



**Dynamic Coalition on  
Accessibility and Disability**

## Summary - DCAD Session with OER – IGF Riyadh – December 18 2024

The session focused on leveraging emerging technologies and open solutions to create barrier-free digital environments for persons with disabilities. Dr. Janasi from UNESCO emphasized the transformative potential of AI and OER in personalized learning and accessibility. Dr. Mohammed highlighted the need for inclusive design in tech development, citing examples of inaccessible VR systems. Amila discussed regulatory challenges in advancing digital inclusion. Dr. Kribi from Qatar shared Mada's initiatives in digital accessibility. Revenant from Learning Equality underscored the importance of accessible digital content and teacher training.

### Transcript

Otter: <https://otter.ai/u/6PDwxWSP-7KCI5INI5AiSKib1xQ>

### Outline

#### Opening Remarks and Housekeeping Rules

Dr. Mohammed, the coordinator of the Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability, welcomes participants to the session on building barrier-free emerging technologies through open solutions.

He thanks the Internet Governance Forum and the team for organizing the session and outlines the housekeeping rules.

Each speaker will have 8-12 minutes to present, followed by a Q&A session and a wrap-up by the moderators.

The session aims to explore open solutions and democracies in fostering inclusive digital spaces, especially in the context of emerging technologies like AI and generative AI.

#### UNESCO's Vision for Digital Accessibility and Open Content

Dr. Janasi from UNESCO discusses the importance of digital accessibility and open content in the context of IGF 2024.

He emphasizes the transformative impact of emerging technologies and open educational resources on personalized learning.

Accessibility enhancements for visually impaired students and the importance of localization in technology are highlighted.

Ethical use of AI, combating biases, and ensuring digital literacy are crucial challenges addressed by UNESCO.

### **Challenges and Solutions in Addressing Accessibility Barriers**

Dr. Mohammed, a person with a disability, discusses the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in accessing emerging technologies.

He shares a personal example of a VR solution that lacked voice-over features, illustrating the lack of accessibility considerations.

The role of sessions like this in raising awareness and ensuring inclusive development of technologies is emphasized.

The importance of adhering to international standards like Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 is stressed.

### **Regulatory Frameworks and Policies for Accessible Digital Technologies**

Amila, a broadcasting director from Bosnia, discusses the challenges and inefficiencies in creating legal and regulatory frameworks for accessible digital technologies.

She highlights the importance of a holistic approach involving all stakeholders, including persons with disabilities.

The role of regulatory authorities in advocating for digital inclusion and implementing guidelines is crucial.

The need for legal mandates and international practices to guide regulatory frameworks is emphasized.

### **Innovations in Accessibility Services in the Arab States Region**

Dr. Mohammed Kribi from Qatar discusses the contributions of Mada, the Assistive Technology Center, in bridging digital accessibility gaps.

Mada offers a wide range of digital accessibility services, including ICT accessibility services, assistive technology assessments, and training sessions.

The organization leverages emerging technologies like AI, AR, and VR to develop innovative digital solutions for persons with disabilities.

The importance of continuous support and capacity-building for persons with disabilities is emphasized.

### **Open Content Platforms for Inclusive Education**

Revenant from Learning Equality discusses the challenges of the global learning crisis and the role of technology in addressing these gaps.

The Colibri platform, designed to provide offline learning experiences, is highlighted as a solution for learners without internet access.

The platform includes over 200,000 open educational resources and supports various pedagogical approaches.

The importance of making content accessible and the challenges of existing OER not adhering to accessibility standards are discussed.

### **Q&A and Key Takeaways**

An online question addresses the need for teacher training in inclusive education and the challenges faced by learners with disabilities.

Dr. Mohammed emphasizes the importance of integrating digital accessibility courses in teacher training programs.

Dr. Janasi highlights the need for a systemic approach to inclusive education, considering cultural, political, psychological, institutional, and professional perspectives.

The session concludes with a summary of key takeaways, emphasizing the role of regulators, the importance of open solutions, and the need for inclusive education and digital accessibility.