1. The eighteenth virtual meeting of the DC Coordination Group (DCCG) was held on 29 May 2017. The meeting was facilitated by Avri Doria and Markus Kummer, with Eleonora Mazzucchi representing the IGF Secretariat.

2. At the start of the call, Avri briefed participants on the MAG’s recent discussions, which have focused on newly approved best practice forums (BPFs) and working groups, as well as main sessions. A good number of thematic main session proposals have been made, and in its last meeting the MAG reviewed these with the understanding that both National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs) and DCs would be requesting main sessions of their own (summary available here). It was noted that DCs would submit a written proposal following consultations among themselves, as is the case with the NRIs. It was further mentioned that the MAG had agreed that the BPFs – which this year are on Cybersecurity, Gender & Access, and Local Content – should feed into the thematic main sessions as much as possible, and in connection with this that relevant DCs should similarly be engaged. Avri and Markus touched on some of the previous debate that had gone on about how to divide the ‘main session space’ among thematic and IGF intersessional issues, and that divergent views had been expressed, but that ultimately there was support in the MAG for groups like DCs and NRIs to have dedicated main sessions. Avri concluded by asking for DCs’ input on what they would like to see in their main session, so she can move forward with a proposal to the MAG.

3. DCs largely agreed that a similar approach/format taken to the main session last year should be repeated this year, given how well it worked. This would consist primarily in having a number of DC representatives “interviewed” in alternation on stage by an energetic moderator – the role was played successfully in 2016 by Tatiana Tropina – with pre-agreed questions relating to each DC’s substantive work. It was suggested that, as with last year, DCs should each submit an output paper according to simple and loose guidelines as a pre-requisite for their participation in the main session (2016 guidelines here, and substantive papers here), which resulted in 12 out of 16 DCs participating in 2016. It was generally understood and agreed that the papers should be ‘content-driven’ in nature, as opposed to ‘activity reports’, while acknowledging some DCs’ work is highly practical and this comes through in their outputs (e.g. the Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability – DCAD’s – annual IGF accessibility guidelines). Since a dedicated working group on ‘DC feedback mechanisms’ has just gotten started, and since this group will also discuss the outputs on which feedback will be sought, it was agreed that for the time being the expected guidelines or format for the required output papers would be left open, as well as how they will receive feedback (last year this was conducted through surveys).

4. Marianne Franklin (IRPC), who is leading the new WG on feedback mechanisms, then gave a short overview of initial efforts by the group. Marianne has kickstarted the work
by sending out a survey to the DCs on 22 May, in which coalitions are asked about current projects and what direction they are taking with their outputs. This is intended as a way to get a better sense of, in turn, what feedback mechanisms could work well across DCs. It was noted that the survey would be particularly useful as feedback to the larger coordination group in terms of determining a possible template for the output papers that will be used in the main session. Marianne remarked that the sooner results come in for the survey, the sooner the group can hold talks to discuss the findings, while also noting that approval of a DCs main session will also be important for informing the group’s discussions. The Secretariat has agreed to re-circulate the survey, as well as to set up a mailing list for the WG. On the latter, DC members were instructed to email Marianne copying the Secretariat with their expressions of interest in joining the group and to have their names included on the list.

5. Avri informed DCs a draft main session proposal, using last year’s as an overall basis, would be shared on the DCs list and open for suggested edits as soon as possible. She also mentioned the ‘DCs Briefing Document’ to which many DCs had contributed would be submitted to the MAG soon (this has been done at the time of writing, with positive reactions received from MAG members).

6. The next DC Coordination Group meeting will take place in approximately one month, in late June/early July.

Annex I - Participants List

Markus Kummer (Co-Facilitator)
Avri Doria (Co-Facilitator)
Eleonora Mazzucchi (IGF Secretariat)
Hanane Boujemî (IRPC)
Luca Belli (DCNN, DC3)
Olivier Crépin Leblond (DC-CIV)
Marianne Franklin (IRPC)
Marie-Laure Lemineur (DC-COS)
Kaoru Mizuno (DCAD)
Michael Oghia (DCICC, YCIG)
Smita Vanniyar (DC-Gender)
Annex II – Draft Agenda

I. DCs Main Session at IGF

II. DC Outputs in 2917; WG on Feedback Mechanisms

III. AOB