Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality
Annual Report

1. Background info about the DC

The IGF Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality (DCNN) is a component of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and has been promoting Internet Openness since its inception, through a participatory multistakeholder process. The DCNN advocates for open and secure Internet, accessible to all people. The Coalition has been promoting Network Neutrality as this fundamental principle plays an instrumental role in preserving Internet openness, fostering the enjoyment of Internet users’ human rights; promoting competition and equality of opportunity; safeguarding the generative peer-to-peer nature of the Internet; and spreading the benefits of the Internet to all people.

2. Activities conducted in the past year
   a. Activities within the IGF

The DCNN session at IGF 2021 explored several Internet openness topics, focusing on technical and policy issues that are essential to guarantee that Internet remains open. The session provided a brief overview of the evolution of net neutrality issues around the world, with a special focus on next-generation internet openness issues such as device neutrality and interoperability.

The session was also the occasion to present the DCNN Outcome Document, an Open Statement on Internet Openness, calling for the promotion of Net Neutrality, Interoperability and Device Neutrality.

During the session, the present stakeholders proposed to further elaborate on the Open Statement, enhancing the document’s analysis on terms such as interoperability. This elaboration should go on in an open and inclusive manner, so that all those who wish to contribute have the opportunity to do so. The draft statement can be commented on using the collaborative pad set up to facilitate interactions between DCNN members.
b. Activities beyond the IGF

In 2021, the importance of Internet openness has been a growing theme among specialists and even regulatory agencies. The French Telecoms Regulator (ARCEP) featured, for the second time, in its official annual report a section discussing the findings of the DCNN report on “The Value of Internet Openness in Times of Crisis.”

ARCEP had already included a section dedicated to DCNN outcomes in its 2018 annual report. The inclusion of the DCNN outcomes in the ARCEP report can be seen as evidence of the positive multistakeholder synergy created by DCNN, the impact of DCNN outcomes, and potential that IGF DCs can have.

c. Any outputs produced and/or research/studies conducted.
DCNN members stressed that, besides relying on the network neutrality principle, the preservation of Internet Openness relies on Interoperability and on Device Neutrality. In this perspective DCNN developed a Draft Open Statement on Internet Openness. The Draft was presented at the DCNN meeting and can be accessed and commented using a dedicated collaborative pad.

3. Updates on internal processes
A new dedicated website has been planned.

4. Priorities/objectives for the following year (short)
Further work on new dimensions of internet openness (notably device neutrality and interoperability of operating systems) will be developed by DCNN members.

The new DCNN website will be developed during the first semester of 2022 and launched at the 2022 IGF meeting of DCNN.