
ICANN80 | PF – GNSO: NPOC Membership Work Session
Monday, June 10, 2024 – 13:45 to 15:00 KGL

ANDREA GLANDON: Hello and welcome to the NPOC Membership session. My name is Andrea, and I am the participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior.

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JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Thank you, Andrea. Welcome, everyone. This is our first session, the only one we have in NPOC, this meeting, but it's glad that we have this full room for today. Normally, we introduce ourselves quickly, just in order to get started, so please do it, but just be quick. Just your name and where are you from, and that's it. We can start over there, maybe, and start about the top of the table.

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EMMANUEL ORUK: Hello, everyone. You're most welcome. My name is Manuel Oruk from Uganda. Thank you.

FELIX SEMEKETE OPILLI: Good afternoon. My name is Felix Semekete Opilli from Kenya. Thank you.

JESSE NATHAN KALANGE: Hello, everyone. My name is Jesse. I'm from Uganda.

SARA ALI: Hello, everyone. My name is Sara Ali from Sudan.

SAM LANFRANCO: Hello. My name is Sam Landfranco from Canada.

PONCELET ILELEJI: Poncelet Ileleji, I'm the Gambia NPOC member organization.

BRUNA SANTOS: Bruno Santos from Brazil.

PIERRE DANJINOU: Good morning. Pierre Danjinou. I'm the vice president in charge of Global Stakeholder Engagement at ICANN, and taking care specifically of Africa. Thank you.

EMMANUEL VITUS: So, my name is Emmanuel Vitus. I'm the policy chair for NPOC.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Hi. My name is Caleb Ogundele. I'm the membership Chair for NPOC.

DAMILARE OYEDELE: Hello, everyone. My name is Damilare Oyedele from Nigeria. Thank you.

BOLUTIFE ADISA: And hi, everyone. My name is Bolutife Adisa. I'm the current secretary for NPOC, and pleasure to meet you.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: My name is [inaudible – 00:03:12], NCSG, GNSO counsel.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR: Tomslin Samme-Nlar, NCSG policy chair.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Julf Helsingius, NCSG chair, and from it's complicated, Swedish-speaking Finn living in the Netherlands.

MUTEGEKI CLIFF AGABA: Hello, everyone. My name is Mutegeki Cliff Agaba from Uganda.

REMMY NWEKE: Hello, everyone. My name is Remmy Nweke. I work with DigitalSENSE Africa. Thank you. I'm a member of NPOC.

FRANK ANATI: Hi, everyone. I'm Frank Anati from Ghana.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Thank you very much. We have no more people over here, but thank you very much, everyone, to join us. We have the last introducing. Go ahead, please.

WALE ADEDOKUN: Good afternoon. My name is Wale Adedokun. I represent the Nigerian Network Operators Group.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Thank you. Thank you very much. That's it for now, but we are going to talk a little bit about what is the plans we have since I come from Africa, and we have some interesting schedules today, so I don't want to talk too much to have enough time to do the presentation. I think it's time for our VP that can join us. Pierre, could we go on? Thank you very much.

PIERRE DANJINOU:

Thank you for having me here. It's always a pleasure to be able to share what we've been doing in Africa in terms of engagement with the community. What I'm going to actually say is about what has been done in terms of our Africa strategy, because we do have an Africa strategy whereby we exactly know what we should be dealing with. This strategy came out of your requirement from the stakeholder in Africa.

Basically, that strategy was calling for a few things. The first one was about increasing participation from Africa to ICANN work. The second part of it is now capacity development. That was coming from the Africans themselves and the ministerial meeting. I mean, the African ministerial meeting that happened some time ago also insisted on the participation.

Participation has grown from Africa to ICANN, and we can see it. What we are trying to kind of promote right now is what we call kind of useful, I don't know whether that's the best way to say, kind of useful participation. Because when you do participate, what are you contributing actually, and how are you also making sure that this is reflected at home? This is where we are today from the way we are seeing African participation.

But the other thing to speak about here is the new project that we launched more than a year ago, which is the Coalition for Digital Africa, which is basically about two or three things. You should just take note on the coalition. Why a coalition? When you attend different meetings, you will see that each of those who are interested in Africa are having their projects. There should be a way where you have different project

owners talk to each other. We felt that the coalition could be quite important for us.

