

## Report of Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media on the Internet Dynamic Coalition

The meeting of the Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media on the Internet Dynamic Coalition took place from **16 pm on Wednesday 11. November at the 2015 Internet Governance Forum in Joao Pessoa, Brazil**. Invitation that was disseminated on spot and in the mailing list is attached hereto (*Appendix 1*)

The meeting was well attended by broad range of stakeholders representing both long term members of the coalition, together with many new faces. The meeting provided a valuable space for people with similar interests to gather, network and get up-to-date information about the most pressing issues relating to freedom of expression and freedom of the media on the internet. This time the underlying theme was wider substance of censorship.

The **aim of the meeting** was to contour the institute of censorship online. This is a hard task, since it can be in many forms – starting from algorithms used on internet, courting self-censorship by diluting privacy principles or enforcing untargeted surveillance measures; ending with widening the scope in responsibilities and liabilities of content hosts. There was a call to participants beforehand (in mailing-list) to think of an issue, a case, initiative or law in your country or region that one wished to share with the coalition.

**As a result, we aimed to set a goal** to produce an outcome on the matter as a recommendation or report by the next IGF in Mexico.

Workshop was **organized to have a panel and discussion**. Panel was comprised of:

- **Karmen Turk**, attorney and doctoral student in internet and human rights related fields; A co-coordinator of dynamic coalition with Ben Wagner and Angela Daly; an expert attached to the Council of Europe committee on Cross-border flow of Internet traffic and Internet Freedoms.
- **Courtney Radsch**, PhD, Dr. Radsch has been interested in the nexus of technology, media and politics with a particular focus on the Middle East since her first research trip to the region in 2006. As an academic, her [research](#) has focused on cyberactivism and citizen journalism, including the gender dimensions thereof, while her experience working as a journalist in both the United States and the Middle East has given her first-hand experience working in countries with a range of press freedom environments. Dr. Radsch hold a PhD in international relations from American University and is turning her dissertation, "[Digital Dissidence and Political Change: Cyberactivism and Citizen Journalism in Egypt](#)," into a book.
- **Two guest panelists were:**
  - o **Dominic Bellone** from Freedom House.
  - o **Francisco Carvalho de Brito Cruz**, director acting director of Internet Lab

**Workshop was planned** as follows:

**Opening the meeting**, welcoming and giving introduction of which meeting it is - 5 min  
discussion on wider substance of censorship, dynamic discussion and reaching a conclusion of the outcome for the next IGF

**Wrap up of preceding years:** 5 min  
• Last years DC had meeting on intermediary liability issues, with focus on Delfi v

- Estonia which has no come to its end.
  - ... thus - the case sets clear threats for privatized censorship for 47 MS-s of Council of Europe and this is only one angle of censorship
- Issue:** 5 min
- Dynamics of Censorship.*
- Public;
  - Private;
  - Self;
  - Algorithmic etc
- Major issues:*
- privatization of censorship;
  - anti-terrorism and countering violent extremism online;
  - blocking;
  - surveillance;
  - hate speech
- Freedom House** shares the substance of the report „Freedom on the Net“ 5 min
- Internet Lab** representative here in Brazil gave overview of perspective from Brazil in terms of censorship 5 min
- DISCUSSION** 35min
- we had fruitful discussion on site (<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/187-igf-2015/transcripts-igf-2015/2958-2015-11-11-dynamic-coalition-on-freedom-of-expression-and-freedom-of-the-media-on-the-internet-workshop-room-6-finished>);
  - we also had a conversation flowing in Twitter with hashtag **#DCFoE**
- CONCLUSION:** 5min
- We agreed that it is worth gathering these ideas to dilute best practices and/or recommendation on fighting direct and subtle forms of censorship emerging online...
  - DC will prepare a template which we ask all to contribute to with a issue/case/initiative/legal draft/case study(solution.
  - DC would then try, with the help of all the members to see, whether it is possible to draft best practices or recommendation how to tackle these issues
  - The goal is to lead to a position paper outlining the variety of censorship online, best and worst practices, and solutions. We would also like to get other Dynamic Coalitions working on issues that could touch on online censorship, such as Violence Against Women, Child Pornography, and Platform Responsibility, involved and contribute to thsoe processes since FOE touches on all of these.

## Remote participation

Remote participants did not use remote participation possibilities of IGF, but used Twitter instead – the session, as well as Twitter dialogue was interactive.

## Dynamic Coalition

The coordination team continues as of in 2016, i.e. Ben Wagner, Karmen Turk, Courtney Radsch.

The coalition would like to invite all interested stakeholders to participate in these discussions via the coalition mailing list at the group’s new networking site, <http://dcexpression.ning.com>, and via the coalition mailing list which can be joined at <http://mailman.ipjustice.org/listinfo/expression>.

Appendix 1



**DYNAMIC COALITION OF  
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION  
AND FREEDOM OF THE  
MEDIA ON THE INTERNET**

**invites YOU to participate**  
in a meeting:

**CENSORSHIP**

**In its widest meaning and substance!**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**16.00**  
**ROOM 6**

**WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS!**

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Dynamic discussion on different forms of censorship online

Agreeing on the outcome for the next IGF (report, recommendation)

Please think of issues, legal initiatives, cases and challenges that might have an effect of censorship and share these with us!

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