreach to more players at UNCTAD, and host a session there.

Comments were also made about the need to make the DC more inclusive, as illustrated by the presentation slide showing that the DC is currently dominated by civil society representatives. There was broad agreement to devote attention during 2018 to outreach to members of the Internet business community, trade organisations, and politicians and other members of government, while also welcoming new members from civil society and academia.

As to new issues to be covered by the DC during 2018, Mr Drake noted, and others agreed, that starting with a transparency issue had been a good idea, given how contentious some of the other issues are. There was no clear sense in the room about what substantive issues could be covered, and this is to be further discussed on the mailing list.