The other thing is that, as you all know, ICANN has only a very limited, I would say, remit. It is about the DNS. At the same time, we are talking about contributing to digital transformation in Africa. So, one of the things we wanted to do is to make sure that people understand that while you are talking about accessibility, talking about what it takes for that, the cables or the satellite, all of this, there is still a kind of infrastructure which is quite important to be managed in Africa.

And that is the DNS, actually. I am certain that you all understand that. When we mean the DNS, we mean those who are in charge of the country code top-level domain. It is quite important. To give you an example, if you consider the domain names, for instance, for a continent worth 1 billion+ population, as of today, registrations are about even under 5 million in Africa. Of the 5 million, at least half of it is coming from South Africa. That shows that there is still room to make a few progress on the way we are kind of consuming these domain names.

Also, there are issues about security of the domain names. And governments, for instance, are really this is where they are expecting much more from people like yourself to be contributing to securing the Internet at home. Securing the Internet, one way we do this is through the DNSSEC, DNS security. That is why we have a few capacity development workshops. There is something we call DNSSEC Roadshow, which really holds hands of the ccTLD managers in such a

way that they are able to sign their zone own file. It is important that you sign your zone file because you are talking about security and you are also talking about fighting cybercriminality and the different threats that we have.

Of course, you also know that when this Internet was kind of, should I say, invented, there was not that much concern about its security. Being able to communicate was what people were-- Communicating machine to machine, that was the thing we were expecting there. Even the importance that the Internet took today with the business around it, it was not something that was really foreseen. It is important that you, as a non-profit, you understand how it came about.

So, what we are doing is securing the Internet. But the other thing is about-- And I'm going to something that does not quite-- that happen every time. This is what we call the IMRS cluster. MRS stands for the ICANN Managed Root Server. You all know that the Internet has about 13 root servers. I hope you all know it. I also hope that those root servers can be replicated. Today, we do have close to 250 replications of this root server, meaning you may have root server copies in your region, in your countries. It is happening today. In Africa, close to 25 of them are already in different places in Africa.

What is the interest of this thing, of having a replication of your root server at home? What is the interest of it? The interest here is about the traffic data. That helps you reduce the latency. When you have queries, if you can gain a few milliseconds for your responses, it means that the traffic is taking less time, but also means that you are getting

more money. You are not spending that money per se. So, you are reducing the money you are spending.

What we did at ICANN was to establish what we call the IMRS cluster, which is a set of servers, all of them replicating the L root. We did this in Nairobi. We established this in Nairobi. I'm not going to tell you where. Also, the second one we did was in Cairo. We saw the difference it's making. Meaning if you consider 100% of the traffic going north and then down to Africa, and that by establishing those two nodes, I will say servers, or set of servers in Africa, that 30% at least of the traffic today is being handled by those servers. Whereby you are getting in terms of latency, we reduce latency. It's quite important.

We show that with the DNS, with the clusters surrounding Africa, for instance, we are really going to do something which is quite important. It's not just about the connectivity for the cables. It's also about the core of the internet. That's why we need to promote these things. Not many people know about it actually, but that's the reality. So, this is something that we did.

Also, the ISPs, the regional internet exchange points, is something quite important. We partner with ISOC so that we multiply these ISPs. What ISPs does is keep local traffic local. That's quite important, especially in places where they are still having issues with having good connection or connectivity. We may cite maybe six to seven different projects, but I'm not here to go into details on those projects.

I want to talk about inclusiveness on the internet. Some of the things we've been doing is partnering with the African Association of

Universities. Today, they are really the ones implementing this project, which is about the UA, universal acceptance. It's also about making sure that you do produce those IDN, local script, local language script, whereby now you can eventually access the internet, not just using those languages that were there, but making sure that your own language has the appropriate script and then the people can eventually access the internet in their own languages.

So, these are things that we can do, and ICANN, with this partnership, we are trying to push for this thing. I have to say we really need you, of course, your contribution when we are implementing those projects. We'll be reporting back and definitely, as we say, we are open for any forms of collaboration with you, and I'm here also to listen to you. I would like to pause here. If there's any questions, I'll be ready to respond. And also bear with me, I do have two other meetings happening concurrently. I might have to leave you, but I'm here for a few minutes again. Thank you.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Thank you very much. We have so many hands right now, so we can start one, two, three. You have one? No. Let's order. One, two, three, right?

