

Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality (hereinafter “the Coalition”) provides a common platform involving a large variety of stakeholders to engage in a cooperative analysis of the network neutrality debate.

The Coalition has three distinct purposes:

1. Discuss issues related to Network Neutrality;
2. The elaboration of a model framework on Network Neutrality;
3. The production of an annual report and a public meeting at the Internet Governance Forum.

The official mailing list facilitates a platform whereby all members (i) and interested individuals (ii) can share information, discuss and debate specific topics and collaborate on an ad-hoc basis. The Coalition is not authorised to endorse statements, campaigns, or to speak on behalf of members. Named members, or others on the mailing list, may propose that members of the coalition work together to endorse a statement, letter, or other action, if the objective of the action is focused and within the scope of the Coalition (*i.e.* network neutrality); it is assumed by default that such actions would not be endorsed by the DC as the DC.

Members may propose that the Coalition formally adopt an external position and/or endorse a common statement. In such cases, the following procedure must be followed:

1. A concise and clear proposal shall be shared on the mailing list. Such proposal shall (a) specify the reasons why a position should be taken and/or a statement endorsed by the Coalition; and (b) request for the DC to act officially, as distinct from actions taken by an ad-hoc subset of members on the list, on an opt-in basis. The initial proposal shall not include the full substance or text of the document to be acted on; instead, it shall identify up to two drafters who will manage the elaboration of the position or statement and consolidate received comments with the aim of achieving a consensus (iii) document.
2. The discussion on whether the DC should consider moving forward will last no less than 10 calendar days.
3. If no more than 5% of the Coalition members raise an objection to the proposed course of action, a draft statement will be made available to the list, and members will be provided with at least 14 calendar days to comment and raise any arguments against the action.
4. Further to this initial comment period, the drafters will circulate a second draft on the mailing list and members will be provided with at least 10 calendar days to comment and raise any arguments against the second draft.
5. The draft resulting from the compilation of the comments expressed during the second comment-period is supposed to be based on consensus. Decisions on the endorsement of the final draft will be made by voting (iv).

Amendments to the Coalition’s foundational model framework shall proceed through a similar process, with the exception of bypassing the first round of proposal, described in point 1. In other words, any member of the coalition wishing to propose an amendment may put forward an initial draft of their desired amendment language to the list at any time and specify the name of the drafter that will compile the comments with the help of Coalition’s coordinators. Members will be provided with 14 calendar days to comment, followed by a revised draft, and 10 calendar days to comment the revised draft. Decisions regarding the amendment will be made on a consensus basis after the reviewing period.

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(i) Every individual or organisation is free to request membership. Membership can be acquired by sending an email to contact@networkneutrality.info, specifying the name of the organisation or the name and the affiliation of the individual to be listed as a member. Membership cannot be acquired during the elaboration process. Every organisation member shall be considered as two individual members and no more than two individual members can be listed under the same affiliation.

(ii) Participation on the mailing list does not necessitate nor imply membership in the Coalition. Every individual is entitled to participate on the Coalition's mailing list but only Coalition members enjoy voting privileges. Any objections raised by non-members do not count against the 5% threshold in the elaboration or adoption process.

(iii) Consensus can be understood as an acceptable resolution that can be supported by the group at large, even if it is not the preferred option of each and every individual. Consensus is reached when no Member objects the final version of a given document or when no more than 5% of members object the final draft further to a vote defined in (iv).

(iv) When a proposed document is objected, endorsement can be achieved through voting. In order to be endorsed any proposal will require affirmative majority assent from the named individuals/entities listed as members of the Coalition on its website (www.networkneutrality.info).

Any Coalition member may affirmatively object to the proposal. The proposal is adopted if no more than 5% of the named individuals/entities object to it. Such a percentage is computed considering every organisation member as two individuals and taking into consideration no more than two individual members sharing the same affiliation. National branches of a company or organisation share voting privilege with their parent company or organisation.

For those proposals which are considered by consensus to be worth Coalition endorsement, any individuals or organisations who object or otherwise for any reason wish to recuse themselves from the endorsement may do so unilaterally, and will be noted appropriately.