

# Dynamic Coalitions Briefing Doc

## > **What are DCs? How did they get started?**

Internet Governance Forum (IGF) [Dynamic Coalitions](#) (DCs) are bottom-up, issue-specific groups formed on the basis of mutual interest and desire for collaboration by a set of IGF community members. The first ones emerged at the Athens IGF in 2006. Among some of the early coalitions still active are those on [Accessibility and Disability \(DCAD\)](#), [Core Internet Values \(DC-CIV\)](#), and [Internet Rights and Principles \(IRPC\)](#). As of April 2017, there are 18 active DCs (see Appendix A for a full list).

DCs meet year-round, virtually and face-to-face, including at the IGF's annual meeting. The IGF, however, may not be the only venue where a coalition will meet and present its work. To give current examples, the [DC on Internet and Climate Change \(DCICC\)](#) hosts a workshop at the annual WSIS Forum, the [DC on Platform Responsibility](#) has met at the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG), the [DC on Community Connectivity](#) and the [DC on Network Neutrality](#) have held meetings at RightsCon and the newly formed [DC on Publicness \(DC-Pub\)](#) met at RightsCon 2017 in Brussels. Similarly, the DC on Blockchain Technologies organizes, and its members are welcome to participate in, several interdisciplinary workshops on blockchain technologies throughout the year. This is to say that DCs are independent and have several activities outside the IGF.

## > **How is a DC established?**

If a group of persons or organizations wishes to establish a DC, they should submit a written application to the IGF Secretariat (similar to the process in place for National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs)). In order for the application to be successful, it must outline and contain the following: the need for the Dynamic Coalition; an action plan; an open and accessible mailing list; name(s) of contact person(s); and a list of representatives from at least three stakeholder groups. After a short review period, the Secretariat will inform the submitter if the DC is approved, and if so, publish the relevant details on the IGF's website. The process is outlined on the [DCs homepage](#).

## > **What rules apply to DCs?**

Once established, coalitions must follow three basic principles of inclusiveness and transparency for conducting their work: *open membership*, *open mailing lists*, and *open archives*. They must also ensure their statements and outputs reflect minority or dissenting viewpoints. DCs are urged to follow further guidelines laid out in the Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group [Terms of Reference](#).

Coalitions will also be asked to submit a yearly report or thematic paper to the Secretariat as an update of their activities and to demonstrate they are active. If a DC cannot provide this, and if after a discussion with the Secretariat, it is determined they are no longer truly active, they are listed among the [inactive coalitions](#). *This report is also required to be considered eligible for an individual meeting slot at the annual IGF meeting.* This was stated in the [Secretariat's invitation to DCs](#) to submit their requests for meeting slots in 2016.

## > **What are the outcomes of an individual DC's work?**

DCs are incredibly varied in the ways they work and what they produce. Some DCs publish rich, substantive reports with significant contributions (e.g., on [net neutrality](#) or [blockchain technologies](#)). Others have used the DC group mechanism to gather policy advice and share this

with decision-makers, as IRPC has done in Italy and New Zealand, or have a fundamental advocacy mission, as does the DCICC in bringing attention to the complex relationship between the Internet and climate change. Others still have made important strides in improving the IGF: since its establishment, DCAD has been responsible for making the IGF ecosystem progressively better for persons with disabilities with its annual [DCAD Guidelines](#), which last year were integrated into the Mexican host Government's planning of the annual meeting. Additionally, the DC on Gender and Internet Governance (DCGIG) has for several years produced an annual "[IGF Gender Report Card](#)" to rate how the IGF is doing in terms of equitable representation of women and discussion of gender issues.

**> How has DC work changed? What are DCs doing differently?**

DCs have a long tradition of working and managing their internal activities on their own. They began to collaborate only in 2015 in preparation for a [first-ever shared main session](#) of all active DCs at the IGF. Leading up to IGF 2015, which was held in João Pessoa, Brazil, they held regular virtual meetings led by the main session's co-facilitators and hosted by the Secretariat. When they convened the session in Brazil, many DC members were meeting each other face-to-face for the first time, and they found much opportunity and commonality in their joint discussion. DCs have since agreed to continue meeting virtually and to better coordinate their efforts. A [second joint main session](#) was successfully organized at the 2016 IGF in Mexico.

Through their [monthly virtual coordination meetings](#), DCs have agreed to a set of guiding principles in their work and to a certain degree of synchronization in terms of their outcome documents or outputs. It is important to note that these were instituted in a bottom-up manner, discussed within and among DCs, and that any new documentation guiding the DC work was open for comment/editing, shaped, and decided on by the DCs themselves.

The following are some of the key improvements that have taken place since coordinated work began, in the order they happened (or are happening):

- DCs adopt the [three "opens"](#) as a requirement across coalitions: open membership, open mailing list, open archives.
- They adopt a stipulation that all their work must take into account "[minority and dissenting viewpoints](#)" for maximum inclusivity.
- They adopt a set of [Terms of Reference](#), both as a framework for coordination and guidance for their internal mechanisms.
- The DCs agree to a [simplified standard format](#) for [output documents](#) feeding into their main session (for easier readability), and to produce outputs by a specified and agreed-upon deadline for their synchronized release.
- The DCs agree their output documents should receive community feedback and agree to common [feedback mechanisms](#).
- The DCs express the wish to have their individual meetings made more visible and open for more IGF community members to join, for which a [common calendar](#) will be made available.

Coordinated work has revitalized the DCs and created a common sense of purpose. Several coalitions have since re-booted their work internally and joined coordination efforts.

**> A note on DC session slots at the IGF**

Historically, DCs have had the opportunity to hold their individual meetings as part of the IGF programme. DCs' requests for individual sessions slots are sent to and approved by the Secretariat.

As mentioned above, however, coalitions must meet certain requirements in order to be eligible for the session space – these requirements were particularly enforced in 2016.

**> Current working plans for the DC Coordination Group**

- A working group within the DC Coordination Group is being set up to continue discussion into ways of promoting DC activities and developing suitable forms of feedback on DC outputs.
- DCs will continue to discuss and finalize mailing list guidelines (draft guidelines [here](#)).

**Appendix A  
List of active Dynamic Coalitions (April 2017)**

- [Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Accountability](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Blockchain Technologies](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Child Online Safety](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Community Connectivity](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Core Internet Values](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media on the Internet](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Gender and Internet Governance](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Innovative Approaches to Connecting the Unconnected](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Internet and Climate Change](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Internet Rights and Principles](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Platform Responsibility](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Public Access in Libraries](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Publicness \(new in 2017\)](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on the Internet of Things](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Trade \(new in 2017\)](#)
- [Youth Coalition on Internet Governance](#)