Founding Document -
IGF Dynamic Coalition on Voluntary Public Alerting (DC-VPA)

Status: Adopted at the October 6, 2026 Founding Meeting

1. Title

IGF Dynamic Coalition on Voluntary Public Alerting (DC-VPA)

2. Background and Rationale

Public alerting systems are experiencing significant technological change.

Governments and public authorities increasingly publish official public alerts in the international standard, machine-readable format Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). These official CAP alerts can be accessed and republished through the Internet in near-real time. At the same time, people increasingly depend on Internet-based services—including web browsers, online streaming, social media, AI assistants, mapping services, applications and satellite connectivity—for information and communication.

The worldwide availability of CAP alerts on the Internet is enabling a growing trend: private-sector and civil-society actors voluntarily extend the reach of official public alerts to people who use their services. Herein, this is called **Voluntary Public Alerting (VPA)**.

VPA complements regulated public alerting systems. A VPA provider need not have formal arrangements with alerting authorities once official alerts are freely published. The VPA provider accesses official CAP alerts from an authoritative source, determines whether the alerting area applies to its users, and voluntarily presents or delivers the official public alert through its service. In doing so, the VPA provider is not the authority responsible for issuing the alert.

VPA is already in practice through a diverse range of services and technologies, including:

- **Google Public Alerts**: Presents official CAP alerts through Google services and surfaces worldwide.
- **Esri**: Republishes official CAP alerts from the Alert-Hub.Org source on Esri servers as a Geographic Information System (GIS) layer that is easily accessed by any GIS.
- **Commercial weather and information services**: AccuWeather, The Weather Company, meteoblue, Windy.com and Microsoft, incorporate official CAP alerts from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services into their services.
- **The Federation for Internet Alerts**: Uses Internet advertising real-time-bidding technology to insert CAP alerts as web page area overlays to people in affected areas.
- **Digital Signage**: Voluntary display of official public alerts through highway billboards such as the service provided by Lamar Advertising in the United States.
- **Low-cost Broadcast Gateways**: Raspberry-Pi-based systems that monitor official CAP feeds and automatically trigger announcements on over-the-air radio and television, including translation into local languages.
- **Connected Home Devices**: Smart speakers that receive CAP alerts and generate spoken announcements.
- **Global Navigation Satellite Systems**: Systems such as Europe's Galileo that can transmit CAP alerts directly to devices.

These implementations differ considerably, but share the basic characteristic that a voluntary service extends the reach of an official public alert.

The emergence of VPA raises important Internet-governance questions regarding data integrity, network resilience, trust, and inclusion. Yet these issues have not, to date, been the primary focus of a broad multistakeholder Internet-governance forum. The IGF provides a natural environment for bringing these communities together to examine how existing Internet governance principles, practices, and institutions apply to this evolving development.

3. The Emerging Internet-Governance Question

The central question for the DC-VPA will be:

> *What principles, practices and governance considerations are relevant when Internet services voluntarily extend the reach of official public alerts?*

The question arises at the intersection of public alerting and the Internet. A single official public alert may move from an authoritative public agency through Internet infrastructure to many independent services, each with different technologies, responsibilities and users.

The DC-VPA will provide a forum to examine this situation, fully recognizing the roles of official alerting authorities and avoiding unnecessary obligations on voluntary services.

4. Scope and Areas of Work

The DC-VPA will structure its work around five key areas:

Authority, Provenance and Authenticity — How voluntary republishers should clearly identify the issuing authority and faithfully present the official public alert, including its source, geographic and temporal scope, and authenticity.

Geographic Targeting and Timeliness — How Internet services at global scale should determine whether an official public alert applies to a particular user while protecting geolocation privacy, as well as handling latency, expirations, updates, and cancellations.

Interoperability and Technical Implementation — Practices that enable official public alerts to move reliably among public authorities and VPA services, including Internet publication and subscription mechanisms, persistent alert identifiers, geospatial filtering, and appropriate security and authentication mechanisms.

Accessibility and Inclusion — How VPA can contribute to equitable access for people with disabilities, older persons, people with limited connectivity, people using different languages, and communities poorly served by conventional public alerting channels.

Policy, Public-interest and Legal Considerations — The respective roles and responsibilities of public authorities and voluntary disseminators; public-interest responsibilities, trust and accountability; intellectual-property and licensing; and applicable legal or regulatory frameworks.

