

YCIG Annual Report April - December 2020

Submitted to the IGF Secretariat on 06-01-2021

This document constitutes the mandatory annual report¹ of the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (YCIG), as required by the DC Coordination, following the updated guidelines² approved this year.

In January 2020, the new YCIG Steering Committee (SC) members took office and since then, they have been engaging the community through different channels of communications, mostly the YCIG mailing list and the Facebook group. By December 2020, our Steering Committee is composed of *Eileen Cejas for Latin America and the Caribbean group, Meri Baghdasaryan for Eastern European Group and Noha Ashraf for African group.*³ The YCIG Steering Committee is the executive body of the dynamic coalition, and as such there is not a hierarchy among the members of the said body.

After the transition meeting with the previous YCIG Steering Committee, the current YCIG Steering Committee have regularly held online meetings, almost every week, to discuss the ongoing tasks and planning next activities. These online meetings were held thanks to the Zoom account provided by Noha Ashraf. The SC also communicated via a private Telegram group to discuss urgent topics and key aspects of our internal organization since January 30.

YCIG Steering Committee work in 2020 included:

- Revamping the YCIG website
- Incorporation of YCIG Code of Conduct

¹ *Note:* Earlier this year the SC submitted a [partial report](#) as the SC couldn't find the file regarding YCIG Report 2019. The current report comprises the full annual report of the YCIG Steering Committee 2020.

² "Updating the DC Guidelines" compiled by Michael Oghia in July 2020 and confirmed by the DC Coordinators afterwards, available at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S2XDq1hK4A-0q0hjqtQATFYAgb4hLgN6o9uHWGxvfl/edit>

³ One of the Steering Committee members, *Mili Semlani representative for the Asia Pacific region*, abandoned the Steering Committee due repeatedly unjustified absence of the our DC activities and meetings, and not compliance with mandatory tasks.

- Creation of YCIG Privacy Policy.⁴
- Amending the YCIG Charter.
- Attending each DC Coordination meeting and elaboration on a substantive paper for the DC main session.⁵
- Community engagement, capacity development activities.
- Expanding cooperation with youth organizations, DCs, etc.

List of events organized/attended:

- 1) **EuroDIG + YouthDIG:** YCIG SC member Meri Baghdasaryan was a member of the Program Committee of YouthDIG2020 and she was one of the co-focal point of Plenary 3 at EuroDIG, entitled “The European Digital Economy and COVID-19 pandemic: current state of affairs, risks and opportunities”
In addition, YCIG hosted a pre-event session called “Youth Coalition on Internet Governance Creating Synergies and the Way Forward” on June 10.
- 2) **Youth LACIGF Open Course:** YCIG Steering Committee member Eileen Cejas presented the work of YCIG at the last webinar of the Open Course on “Youth Relevance in Internet Governance” on July 4. The Open Course was a preparatory course conducted by the Organising Committee of the Youth LACIGF and its Commissions, with the assistance of Internet Society to use the content of “Shaping the Internet...” course.
- 3) **Youth LACIGF:** YCIG Steering Committee members Meri Baghdasaryan and Eileen Cejas hosted a keynote at the YouthLACIGF at the English track (Buenos Aires). Also, YCIG SC Eileen Cejas held a session on “How to build your youth initiative?” at the Spanish track (Ciudad de México) on behalf of the Youth IGF Argentina, along with local IGFs representatives from the LAC region: Cristina Morales (Youth IGF Nicaragua) and Paola Gálvez (Youth IGF Peru).
- 4) **Asia Youth IGF, Lightning Talk:** YC SC member Noha Ashraf made a presentation on September 20 on YCIG work during 2020 for the Asia Youth IGF, organized by NetMission Asia.
- 5) **Youth IGF Argentina:** YCIG SC member Eileen Cejas was presenter at the second meeting of Youth IGF Argentina 2020, where it was presented as an “Introduction to

⁴ It will become applicable once YCIG Dynamic Coalition can obtain a paid domain and a hosting.

⁵ YCIG submitted a paper related to the work of dynamic coalitions during the pandemic, focusing on youth perspective https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/10731/2286

Internet Governance”, focusing on IGF and its intersectional work, and showcasing the work of the YCIG (Spanish).