FRANK ANATI:

Okay. Thank you for the presentation. It's a great presentation. I'm Frank Anati from Ghana. What I would like to ask is, is it that getting the root server duplicated in Africa, is it with cost or technical restraints, or

is it because there is not that much interest in people having the root servers in Africa? Yeah, that's my question.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

No, that's a good question. Definitely, first of all, it's about your willingness to host the copies. Number two, in terms of the equipment you need not that much. Actually, less than \$20,000. But the point is also that when you got the infrastructure, the whole thing set up, there's a kind of maintenance. You have to maintain it, and most of the time, it's about five years so that you can eventually renew your equipment.

So, we need companies, corporations, institutions, whatever, universities that want to host this thing to be ready for the maintenance issue. We may kind of provide some support, depending on what you request. But what we've seen is that the maintenance is an issue for most of the institutions that have been hosting. We do have many of them.

Giving you an example, this place, Rwanda, where you are, Rwanda is hosting close to, I think, four to six of the copies. Because there was a kind of willingness to host those things, they're ready to maintain those things. But also, they understood that the reason, the rationale behind this is about the latency thing. It's about your data being handled, the traffic being at least monitored from your place. So, if this place understood the thing, all the way to four to six copies, that means that they understood what you can get out of this.

The L root server, which ICANN manage or monitor, this is for free. Of course, out there, you do have vendors, people who can hold on and assist you in getting the copies, but they will charge you for that. Thank you.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Thank you very much. The next in the queue is Remmy, please.

REMMY NWEKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks for coming around to share some information with us. I have a number of things I would like to clear out from you. One, you made mention of Africa having about 5 million domain names. Is there anything specifically your office is doing with the ccTLDs to increase registration within Africa?

And with regards to hosting this ICANN in Africa, this is the third in the last five years. That was about-- After the 80 meeting of ICANN, is there any thinking around increasing the number of hosts of ICANN meetings that Africa can enjoy, even if there's nothing else, even if it's for the only tourism, which also affects the economy as well? Is there any thought around that? Lastly, what's the progress report on the Coalition for Digital Africa? Thanks.

PIERRE DANDJINO: Remmy, I think you know everything about ICANN from the start, I would say. I think you also have the answer to your question. No, I'm just kidding here. You know that the way we function at ICANN, and I

always say, it boils down to the public mic. Whatever you think, that's good for you or that's not happening, you know that the way to do this is to voice your concern. Use the public mic and tell us that this is what's we want.

As a staff, of course, I'm not going to say, okay, Africa would like to be having at least maybe one or two meetings every two or three years. I mean, that's not what I'm here to do. But there are ways in which, and there are procedures in place. So, what it takes is that, okay, you-- Of course, this one is not. This is a policy sort of meeting. There won't be any public mics. So sorry, that's not the right place to because there's no appropriate mic here for you to be addressing this issue. But you are right.

You are right in such a way that the reason also could be, I mean, in the past, some of the reason was, do we have kind of the environment that is really conducive to the type of meeting we are having at ICANN. And now we can say that there have been some sort of evolutions in this. This place was requesting to host the meeting, and that's maybe five to six years ago. And our meeting consistency has been coming, evaluating the whole thing. And it's based on the reports that they have that talk, they will say, okay, it's okay for us to move in the country.

And of course, not only the sort of conference center that we have, but having enough hotels to be accommodating people was a big issue. And 10 years ago, for instance, that was one of the issues here. So, all of this come in a kind of package, and that you should be ready to meet the term of reference itself. So yeah, you have to voice your concern at

the public sort of. And it's Board that ultimately take the decision. And the Board will not take a decision without hearing from you. Okay?

So, it has nothing to do with-- The DCA, digital, whatever, for Africa is just a project. But the project came out because, well, the African community was thinking that, okay, we should be doing more on Africa. That's all. We don't have any CDA in other regions. Although other regions are still trying to have something like that.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Thank you very much. Julf, please.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Julf Helsingius for the record. Thank you for a very good presentation. There's one point I picked out when you actually talked about security. And I think we all agree that security, when we talk about things like DNSSEC, is very, very important. And we all collaborate on that. But the problem is that then the definition of security beyond that becomes an issue where people have very different definitions of security.

