Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group – Virtual Meeting XXIX

Summary Report

8 August 2018

1. The twenty-ninth virtual meeting of the DC Coordination Group (DCCG) took place on 8 August 2018. The meeting was facilitated by Markus Kummer, with Eleonora Mazzucchi representing the IGF Secretariat. Ms. Lynn St. Amour, the Chair of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) also participated in the meeting. The agenda of the DCCG meeting (ANNEX I) focused on preparation of the thematic main session at IGF 2018, which DCs will co-organize, the DCs booth at the meeting, and miscellaneous updates from the MAG Chair. Live captioning was available during the call, with the transcript posted on the IGF’s website:


2. The meeting began with an announcement from Markus that Israel Rosas, the DCs focal point in the MAG, had transitioned from his post in the Mexican Government and would no longer hold a MAG seat, and therefore would no longer serve as focal point – although Israel will remain active in DC coordination activities through the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (YCIG). Jutta Croll, a coordinator for the DC on Child Online Safety (DCCOS) and first-term MAG member, has kindly agreed to take on this role from Israel.

3. The MAG Chair, Ms. Lynn St. Amour, then briefed DCs on the two working groups she facilitates dealing with critical IGF issues, namely funding (WG-FUN) and developing a multiyear strategic work programme for the IGF (WG-WMP). Speaking to the activities of WG-FUN, Ms. St. Amour explained the group was looking to target a small number of new potential donors for the IGF Trust Fund, which supports the Secretariat, MAG meetings, capacity building and other activities, as the Fund’s operating budget is insufficient and much of the work outlined in the IGF’s project document cannot be carried out at current funding levels. Part of the outreach effort to new donors would invite donors to participate in the IGF’s intersessional activities, including Best Practice Forums (BPFs) and DCs. Related to this, DCs were asked to think about whether there were any specific organizations that would be good contributors to their work who could be approached.

4. On the second group, WG-WMP, the MAG Chair described its work as focused on identifying particular strategic topics for the IGF to carry forward long-term and to explicitly make part of its future planning, rather than in one-year cycles (cybersecurity is an example). These would have to be topics to which the IGF could also bring unique multistakeholder views, expertise and potentially recommendations. Another dimension to the group’s work is measuring the willingness or appetite of the IGF community for strengthening the IGF as a mechanism for issuing more concrete recommendations, along
the lines of what is already being done within DCs and BPFs. Such an effort might hypothetically include putting out to the community strong, and fairly agreed-on, existing sets of guidelines or recommendations, such as the DC on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD)’s accessibility guidelines, for more generalized endorsement.

5. Markus and the MAG Chair briefly explained the arrangement regarding the organization of main sessions at this year’s IGF, per agreement of the MAG in its face-to-face meeting. Taking into account both DCs’ desire to organize a joint session which would be thematically focused and serve as a platform for their work, and the MAG’s aim to have a thematically coherent programme, including as regards main sessions, it was decided that DCs would co-organize with interested MAG members the thematic main session they had requested, on 'Development, Innovation & Economic Issues’ with a focus on the SDGs. The same co-organizational arrangement is in place for the thematic main session requested by the National and Regional IGFs (NRIs), on 'Evolution of Internet Governance'. As the programme is currently conceived, all main sessions will be a little under 90 minutes-long. DC members were further informed that main session organization should follow a set of established guidelines used by the MAG for the last few years, which calls for, among others, appropriately gender and stakeholder-balanced panels and for at least half of the session time to be dedicated to community engagement.

6. A preliminary group of MAG members has already expressed interest in joining the planning for the 'Development' session alongside DCs, and both DC members and MAG members have been invited to subscribe themselves as soon as possible to a mailing list dedicated to organizing the session: https://intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/development-innovation-economicissues_intgovforum.org

7. DCs were told they would be granted a booth in this year's IGF Village. It was agreed that further discussions would need to take place on how best to maximize this opportunity. Last year the booth operated with an 'office hours' approach in which different DCs could use it at different times to promote their own coalition’s activities, however this had not worked well.

8. Some time was spent discussing how to improve the accessibility of remote participation, both in terms of tools and handling. In particular, there was some criticism of the Webex conferencing tool the Secretariat uses for all of its meetings. The Enterprise version of the platform is an in-kind contribution to the IGF from CISCO, Webex’s developer; nevertheless, the platform has proved difficult for those with disabilities to access, as raised in objections by DCAD. The Secretariat and MAG Chair have committed to looking into future alternatives. Meanwhile, a meeting of the Secretariat’s technical staff with DCAD-recommended experts will seek to find solutions to making current tools more accessible and user-friendly.

9. The next DC coordination call will take place in approximately one month, in early September, with discussions continuing on the DCs mailing list as needed.
ANNEX I

DC Coordination Meeting XXIX

7 August 2018

Draft Agenda

I. Introduction/Adoption of the Agenda
II. Updates from the MAG Chair
III. Main Session on 'Development, Innovation & Economic Issues'
IV. DCs Booth at IGF 2018
IV. AOB

Participants List

Markus Kummer (Co-Facilitator)
Jutta Croll (Co-Facilitator)
Lynn St. Amour (MAG Chair)
Eleonora Mazzucchi (IGF Secretariat)
Sylvia Cadena
Olivier Crépin Leblond (DC-CIV)
Gerry Ellis (DCAD)
Tracy Hackshaw (DC-SIDS)
Nigel Hickson (DC-IoT)
Maureen Hilyard (DC-SIDS)
Peter Koch (DC-IoT)
Marie-Laure Lemineur (DCCOS)
Minda Moreira (IRPC)
Sivasubramanian Muthusamy (DC-CIV)
Andrea Saks (DCAD)
Nadia Tjahja (YCIG)
Smita Vanniyar (DC-Gender)