- 6) **IGF 2020**: The detailed overview is provided below.
- 7) **Africa IGF**: YCIG Steering Committee member Noha Ashraf participated in the Africa IGF in several roles (moderator, rapporteur) on November 25-27. Recordings can be accessed through the YouTube channel.
- 8) **Youth IGF Poland, Kick Off Webinar**, on December 17 YCIG Steering Committee members Noha Ashraf and Eileen Cejas spoke at the Kick Off Webinar and discussed with participants the outcome of the IGF Youth Summit 2020 and youth engagement throughout the year, also making suggestions for next year’s youth summit.

Community engagement activities

- In April 2020, YCIG launched a survey to find out the interests of the YCIG Community. From the survey, it was learnt that the community was more interested in webinars and mentorship. It is worthy to note that it was closer to the beginning of the pandemic, as afterwards the SC members felt the “Zoom tiredness” from our community.
- Mentorship program at the Internet Society’s IGF Youth Ambassadors Program 2020: In July 2020, YCIG SC posted a call for applications from the YCIG Community to become mentors for the Internet Society’s IGF Youth Ambassadors program 2020. The chosen mentors worked closely with Internet Society staff and YCIG Steering Committee members. The mentorship included several activities, where Ambassadors (mentees) prepared different projects on the basis of the ongoing priority projects of Internet Society.

Expanding the circles of cooperation

- YCIG was part of the IGF Strategy to engage youth, organised by the IGF Secretariat, the Polish government, NASK Institute, in collaboration with other stakeholders such as Youth SIG. The YCIG submitted some ideas in response to the proposal of the Polish government to send suggestions on “My Internet of the Future”.
- YCIG signed a MoU with Internet Society to collaborate, among other, on youth capacity development.
- YCIG signed MoU with Youth SIG (Youth observatory) and Youth4IG. YCIG joined the Youth SIG “Youth in IG newsletter”.

- YCIG joined the statement on excessive Internet controls by the DC on Core Internet Values.
- YCIG joined the Digital Cooperation Coalition that sent the Non-State actor's position paper on the UN Tech Envoy.

Participation at the IGF2020

The YCIG Steering Committee formed the Working Groups to submit workshop proposals with Youth SIG (Youth Observatory) by March 2020, from which 3 session proposals on the thematic tracks of Data, Environment and Inclusion emerged. The following session proposals were accepted and hosted at the IGF2020:

- WS #139 "CopyLeft or Right? Mediating Interests in Academic Databases"
- WS #105 "Designing inclusion policies in Internet Governance"
- WS #273 "Enhancing sustainable computing, production & consumption"

In addition, YCIG organised the annual meeting (YCIG DC Session) where the role of youth in Internet Governance was discussed.

Also, YCIG Steering committee member Noha Ashraf was a speaker at the session called "Sustainable Internet Governance & the Right to Development", organized by the Internet Rights & Principles Coalition.

YCIG Steering Committee member Eileen Cejas represented YCIG at DC Main session called "COVID 19 Pandemic and its impact on DCs", where she addressed the topic of the "future of the IGF and the DCs". Furthermore, YCIG SC also produced the Substantive paper for the IGF 2020, which was the background paper submitted for the DC Main Session.

It is worth noting that Meri Baghdasaryan chaired the Panel A1 on Platform Governance at GigaNet Symposium 2020 and represented the main takeaways from the EuroDIG panel on COVID-19 pandemic and European digital economy at the NRI main session.

- Updating the IGF ABCs: YCIG has also produced a relevant summary on what to expect at the IGF, also known as the IGF ABCs for Newbies, which was designed as a special edition for the 10th anniversary of the YCIG.

Voluntary commitments during the YCIG session: During the IGF2020, the IGF Secretariat requested all workshop organizers to gather voluntary commitments from the speakers of the sessions. These were the inputs collected at the YCIG session:

- “Inspire people to do more, involve people so they know what's happening and know how to contribute and impact so that we have this going forward.”
- “Strengthening and enhancing the engagement of Stakeholders especially youth and disadvantaged stakeholders for future IG mechanisms and deliverables particularly those from developing countries.”
- “The promise of sticking around and keeping involved in the regional level but also trying to seek a more unified approach with getting involved with different institutions to connect the dots.”
- “Creating opportunities for all youth to be part of the conversation“
- “Encouraging diversity to have as many as possible points of views hear and creating Networking opportunities next year as it is the best part of the IGF”

Elections

YCIG Steering Committee member Meri Baghdasaryan organised the elections. YCIG member Daphne Stevens joined her at the Electoral Committee. The results of the elections were shared mid-December, and the new Steering Committee took office at the beginning of January 2021.