

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.