And from a technical point of view, what we often see is that one of the biggest enemies of security are actually national governments who ban encryption, for example, insist on surveillance in the systems and so on. And we haven't even started on things like human rights and freedom of speech, which are, again, complications to that issue. It's just, I would like to hear what you think is the sort of ICANN definition of security. Is it a purely technical one, which I assume it is, but sort of.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

Thank you for that question. It's not a tricky question, but ICANN actually understands sort of the different possibilities. But the thing is that, at least for the solution, ICANN is working with a group of institutions that are really taking care of the security, different areas of security. And one of them, the CERTs, the FIRSTs, all of these things. Internationally, there is a group that is working on that, and ICANN is part of it.

ICANN also supports even local countries that might have going through sort of attacks. But you know that the whole thing depends on tracking in terms of IP addresses, things like that. This is some support. ICANN has got some support on that. Yeah. But, of course, ICANN is not covering the whole sort of area of security for that matter. But we're working with local CERTs, and we can provide services with the law enforcing agencies, the police, all of these things. There's a group that's working on that from ICANN.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Thank you very much, Pierre. Thank you. It has been very informative and very enlightening session, I think. But I have just one, I think it could be a final question before we move to the next topic or the next speaker. My question is related about how has been the African organizations for non-commercial organizations that maybe you have identified, or maybe not, in impacting this African strategic plan that you have for this region. That's my question for you. Thank you very much.

PIERRE DANDJINOU:

That's a good question. I also remember one of your members, I don't know-- When we did launch this coalition for Digital Africa, the question we were receiving was about what's the place you are giving to the non-for-profit, what's the place you are giving for the public sector, At-Large, all of this coming in, which are great questions. But it's all about engaging on specific projects to produce results.

So, my answer was let's keep on-- Maybe we should be giving more and more kind of information, communicating on what we've been doing. And if, for instance, we will be going to a country that you, who already are here at ICANN, that you will be involved at such a point, that you know that, okay, we are having this ICANN meeting here, ICANN workshop on specific subjects, and that you could contribute.

I think it's about the communication side of it. Now, if you do have any project idea, see, for instance, and then because we do have mechanism where we do select new projects. So, that's what I will see, apart from you being there and you tell us exactly how you feel, what you would like us to be doing together. We are open for that.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Thank you very much, Pierre. Poncelet, you have a comment or question?

PONCELET ILELEJI: A question, please. Poncelet speaking for the record. Pierre, please, I just want to go back to when we had the first African strategy meeting. I think it was in 2012 in Addis Ababa, the Radisson, if I remember quite well, UNEC and Radisson. And we had all constituents' members, NCSG from the African community that were there. I was policy chair at that time of NPOC.

So, within this new African strategy, as our VP for stakeholder engagement, was that done? And if not, can African members in NCSG, whether it's NCUC or NPOC, be involved in your strategic plans for the continent? Thank you.

PIERRE DANDJINOU: No, again, this is a good question. We provided a report on the African strategy. Probably we should share this report. That really shows what we were able to achieve. But also, there were so many things. Because that strategy, again, was also a set of very good ideas at that, and also nice projects. And I have to admit, we could not have the impact that we were looking for, definitely. There was a report on that. I will share it with you.

But I think what we try to do is we really want to be hearing more and more from you. And we now, traveling in Africa, doing some of the things, the projects, we are really seeing that we need to localize so many things. I mean, when I mean localize, it means there are simple things. When you guys come to ICANN meeting, how much of what we are having here is reported back home so that people like yourself in

your countries eventually could still be, the conversations could still be going on from ICANN, what can we do locally?

This is something we really feel as ICANN staff that should be happening. Of course, the next question for you will be, how do we do that? What are the resources for doing this? But for me, that's something that we are really expecting from you. And then, in terms of the project, like I said, we are quite open for that, definitely. And let us know if you still need any specific sort of meeting. Fortunately, we all meet here at ICANN meetings. But then back to Africa is always difficult to get you guys together. But let's work on that. Thank you.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Thank you. Thank you very much. Again, thank you very much to being here to join us to this session. But now we are going to move to the next topic session. And we have someone here that is known for everyone here. It's consular and one of her many hats, it's that one. But she's also involved in many other things. And she is going to join us right now to talk about the NETmundial results or initiative, about what was discussed in this NETmundial session in the past April, I think. So, Bruna, the floor is yours.

