Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality

2022 Annual Report

1. Background info about the DC

The IGF Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality (DCNN) is a component of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and has been promoting Internet Openness since its inception, through a participatory multistakeholder process. The DCNN advocates for open and secure Internet, accessible to all people. The Coalition has been promoting Network Neutrality as this fundamental principle plays an instrumental role in preserving Internet openness, fostering the enjoyment of Internet users' human rights; promoting competition and equality of opportunity; safeguarding the generative peer-topeer nature of the Internet; and spreading the benefits of the Internet to all people.

2. Activities conducted in the past year a. Activities within the IGF

a. Activities within the IGF

Over 2022, DCNN conducted a consultation process aimed at elaborating the **Open Statement on Internet Openness**, whose elaboration process started in 2021. The DCNN session at IGF 2022 was dedicated to "**The Internet Openness Formula: Interoperability + Device Neutrality + Net Neutrality**". The session explored the latest policy and technological evolutions impacting Internet Openness, a concept which encompasses, but is overall more complex than, network neutrality. At the European level, there have been debates on the introduction on a fair-share model on internet traffic – something that has already been in public debate for some time in South Korea. In Latin America, recent jurisprudence and research arises regarding network neutrality and internet openness, connected with the particularly challenging pandemic times and the rise in connectivity usage. All these topics were covered by the session speakers, providing specialized and hands-on perspectives on these developments.

b. Activities beyond the IGF and outputs produced

Beyond the session, DCNN has finalised the drafting process for the **Open Statement on Internet Openness**, a crowdsourced document that recounts the whole process leading to the adoption of the concept of Internet Openness and that dives deeper into how it amplifies network neutrality's reach by connecting it to the necessary aspects of **interoperability** and **device neutrality**.

The Open Statement was published on **a dedicated website**, following up on internet processes kickstarted in the 2021 session, which serves as an online repository of all relevant multimedia material on Internet Openness by the DCNN.

The website also hosts an **Open Letter to the European Commission to abandon its plans to require content providers to pay telecommunication providers an "infrastructure fee", often referred to as the "Sending-Party-Network- Pays" model**. The letter, signed by members of the DCNN and various experts on internet governance and infrastructure – and open to signatures via the Internet Openness portal – argues that such a model would violate the net neutrality rules enshrined in the 2015 Open Internet Regulation and are explicitly prohibited by every strong net neutrality regime in the world.

3. Updates on internal processes

As planned, the Internet Openness website was created and successfully launched, with a design identity focused on connectivity and openness and accompanied by a visual mark to translate these characteristics – composed of a network structure open to progress.

4. Priorities/objectives for the following year

The Coalition plans to stay its course, accompanying processes related to network neutrality, interoperability and device neutrality which illustrate the interconnectedness of these aspects of the overarching concept of Internet Openness. This will entail conducting exploratory and analytical work by the DCNN member.