

Dynamic Coalition on the Internet of Things (DC-IoT)

IGF DC-IoT Action Plan 2024 – DRAFT 20240430

This report highlights the Action Plan 2024 for DC IoT, which should culminate in conclusions for further updating of the Global Good Practice document for IoT following the Annual Session during the IGF 2024 in Riyadh..

Background DC IoT

The first meeting of IGF stakeholders that led to setting up the Dynamic Coalition on IoT today, goes back to 2008 and was held in the context of the 3rd IGF in Hyderabad. Since the IGF in Hyderabad, the Dynamic Coalition on the Internet of Things (DC-IoT) has engaged in open meetings at all following IGFs and at meetings in between IGFs. Focus was on the usefulness of Internet of Things, its necessity to help address global and local societal challenges, and the challenges that need to be addressed in order to ensure the Internet of Things is developing in a way that serves people around the globe.

During the IGF meeting in Istanbul (2014) the following issues were put on the table (see 2014 meeting report): the need to ensure privacy, security, ethics, and spectrum issues, and to develop standards that take both social and economic sustainability of networks into account. Networks should be developed in a way people want (people centric values) and in such a way that upgrades, changes of services providers and new applications are possible and affordable.

This led to a discussion that led to a first version of the IoT Global Good Practice paper published in 2015 and discussed during the IGF in Joao Pessoa, as a vehicle to increase our common insight in how global good practice for IoT looks like. During the successive IGFs the DC IoT continued to further reflect on this paper, and in the Open Meeting during IGF 2018 in Paris DC IoT participants concluded that understanding that legislation alone will not be able to guide development, and may even hamper innovation (if too restrictive, aiming to prevent further damage to society and citizens). This resulted in a call for industry and the technical community to comply with the IoT global good practice principles as reflected in the IoT Global Good Practice paper that was adopted during the IGF 2019 in Berlin. It invited all stakeholders to further “spread the word” and have a continued dialogue on good practice, considering the wider application context including Big Data and Artificial Intelligence.

Fast forwarding to the IGF 2022 in Addis Ababa, being the first one where the Dynamic Coalition membership met in person again after the COVID period, we re-engaged in a discussion with a focus on taking stock and looking forward. During the IGF 2023 in Kyoto we set out for the agenda presented below – building on lessons learned during 2023.

Action plan for 2024 activities

In 2024, DC IoT intends to build upon the take-aways from 2023. All stakeholders are invited to continue to contribute at equal footing, as the world needs IoT, and for IoT to serve humanity well, we will need to ensure commitment to global good practice. In the end, it is always about people.

At the IGF 2023 in Kyoto, the DC-IoT met again in order to progress the work done over the years, linking into the work of other Dynamic Coalitions for as far as relevant to IoT good practice.

The points that came out to focus on in the coming year:

- IoT Data governance: IoT data, especially AI-enhanced, should be understandable, accessible, interoperable, reusable, up-to-date and clear regarding provenance, quality and potential bias. At the same time, guarding privacy is a clear priority in this – but not only privacy. How can we ensure both in a world that is full with IoT devices, many of which are connected via a global Internet, and increasingly governed by AI systems;
- IoT Labeling and certification: At the level of devices, there need to be robust mechanisms for finding, labelling, authenticating and trusting devices (and classes of devices). These should survive retraining, replacement or updating but be removable when necessary for functional, security or privacy reasons. To ensure IoT functionality, trustworthiness and resilience, market information and incentives should be aligned. Labels provide a powerful tool; many countries have developed and adopted IoT trust marks, and the time has come to start working towards their international harmonization.
- AIoT governance: Functions are not all confined to single devices, designed in or provided by system integrators; they can also be discovered by end-users or emerge from complex system interactions in cyber-physical systems (CPS) and IoT-enabled services. Governance requires methods for recognising, protecting and controlling these functions and their impacts. This is even more true when CPS and services are AI enabled.
- IoT Capacity Development: IoT has been coming up rapidly, and good practice applications can inspire use of IoT systems and services around the world – also in the regions where IoT application is currently lagging. How to make this happen, best? How to ensure those regions that truly need IoT enabled systems, for instance to achieve SDGs, can make effective use of it?
- IoT and Sustainability: IoT relates to sustainability in two ways: (1) IoT devices, systems and services should be set up with environmental impact in mind, both in terms of energy use and materials use, including use, re-use and recycling of devices and materials.; (2) IoT systems can monitor environmental impact and help manage environmental impact, as well as provide early warning in case of natural disaster situations. IoT, in short: it can save lives, in short term as well as in longer term, when accompanied with the right actions.

Activities planned to evolve our common understanding of IoT global good practice

- 1- Volunteer work to update the current IoT Global Good Practice document that was adopted during the IGF meeting in Berlin. A proposed update will be shared with the DC IoT mailing list that is open to all that have an interest in healthy IoT development;
- 2- As in 2023, the DC IoT aims to organize open sessions during relevant open IGFs, and will set the agenda accordingly, focusing on 2 or 3 of the priority topics, and sharing the update work on the IoT Global Good Practice document. Aim is to have at least 3 open sessions prior to the IGF. If and when deemed useful, zoom calls will be set up to facilitate dialogue between stakeholders.

At the end of 2024, DC IoT will prepare an Activities report and submit this to the Secretariat, as to ensure ongoing transparency on what we do and what progress we make, together.

People interested to contribute to the work are always welcome to participate to the open meetings, and/or post and reply on the DC IoT mailing list. If you want to do a step extra to support the work, and/or if you are able and willing to financially contribute to making additional work and/or meetings possible, and/or if you are willing and able to host a meeting, please reach out to Maarten Botterman, current Chair of the DC IoT (maarten@gnksconsult.com).

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