5. Why the IGF?

Traditional public-alerting governance is largely organized around governments, public alerting authorities, broadcasters, telecommunications operators and disaster-management institutions. VPA calls attention to the increasingly important role of Internet services that are not traditionally part of public alerting infrastructures.

The IGF can bring together the relevant Internet, telecommunications, technical, geospatial, artificial-intelligence, civil-society, accessibility and public-sector communities.

The purpose of the DC-VPA is not to create new Internet governance or to establish a new regulatory framework. Rather, it will provide a multistakeholder forum to examine how existing Internet governance principles apply to VPA in practice, and where the experience of VPA may illuminate issues of broader relevance to the Internet community. The DC-VPA will complement, rather than duplicate, organizations whose primary mandates concern particular types of hazard threats, telecommunications, disaster risk reduction, emergency management, or standards.

6. Guiding Principles

The DC-VPA will be guided by the following principles:

Official authority remains with the issuing authority. A VPA provider does not act as an alerting authority merely by republishing an official CAP alert.

Voluntary participation. VPA does not create a regulatory obligation for private sector or civil society services to disseminate public alerts.

Clarity of source and key facts. The issuing authority and the key facts in the official public alert must remain clear when the alerts are presented through VPA services.

Complementarity. VPA must complement regulated public-alerting channels rather than replace or overshadow them.

Openness and interoperability. Open standards and interoperable mechanisms will be favored.

Accessibility and inclusion. VPA seeks to make official public alerts accessible as broadly as reasonably possible.

Respect for privacy. VPA must use privacy-preserving approaches to geographic targeting.

7. Multistakeholder Participation

The DC-VPA is open to all interested parties. The coalition will prioritize broad geographic diversity, focusing on engaging countries and communities whose perspectives are traditionally underrepresented in international technology policy discussions. To align with the IGF's multistakeholder structure, the coalition will actively engage participants across distinct stakeholder communities such as: Intergovernmental Organizations & Government Authorities; Private Sector & Technical Community; Civil Society, Humanitarian & Academic Communities. The Appendix to this document contains the list of Founding Participants.

.8. Working Methods and Initial Deliverable

The DC-VPA will operate as an open, collaborative, and consensus-oriented Dynamic Coalition, with activities continuing between annual IGF meetings. Operations will be carried out via a free, open-access mailing list (discussion@igf-dc-vpa.org), a Web page (https://igf-dc-vpa.org), and virtual meetings, culminating in an annual open session at the IGF.

First Year Output: "Multistakeholder Framework for Voluntary Public Alerting"

During its first year, the coalition will develop a foundational guidance document. This framework will serve as a non-binding blueprint addressing:

1. Core definitions and operational boundaries of VPA.
2. Best practices for maintaining source provenance and authenticity.
3. Approaches that enable Internet services to obtain and use official CAP alerts at scale without requiring individual bilateral arrangements with each issuing authority.
4. Strategies for privacy-preserving geographic targeting.
5. Case studies of low-cost VPA in developing countries and underserved communities.

Additional outputs may include case studies, technical recommendations, and cross-border interoperability surveys.

9. Openness and Transparency

The DC-VPA will operate in accordance with the principles and guidelines applicable to IGF Dynamic Coalitions.

Participation is open to all interested parties. The coalition will maintain an open mailing list and publicly accessible archives (discussion@igf-dc-vpa.org). Meetings, agendas, working documents, and substantive outputs will be made publicly accessible to the extent appropriate.

The DC-VPA will ensure that its statements and substantive outputs reflect areas of agreement as well as relevant minority or dissenting viewpoints.

10. Intended Contribution

The proposed DC-VPA is not intended to create another public alerting authority or operational public-alerting network. Its purpose is to provide an Internet-governance forum for a rapidly growing phenomenon: the voluntary dissemination of official public alerts through Internet services on which people increasingly depend.

The coalition will examine how this development can strengthen the reach, resilience, accessibility, and public value of existing official public-alerting systems while preserving the authority of the organizations responsible for issuing those alerts.

Crucially, it will provide an opportunity for the broader Internet community to see how existing governance principles apply when independent platforms step up to serve the public interest.

The fundamental premise is simple: when an official public alert is available on the Internet, there is an opportunity for many independent services to help make that alert accessible to people who may need it—without any of those services becoming the authority that issued it.