BRUNA SANTOS:

Thanks, Juan. And hi, everyone. Bruna Santos for the record. I don't think I'll use the 15 minutes, but I'll walk you guys through the NETmundial initiative. And just as a flag, I was part of the high-level advisory committee as one of the civil society representatives there.

The HLAC, another acronym, was responsible for a couple of tasks, such as defining criteria for participant selection, suggestions to the meeting agenda, and also drafting the consultation document that everyone waited in and was the basis for discussion at NETmundial.

I think, as a starter as well, NETmundial 2024 +10, it is really an answer to this ongoing year of Internet governance with way too many relevant events, way too many new initiatives, and even some tendencies, trends of revisiting previous discussions, right? And a lot of the work that you guys saw as a result was also built up on the 2014 principles from the original event that were a set of recommendations around how to improve processes and ensure all stakeholders get to participate in equal footing in these discussions.

But despite having way too many recommendations from different forums, regardless of the multistakeholder approach, there has been an ongoing need for extra efforts into holding the MS approach as a core principle. And some of this has been due to the ongoing processes such as the Global Digital Compact and some tendencies and trends from member states to opt for multilateral discussions in order to avoid these, let's say, discrepancies or even resistance or divergences offered by many stakeholders.

And in terms of the conference in itself, I think it really managed, the 2024 edition, really managed to keep its status quo despite the challenges or the unprecedented moments. In 2024, 2025, we're experiencing a lot of meaningful processes as I highlighted to you before. And just to quote a few, we will have next year WSIS+20, we have

NETmundial this year, CSTD. There is an ongoing preparation for the IGF mandate renewal in 2025.

And all at the same time, we're also looking at the Global Digital Compact and Summit of the Future. And in this scenario, is ever more present the set of complaints or even concerns about a possible fragmentation of internet governance discussions and spaces as a consequence to all of this, when there is everything happening all at the same time. When some communities, like our community, a civil society, they lack resources, it's even more difficult and even more harder to be on top of things.

So, in terms of the events and the outcomes, I would just maybe highlight, start by highlighting that it was a common understanding that we saw this moment as a critical one, and especially for defining what would be the direction of the digital ecosystem governance. With several actors interested in the global community, it was the moment to discuss internet governance, to identify the need for a multistakeholder discussion space. And NETmundial had its goal to be a renewed multistakeholder space for this discussion and also to provide an adequate environment for all stakeholders to meet and agree on those strong messages.

The strong messages, they contain some concrete recommendations for the preservation and application of multistakeholderism in the different spaces and shapes it might take, including in multilateral spaces. And as a good Brazilian, I would also like to say that it helped highlight the role that Brazil had as a leader in digital governance,

particularly given the presidency of the G20 this year and its concerns with democratic internet governance led by CGI.br.

But just to quote three main outcomes for the discussions, I would say that the top one would be the Sao Paulo Guidelines, which are a set of guidelines and process steps as a how-to for effective implementation of multi-stakeholder internet governance in digital policy processes. Throughout the text of the São Paulo Guidelines that are at the final statement from NETmundial, we reaffirmed the principles from 2014, but also reinforced the need for more openness, inclusiveness and agility in internet governance, as well as the need for stakeholders to be well-informed and have the resources.

The second strong point about NETmundial+ 10 would be the contributions to global discussions on internet governance, and then it's where we formulated some messages to ongoing global discussions. The focus was to strengthen the Internet Governance Forum, IGF, as a premier main forum for charting our digital future, but also, we made some relevant recommendations about the need to avoid creating new spaces and leveraging on the current ones to ensure better coordination and resource allocation.

And last but not least, there is a very strong discussion about inclusivity and accessibility on the documents, because the guidelines stress the importance of making digital governance processes more inclusive and accessible to ensure that everyone can participate effectively. I think there's a lot of what we talk about at ICANN, right, and a lot of what NCSG, NPOC and NCUC have spoken about for many years, but I do

believe the guidelines are a good, let's say, checklist to look at broader internet governance processes and what to take care and what to pay attention to when you're joining those kinds of forums.

