DC3 2nd Annual Meeting – 19 December 2017, 17:15-18:15

- Session Title: Dynamic Coalition on Community Connectivity (DC3)

- Date: 19 December 2017

- Time: 17:15 - 18:15

- Session Organizer: **Luca Belli**, Center for Technology & Society at FGV
- Chair/Moderator: **Luca Belli**, Center for Technology & Society at FGV
- **Rapporteur/Notetaker:** Luã Fergus Cruz, Youth @ IGF

- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

Keynotes remarks

- **Kathy Brown,** President and CEO of the Internet Society
- **Jan Dröge,** Director of the EU Commission Broadband Competence Offices Support Facility

DC Members

- **Luca Belli**, Center for Technology & Society at FGV
- **Mr Carlos Rey-Moreno,** Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
- **Mr Peter Bloom,** Rhizomatica
- **Mr Michael Oghia,** Independent consultant
- **Ms Sarbani Belur,** Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay
- **Mr Bruno Vianna,** Coolab
- **Ms Nathalia Foditsch,** American University
- **Mr Luis Martinez,** ISOC Mexico

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

Introduction to the Evolving Community Network Debate

The Dynamic Coalition on Community Connectivity (DC3) session gathered authors of the book '**Community Networks: the Internet by the People for the People**,' which is the Official 2017 Outcome of the DC3. The volume is freely available here **https://bibliotecadigital.fgv.br/dspace/handle/10438/19401**

The book is the Official 2017 Outcome of the UN IGF Dynamic Coalition on Community Connectivity (DC3). DC3 is a multistakeholder group, fostering a cooperative analysis of the community network model, exploring how community networks may be used to improve connectivity while empowering Internet users.

During the session, the book's authors discussed the results of their research and analyzed a series of case studies and proposals about concrete policies that would promote community networking.

The presented volume explores the benefits of community networks, analyzing case studies, focusing on the challenges and opportunities for these networks and putting forward concrete recommendations for their development. The book includes the updated version of the Declaration on Community Connectivity, which was elaborated through a multistakeholder participatory process, facilitated by the DC3. The Declaration emphasize that community networks are crowdsourced networks "structured to be open, free, and to respect network neutrality. Such networks rely on the active participation of local communities in the design, development, deployment, and management of shared infrastructure as a common resource, owned by the community, and operated in a democratic fashion."

Benefits, Challenges and Opportunities for Community Networks
- Right to Network Self-determination

- Barriers for Development and Scale of Community Networks in Africa
- Community Networks as a Key Enabler of Sustainable Access
- Community Mobile Telephony

Case Studies: Building Connectivity in a Bottom-up Fashion
- Community-Led Networks for Sustainable Rural Broadband in India
- Community Network Experiences in Brazil
- Need to Foster an Ecosystem allowing for Community Networks
- Elaboration of a Community Networks map

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

N/A

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

Keynotes

Kathy Brown brought attention to the obstacles for profit-making ISPs to reach out the communities and how important is the duty of the DC3 in this scenario. **Jan Dröge** talked about the evident access divide between the rural and urban populations, he also commented about the difficulties that are responsible for this status. Referring to the EU's work, Droge listed some actions such as the creation of a network for the exchange of best practices and the partnerships with global organizations.

Benefits, Challenges and Opportunities for Community Networks

Luca Belli explained his proposal for a right to network self-determination, which is the right of every community to associate and decide freely on the management of the network so that anyone could freely access and share information and innovation. Belli stressed that Network self-determination is essential for digital innovation, and it already exists de facto, as highlighted by a number of community networks.
Carlos Rey-Moreno presented his research conducted on several communities in Africa, where he analyzed the alternative role that community networks plays as a great option to provide connectivity in rural areas, and focusing on the barriers that prevent more community networks from appearing or existing ones from becoming sustainable and scaling.
Peter Bloom spoke about a framework for the design and instrumentation of Community Mobile Telephony from a Mexican perspective but applicable to other regions, emphasizing that technology needs to be adaptive and inexpensive and that we need to work with the devices that people have.
Michael Oghia defined in his presentation the concept of sustainable access to the Internet, exposing the relations between connected networks and sustainability, talking about the SDGs and questions related to Internet infrastructure, development of energy provision and the necessary funding to support the actions that tackle this issues.

Case Studies: Building Connectivity in a Bottom-up Fashion

Sarbani Belur talked about the need of a cost-effective technology solution and a sustainable economic model based on community-led networks to bridge the digital divide facing rural India, emphasizing the importance of a multistakeholder approach to overcome the current difficulties.
Bruno Vianna shed the light on the possibilities that community networks initiatives can have with regard to capacity-building, empowerment and the creation of new opportunities to young people. In her presentation,
Nathalia Foditsch spoke about some challenges and new regulatory developments to create a favorable ecosystem that goes beyond the technical aspects of deploying and managing such community network, and concluded pointing out that this subject is not only about connectivity but also about resilience.

Finishing the meeting, **Luis Martinez** commented on this idea related to the elaboration of a new Community Networks map.

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

- Construction of a right to network self-determination
- Capacity building in order to empower the community to use technology
- Getting technology to work for the community
- Design national and international legal/policy frameworks to enable a good environment
- Proposed action research agenda and methodology