Dynamic Coalition on Gender and Internet Governance
Workshop Report
IGF 2015, Joao Pessoa

Workshop format
Panel + discussion

Duration of workshop
90 minutes

Description
Gender is an integral aspect of internet governance. Given this, the Annual Meeting of the Dynamic Coalition discusses gender issues, concerns and ways to strengthen this aspect of internet governance.

Co-moderators
Bishakha Datta, Point of View, India – Civil society
Lisa Garcia, Foundation for Media Alternatives, Philippines – Civil society

Speakers
Dafne S Plou, Association for Progressive Communications – Civil society
Aida Mahmutović, One World Platform – Civil society; member of MAG

Agenda
Introduction to the Gender DC – Bishakha Datta
Gender Report Cards in Regional IGFs – Daphne S Plou
The Need for a Sexual Harassment Policy – Aida Mahmutovic
Next steps, Annual Plan – Lisa Garcia

Substantive Summary
At its annual meeting, the Dynamic Coalition affirmed that:
- Gender is an integral aspect of internet governance. All genders - women, men, trans - must shape and define internet governance.
- Not just women, but individuals with varied gender identities must be considered as stakeholders in internet governance. It is important to include trans and alternative gender expressions when thinking about internet governance.
- Gender Report Cards are an effective accountability mechanism to ensure that enough women and trans persons participate as speakers and moderators in IGF sessions and that gender concerns are raised.
- It is important to have diversity within the ‘gender’ category itself. Women and trans persons who are present in internet governance spaces must represent different geographies, languages, ethnicities and so forth.
- It is crucial to ensure that internet governance is free from harassment based on gender. We propose an anti-sexual harassment policy for the IGF as a concrete next step.

Conclusion
In conclusion, the Dynamic Coalition agreed on the following next steps:
- Setting up a small committee to work on drafting a sexual harassment policy/friendly space policy for presentation to the next Gender DC annual meeting for approval. This would also include mechanisms for reporting and addressing any cases that come up. The policy could possibly be included in the IGF code of conduct. Five women from different geographies volunteered to work on this.
- Recommending to the IGF that the registration process record all genders, not just women and men. This could be done either via the addition of a third category, or by changing the question to an open-ended one: What gender do you identify with? The final method must allow for data analysis along gender lines.
- Strengthening the participation of other genders – trans women, trans men, intersex persons – in future IGFs.

**Total no of participants**
75 – the room was full

**No of women present**
A majority of those present were women

**To what extent did the session discuss gender equality or women's empowerment?**
The whole session was dedicated to gender.