

IGF Dynamic Coalition on DNS Issues

Summary Report: Joint Efforts to Achieve the SDGs

November 28, 2019

In 2019 the Dynamic Coalition on DNS Issues (DC-DNSI) worked to raise awareness about Universal Acceptance (UA) readiness amongst the Dynamic Coalitions and within the broader IGF community. Nik Smith represented the DC-DNSI and its membership during the Dynamic Coalition (DC) main session, “[*Joint Efforts to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.*](#)” Smith explained that while the focus of the DC-DNSI this year was not directly on the SDGs, the DC-DNSI secretariat consulted with its membership on whether they saw a connection between UA-readiness and the SDGs in light of the focus of the DC main session. The group thought that SDG 9 would be the most relevant out of the 17 SDGs.

Smith highlighted responses received from the DC-DNSI membership. Members generally agreed that Universal Acceptance could help advance Sustainable Development Goal number 9: *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*. One member explained that UA-readiness promotes a multilingual system of unique identifiers for the Internet, which should extend the reach of domain names beyond the developed world into communities which are striving to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrialization. With respect to innovation, members articulated that internationalized domain names create a web presence for start-ups and innovators, and should be a low-cost, highly-available tool for innovators to reach a local or international audience – particularly in countries and territories where ASCII domain names lack meaning and memorability for local audiences. It was recognized that UA-readiness is an essential component for fostering innovation.

Further, some members confirmed connections with Targets 9.C and 9.B from SDG 9. Target 9.C relates to increasing access to ICTs and target 9.B relates to supporting domestic technology development. While not all members agreed that Universal Acceptance alone promotes access to ICTs, several were in accord that it would decrease barriers to inclusive participation and access to information. And several members commented that having UA-readiness, where domains and email addresses in local scripts are recognized, would stimulate local content creation and domestic technology development.

From the DC-DNSI secretariat’s point of view, the most valuable aspect of this exercise was witnessing the diversity in reasoning that the DC-DNSI membership shared about whether there is a connection between UA and SDG9 and its targets. While there was consensus that UA-readiness is critical to advancing digital inclusion, not one of the specific questions on the connection between UA and each components of SDG9, or its targets, found a round YES or NO from the membership. People value UA in different ways, and SDG9 in different ways.

Lastly, Smith expressed to his fellow panelists and audience participants that without significant involvement of all stakeholders there will be no significant steps forward in adoption, or for creating a pathway towards a more digital inclusive world.

The consultation questions and raw responses may be found in an attachment to this report.