

United Nations
Internet Governance Forum



2023 Annual Report:
Trusting Blockchain Solutions

Version 1

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The mission of the Dynamic Coalition of the Blockchain Assurance and Standardization (DC-BAS), is to define, propose and share criteria, methodologies, tools, and real use cases to build trust in blockchain technology.

Members of the DC-BAS share the belief that blockchains are important because they can be used to create secure and transparent systems, in streamlining the delivery of public services to underserved communities and populations, strengthening transparency and integrity for public services, and ultimately building trust amongst all stakeholders.

As blockchain technology continues to develop, it is likely to have a major impact on the way we live and work. However, notwithstanding the enormous potential of blockchain solutions, many projects fail to meet expectations because of the lack of comprehensive understanding of the knowledge domains, and the discipline present in more mature sectors. Furthermore, there are other challenges associated with the design and implementation of blockchains, including:

- Complexity: Blockchains can be complex to understand and use; and
- Regulation: Blockchains are not yet well-regulated.

The DC-BAS is hosted and supported by the Government Blockchain Association (GBA), a non-profit organization that supports the use of blockchain technology in government. The GBA's mission is to "connect, communicate, and collaborate with government leaders and stakeholders to use blockchain technology to improve public services." More specifically, GBA has established working groups that conduct their work in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the UN-Secretary-General Global Digital Compact goals, including:

- Ensure that everyone has access to the digital world, via GBA's Telecommunication Working Group (i.e., Telcom-Internet-Communications, <https://www.gbaglobal.org/groups/telcom-internet-communications>).
- Promote the use of digital technologies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, via GBA's Sustainable Resources (i.e., Sustainable Environmental Stewardship, <https://gbaglobal.org/groups/sustainable-environmental-stewardship/memb...>).
- Protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the digital age, via GBA's Trusted Communications Project (<https://gbaglobal.org/blog/2023/04/28/trusted-communications-project>)

- Build trust in the digital world, via the GBA Standards working group (Blockchain Maturity Model (BMM) – GBA Global)

1.2 Scope

The scope of work of the DC-BAS for 2023 included:

- Blockchain and communication infrastructure (i.e., accessibility and security)
- Blockchain and digital identity
- Blockchain for environmental stewardship
- Blockchain and responsible governance (i.e., laws, regulations, standards, assurance)
- Blockchain for delivering public services (i.e., voting, finance, health care, education)
- Blockchain for economic development and investments
- Blockchain and artificial intelligence
- Blockchain for supply-chain

2 Operations

2.1 Meetings and Activities Conducted in 2023

The DC-BAS was established in 2023, and its activities throughout the year included a series of monthly meetings dedicated to:

- Familiarization with the:
 - Nature, mission, structure, and operating model of the UN – Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF), including:
 - Charter of the Dynamic Coalitions
 - DC Report – “IGF Dynamic Coalition: Digital Cooperation in Practice”
 - Relevant strategies, policies, and initiatives of the United Nations, including:
 - The UN Secretary-General:
 - Strategy on new technologies
 - Report “Our Common Agenda”
 - Roadmap for Digital Cooperation
 - The World Summit on Information Society (WSIS+20) Roadmap and Review Process (IGF+20)
 - The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Digital SDGs

- The mandate of ITU and its various programs and initiatives
 - Preparation for the workshop held in Kyoto, Japan.

2.2 Outreach

The DC-BAS also conducted outreach activities and participated in joint initiatives/sessions with two IGF Dynamic Coalitions: Digital Health; and Internet Standards, Security and Safety (IS3C).

3 2023 IGF Annual Meeting (Kyoto, Japan)

3.1 Outcome

The DC-BAS participated in the 2023 IGF Annual Meeting held in Kyoto, Japan, both in-person as well as virtually. A physical booth in Kyoto was staffed throughout the entire duration of the IGF event with a rotating team of four representatives, while a virtual booth ran in parallel, online, managed by a remote team of three dedicated representatives..

Four representatives of the DC-BAS were on-site during the entire duration of the Kyoto event, and numerous other members of the Coalition joined the virtual activities based on a daily schedule of events and discussions on various topics.

The main outcome of the Kyoto event was a broad consensus around the benefits of referencing a maturity model for the assessment of blockchain solutions, in:

- Providing a common framework to conduct transparent, traceable, and repeatable assessments of blockchains.
- Supporting trust in blockchain solutions.
- Helping organizations identify areas for improvement.
- Facilitating communication and collaboration between stakeholders.
- Supporting concrete use cases, including:
 - Healthcare
 - Digital Identity
 - Banking & Finance
 - Digital Assets
 - Voting/Elections
 - Legal
 - Supply Chain
 - Other Domains of Interest (e.g., Education; Areas of Interest for Parliamentarians; Non-Governmental Organizations, Academic Research)
- Ensuring that blockchain solutions meet the needs of all stakeholders.
- Reducing the potential risks associated with the selection of inappropriate or inadequate blockchain solutions for specific use cases.
- Promoting the adoption of best practices in blockchain design and implementation.
- Supporting a solid rationale for using a maturity model.

4 2024 Plan

Taking input for the outcome of the 2023 session, the DC-BAS identified several initiatives for a “2024 Call to Action”, building on the lessons learned, defined as follows:

- Provide more details about opportunities for training and awareness on the Blockchain Maturity Model, and the corresponding assessment methodology.
- Share lessons learned and best practices.
- Involve key stakeholders and interested new parties in the periodic meetings of the IGF-DC-BAS.
- Collect input/requirements/suggestions from representatives of multi-stakeholder groups.
- Develop and validate sector-specific supplements.
- Simulate assessments and share results.

4.1 Decentralized Autonomous Governance Pilot

4.1.1 Purpose

To strengthen the accountability and transparency of the DC-BAS decision-making process and operations, the Co-Leaders of the Coalition intend to establish a Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO) and run a pilot project with the purpose of demonstrating to all stakeholders how decentralized systems can be used for trusted governance in accordance with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

4.1.2 The “Three Open” Guiding Principles

The DC-BAS will use a DAO for supporting the access and availability of all documents, communications, and proposals in accordance with a framework of principles to be offered as an example and/or template for all the other IG-Dynamic Coalitions and/or stakeholders to follow, using the principles of “three opens”: Open Archives; Open Lists, and Open Membership. In this regard, a set of guidelines will be issued during the course of 2024, and the preliminary results of the DAO pilot presented at the 2024 IGF Session. Accordingly, the DC-BAS will establish:

- (i) A communication forum using decentralized autonomous technology to operationalize the UN-IGF Code of Conduct¹; and
- (ii) A decentralized autonomous voting system to support the voting of nominations, proposals, amendments, and other relevant decisions related to the activities of the Coalition.

¹ <https://intgovforum.org/en/about#igf-code-of-conduct>