Appendix. Founding Participants

name	affiliation	stakeholderGoup
Rishiraj Dutta	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center	Intergovernmental Organization
Rabieahtul Abu Bakar,	DR3A Global, All Party Parliamentarian Group (M) - Disaster Risk Management, Malaysia	Intergovernmental Organization
Dieudonné Baping	Economic Community of Central African States	Intergovernmental Organization
Kennethy Osengo	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Intergovernmental Organization
Salissou Sadikou	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Intergovernmental Organization
Jingyan Wu	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Intergovernmental Organization
Mohammed Jabed Iqbal Chowdhury	Bangladesh, Habiganj Municipality	Government
Merima Trako	Bosnia and Herzegovina Federal Hydrometeorological Institute	Government
Ricardo Branco	Brazil National Center for Risk and Disaster Management (CENAD)	Government
Anastasiya Spasova Stoycheva	Bulgaria National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology	Government
Déogratias Babonwanayo	Burundi Hydrometeorological Department	Government
Nina Gaelle Ndonkou	Cameroon Department of National Meteorology	Government
Jean Jules Nkengne	Cameroon, Yaoundé (capital city)	Government
Bianpambe Patallet	Chad National Meteorological Agency	Government
Idriss Abdallah Hassan	Chad National Meteorological Agency	Government
Jose Flores	Ecuador National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology	Government
Lida García Montero	Ecuador National Secretariat for Risk Management	Government
Eman Shaker	Egyptian Meteorological Authority	Government
Franck Igor Radega	Gabon Directorate General of Meteorology	Government
Raissa Prisca Radega Akewana	Gabon Directorate General of Meteorology	Government
Felicity Ahafianyo	Ghana Meteorological Agency	Government
Eva Gramajo	Guatemala National Institute for Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH)	Government

Jose Maria Rodriguez Rabanales	Guatemala National Institute for Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH)	Government
Rodolfo Alvarado Sosa	Guatemala National Institute for Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH)	Government
Fode Aboubacar Camara	Guinea National Directorate of Meteorology	Government
Ouo Ouo I Kolie	Guinea National Directorate of Meteorology	Government
Cherno Luis Mendes	Guinea-Bissau National Institute of Meteorology	Government
Justino da Costa	Guinea-Bissau National Institute of Meteorology	Government
Kristín Hermannsdóttir	Icelandic Meteorological Office	Government
Sankar Nath	India Meteorological Department	Government
Marcello Marzoli	Italian National Fire Corps	Government
Chevaun Bent	Jamaica Meteorological Service	Government
Kamar Saliyeva	Kazakhstan Kazhydromet	Government
Sarah Njoki	Kenya Meteorological Department	Government
Phenny Akoth Abok	Kenya, County Government of Kisumu	Government
AbdouLHamid Swedan	Libya National Meteorological Centre	Government
AbduRazzag A Kharrem	Libya National Meteorological Centre	Government
Adel Al Gweil	Libya National Meteorological Centre	Government
Stanford Kachibade	Malawi Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services	Government
Bathiry Koita	Mali National Meteorological Agency	Government
Prithiviraj Booneeady	Mauritius Meteorological Services	Government
Paulino Alonso Rivera	Mexico CENAPRED	Government
Haruna Danjuma Mohammed	Nigeria Federal Capital Territory Administration	Government
Samson Adebayo	Nigeria Federal Ministry of Communication, Innovation and Digital Economy	Government
Jide Fasasi	Nigerian Meteorological Agency	Government
Mahabubu Abubakar Muhammad	Nigerian Meteorological Agency	Government
Safit Zekjiri	North Macedonia Protection and Rescue Directorate	Government