And just to wrap up, just highlighting one point from the statement that is just to start the quote, "internet governance and digital policy processes, more than ever, they require unprecedented coordination and cooperation among stakeholders and all to unlock the benefits of the massive transformation for anyone. And in order to move forward and fully implement the recommendations, we need to improve mechanisms to build consensus and open the space for communities' voices, like ours, to have an impact on multilateral and other multistakeholder decision processes so that effective solutions to the challenges can be implemented".

Just to wrap up, it's really important to look at the outcome of NETmundial as also a set of recommendations to multilateral spaces. We don't want to write them off. We just want to maybe claim and reinforce the need for them to listen to their communities and listen to other stakeholders and stop talking to their own silos in any case. And that's a little bit of what it was. Thanks, Juan.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Thank you very much, Bruno. Anyone have any question, comment to this topic?

CALEB OGUNDELE:

So, you were talking about playing actively in the multilateral spaces, right? One observation that I have had over the years is that you see civil society shrinking, and they're not playing in most of the multilateral spaces. So basically, my issue is civil society playing actively in the ITU planning top. And you see that it's usually government delegations, and you don't get to see the civil society voice coming up in those spaces. So, what are your thoughts in regards to NETmundial and that?

BRUNA SANTOS:

I think we really try to be comprehensive of what was going on, right? And it's not just ITU as a fora, but also how the GDC process somehow at some points tried to scratch off some parts of the multi-stakeholder community. To me, there was a really relevant point in which the technical community was asking the UN tech envoy whether they would be included, because he kept referring to the GDC as a tripartite process with member states, civil society, and private sector or something like that.

And this is this growing trend that we talk about. The opening of the NETmundial final statement highlights that we're going through a very serious problem with some shrinkings of the civic space, some disregard from the participation, and long-term contribution of a lot of fora. So, we try to be as comprehensive as we could.

And as an event, we had separate lines for each of the stakeholders, just like 2014, and everyone that was up and went to the lines to make a comment had a chance, unless they were running out of time for the

session. So, I like to think we were at least attentive to that. But I think we have some other people that attended in the room or online, so maybe folks can help me with that.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Thank you, Bruna. Before to maybe any other comment, I would like to invite the people that are here in the room that can join us to the table. We have enough space, so you can join us here or over there. This is an opposition. No worries. You can have places over there, so you can be more comfortable over here. So, thank you very much. So, just a following question quickly. Do you have any questions? Okay. So, Poncelet, please.

PONCELET ILELEJI:

Thank you, Bruna. Poncelet speaking for the record. I think, personally, attending online and attending the first one in person, the NETmundial definitely has been the voice for civil society participation. But you will discover that even within the WSIS process, our voices are really curtailed. And I would like to see how do we do that.

Presently, I'm on the board of the Association for Progressive Communication. And I know even at the start of the WSIS, we had a position paper way back in 2005, I think. And here again, with the GDC and NETmundial, we have a position paper. I want to be a little bit selfish here, being African-centric. Within the NETmundial, we had only one member in the advisory council, Grace Githaiga from KICTANet.

What do you think African contributions can be more in facilitating what the NETmundial tends to achieve?

BRUNA SANTOS: Great question. Just in terms of the composition of the HLAC, we also had Jimson from Nigeria in the group.

PONCELET ILELEJI: Business, I'm talking of civil society.

BRUNA SANTOS: Civil society. That's true. Grace, as usual, she's a great voice in the room and a really relevant one. But I think everyone was struggling with this kind of same question. How do we bring in more prominent global south, global majority perspectives to the whole internet governance space? And not just NETmundial, but to the GDC, to the IGF and many other spaces.

And as far as it goes for the NETmundial, I think it was really relevant to hear not enough times the point about inclusivity and accessibility and the need for stakeholders to be informed. Many of us engaged in the GDC process have spent countless hours trying to gather information from the missions, from diplomats and so on. And this is unfortunately a constant for civil society in any IG space. You need to have the context. And even if you have, sometimes you don't get to go.

So, I really think that a lot of the civil society participants, mostly from Africa as well, they really helped make the case about inclusivity,

access, and not duplicating things. Because if you duplicate, you're going to lose this. And if you lose civil society's voice, you lose a lot of points in transparency and participation for the broader kind of scenario.

