

IGF Dynamic Coalitions & the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

◆ DC on Child Online Safety

Given the number of internet users who are below the age of majority worldwide, the members of the Dynamic Coalition on Child Online Safety, believe in the importance of advocating for and positioning the topics of protecting children from potentially harmful content, conduct or contact through the misuse of technologies within the agenda of the Internet Governance Forum by providing an open platform for discussion ensuring dialogue among representatives from children's organisations, government, industry, academia and other civil society groups, including those made up of young people themselves.

SDGs – why is it important? Through its adoption by all Heads of States at the SDG Summit in September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has created unique impetus for change on this issue.

Since 2016, DC COS members in their organisation's individual capacity have contributed to a collective effort on the SDGs' implementation and realisation. For follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the UN's central platform. Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are at the heart of monitoring SDGs' implementation. States are to ensure that these reviews provide a venue for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, and that they develop regular reports to the HLPF.

SDGs – why is it important for achieving DC COS mission?

Each goal is important in itself and they are all connected. Specific targets linked to Child Online Safety where Internet Governance has an important role to play are:

✓ **3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;** → Internet Governance should encourage deployment of all means for a healthy life provided by the Internet, f. e. e-health applications, information on prevention and treatment and, on the other hand, prevent incitement of harmful behaviour via the Internet like pro anorexia platforms, advertisement for drug abuse, suicide forums etc. ✓ **4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;** → Internet Governance must ensure the potential of the Internet to provide equal access to education for all children is deployed to the largest possible extent in order to empower and enable children for self-protection measures. ✓ **5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking, and sexual and other types of exploitation;** → Internet Governance needs to address the fact that violence against women and girls is performed and reinforced via the Internet. ✓ **5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation;** → Internet Governance must acknowledge that the Internet provides for a platform for such harmful practices. ✓ **8.7 Elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including slavery, human trafficking, and recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms;** → Internet Governance needs to address the fact that child labour, human trafficking is performed via and eased by the Internet, also the fact that the Internet is a platform for recruitment and radicalisation of children. ✓ **10 Reduce inequality within and among countries;** → Internet Governance must encourage the deployment of the high potential of the Internet for the realisation of equal opportunities for people across all countries ✓ **16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children;** → Internet Governance needs to address the fact that the Internet is the platform for child sexual abuse and exploitation and other forms of violence against and torture of children; in addition these heinous crimes against children and their negative impact on a child's development are perpetuated through persistently available child abuse material in the form of still and video images. → Internet Governance must contribute to the realisation of the overarching principle of the best interest of the child as laid down in the UN-CRC Art. 3 (1)* in all decision making processes thus contributing effective policies for inclusive and prosperous digital transformation. (*In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration).

What role can DC COS play individually and collectively in the SDGs process?

DC COS members are Child Safety Organisations and as such at national level there are multiple ways they can liaise with their own governments:

- ❖ Encourage governments to do Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2019;
 - ❖ Assist relevant ministries and entities in ensuring that the above targets are included in VNRs; and
 - ❖ Hold national events related to the targets making sure to emphasize the relation of those targets to the digital environment. DC Cos members within and via their organisations can strengthen awareness for children's safety in the digital environment as a pre-condition for an inclusive and prosperous digital transformation of society.
- Collectively, we will advocate with UN entities such as the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children or with the EU instances such as the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights for more visibility of the above mentioned targets and for raising awareness on how relevant it is to include those targets in the Voluntary National Reviews.