Ayesha Kanwal	Pakistan Meteorological Department	Government
Resly George Amador	Philippines DOST–PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration)	Government
Mojwok Ogawi Modo Ayoker	South Sudan Meteorological Services	Government
Mahendra Jagath Kuragodage	Sri Lanka Disaster Management Centre	Government
Dewdath Bhaggoe	Suriname Meteorological Service	Government
Lamin Saidy	The Gambia: National Disaster Management Agency	Government
Fiti Ielomi	Tuvalu Meteorological Service	Government
Annet Kateregga Nakimbugwe	Uganda Department of Meteorological Services	Government
Israel Tebasoboke	Uganda Department of Meteorological Services	Government
Iaroslav Babiak	Ukraine Zakarpattia Regional Center for Civil Protection, Material Reserves, and Centralized Warning	Government
Baba Maketa	Zimbabwe Meteorological Services Department	Government
Jacob Mafume	Zimbabwe, City of Harare	Government
Sandra Nhapi	Zimbabwe, City of Harare	Government
Joël Zoungrana	Consultant	Private Sector
Nazih Fino	Global Nomad GIS Services LLC	Private Sector
Harsh Verma	Glocol Networks	Private Sector
Kasajja Fred	International volunteer HQ	Private Sector
Ahmed Lyahou	Intersec	Private Sector
Russell Isaac	Journalist and Independent Broadcast Consultant	Private Sector
Fatumo Ise Mahamude	Nomad Promise	Private Sector
Charles Chishiri	Riscorp Security	Private Sector
José Fernando Pozuelos Fuentes	SALVAVIDAS GT™	Private Sector
Luke Henderson	Skylo Technologies, Inc.	Private Sector
Wajahat Khalid	Skylo Technologies, Inc.	Private Sector
Isabella Gross Alström	Swedish Public Radio	Private Sector
Gavin Bernstein	UgoRound Australia Pty Ltd	Private Sector
Patrick Ellis	Bridges United Inc	Civil Society
Chris Obi Okeke	Charity Foundation for Livelihood Support	Civil Society

Gaston Buh	Geo-technology, Environmental Assessment and Disaster Risk Reduction	Civil Society
Teimuraz Tsagareishvili	Green Media Foundation (MTÜ), Estonia	Civil Society
Ali Rehmat	Hussaini Organization for Local Development (HOLD)	Civil Society
Emmanuel Jacq	International Deaf Emergency	Civil Society
Gilbert Mugisho	National Coalition of Volunteer Organizations for Sustainable Development (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	Civil Society
Marie-Ange Kumba Kundenga	National network for the fight against smoking and other addictions (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	Civil Society
Gloria Hingoma	Peace and Conflict Transformation Initiative	Civil Society
Chidinma Mmadu	Professionals For Humanity	Civil Society
Eyiwunmi Kasope Onigbinde	Professionals for Humanity	Civil Society
Osei Bonsu	Professionals for Humanity	Civil Society
Mohamed Faranug Mohamed	Puntland Association of Social Work (Somalia)	Civil Society
Dauson Msumange	Tanzania Eco-Tech And Conservation Hub (TEACH)	Civil Society
Ahmed Aderibigbe Salami	Worldview - The Gambia	Civil Society
Muna Jama Tahir	Youth Empowerment Organization	Civil Society
Natalia Ilieva	African Union of Broadcasting (AUB)	Non-Governmental Organization
Eliot Christian	Alert-Hub.Org CIC	Non-Governmental Organization
Ian Ibbotson	Alert-Hub.Org CIC	Non-Governmental Organization
Mark Wood	Disaster Relief Communications Foundation	Non-Governmental Organization
Thomas Wood	Disaster Relief Communications Foundation	Non-Governmental Organization
Khaled Ayesh Sagheer	National Forum for Human Rights, Yemen	Non-Governmental Organization
Lizzy Igbine	Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association	Non-Governmental Organization
Marco Martins	Portuguese Firefighters League	Non-Governmental Organization
Ramesh Gautam	Practical Action, Nepal	Non-Governmental Organization

Jacquemain Mvilambi Nsiku	Prevention of Natural Risks in Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	Non-Governmental Organization
Udochukwu Emmanuel Chukwumezie	The Nigerian Red Cross Society	Humanitarian
Pavel Albores	Aston Business School	Academic
Ginger Paque	DiploFoundation	Academic
Haruna Abdu	Federal University Lokoja (Nigeria)	Academic
Aparecido da Cruz	Federal University of São Paulo (Brazil)	Academic
Mamadou Diakite	GreenTransformation2050	Academic
Fotis Zapantis	Ionian University (Greece)	Academic
Bushra Bibi	Khyber Medical University (Pakistan)	Academic
Alka Bharat	Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (India)	Academic
Mei-Chun Kuo	National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction	Academic
Mohamed Muse Abukar	Somali Academy of Science, Culture and Arts (SOMASCA)	Academic
Henry Njoku	University of Ibadan (Nigeria)	Academic
Ehsan Taghizadeh	University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)	Academic
Djillali Benouar	University of Sciences & Technologies Houari Boumediene (Algeria)	Academic