But in terms of the next steps, I think a lot of folks have ideas on what could be the next steps for NETmundial, whether it's going to become a platform or whether it should become something more long term. And I really think that's the moment to bring those ideas to the table if we want to make a relevant contribution. But yeah, this will be my two cents on that.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Thank you very much, Bruna. Any other questions here? Okay. I think that that's the point, no? That civil society to be cohesive, united front. And that's in our diversity, because we are civil society, precisely, it sometimes is difficult, because sometimes it's difficult to find a ground common from everyone.

So, if there is no any more question in this topic, so I think we can move to the next speaker here. It's Poncelet, who is speaking about NPOC and its role in UN Global Digital Compact. It's always called GDC, which was talking about last before. So, Poncelet, please.

PONCELET ILELEJI:

Yeah, thank you very much, Chair. So, as you know, we're heading into the Summit of the Future in September, I think second week of September. And one of the big things that will be discussing, that will

be taking place there is the Global Digital Compact. And I feel NPOC role is very important, and that's why I did this presentation.

In the second slide, I just gave a brief overview of ICANN, which everybody knows, and what NPOC really is about, which represents not-for-profit organizations with operational concerns related to the DNS. Sometimes we tend to forget that, which also focuses on internet policies that affect non-commercial users. And that's why we are here.

Within the Global Digital Compact, if we move to the third slide, please, we are basically talking of an inclusive global framework to address digital inclusion, security, human rights in the digital age. That is basically the most simplified definition, if you look at what actually the Global Digital Compact. When you look at those three things, whether it's digital inclusion, security, human rights in the digital age, you discover that NPOC really has a role here. And they have some key goals they want to achieve within this GDC.

That is ensure universal connectivity. In Africa, if I'm going to be very specific, we're still about a 40% mark in a population of 1.4 billion people in terms of connectivity. Promote digital public goods, we are still struggling with that. Protect human rights online, we're still dealing with shutdowns. And in some cases, lack of our countries really signing on to the Malabo Convention, which is our own equivalent of the GDPR. And of course, to foster trust and security in the digital space.

Within the next slide, I'll talk of NPOC's alignment with the Global Digital Compact. Mission alignment, that is very important. Advocacy for inclusive internet governance and emphasis on policies that protect

non-commercial users. One space we usually use in NPOC was during the global internet governance forums. I think we have not done that since 2012. I think after Azerbaijan, we have not done that, whereby NPOC was always submitting a session on different things.

And I think that is something I would urge our chair, Juan, that we should start doing. Because since 2012, I go for as a focal point of our NRI in Gambia to most of the internet governance from either regional or global. And you don't see NPOC doing anything there. I see our NPOC members, they are just there on behalf of ICANN or some NRI. And nothing is happening. And I think we need to do that more.

We need to ensure representation of the not-for-profits, especially in DNS policymaking. We need to do that more, because it also overlaps with what happens with the GDC. And of course, promoting accessibility and digital equity. There was, way back in time, I think, Juan, if you can remember, we did a lot on online safety for children. And I think our NPOC member who runs that now does the online safety for children for FIFA in Switzerland.

So, in terms of promoting digital inclusivity, I feel that NPOC's efforts to advocate for policies that promote affordable and accessible internet for all is very important. Because who are the people that suffer? They are members, usually, of our constituency. They can be grassroots organizations and stuff like that. We need to be more involved in this space.

I think if I move back to case studies, NPOC members' involvement in various schools of internet governance. Cable does a lot of lectures in

our School of Internet Governance in West Africa. I do some. But I think we need to do more within the School of Internet in all regions of the world to propagate digital inclusivity among NPOC members. In terms of ensuring security and trust, we need to collaborate more with other ICANN and constituencies to develop security policies. And I think that is very important. When Pierre was here, questions were asked on that.

In terms of more advocacy on transparency and accountability within the internet governance space, overall, as an ICANN constituency, we talk a lot about that. But how can we move forward into that policy area? So, I saw Tomslin just shared some few information with the GAC regarding to overall transparency. And I think we need to be more engaged in that space.

In the next slide, in terms of protecting human rights, our online NPOC's commitment to protecting freedom of expression, privacy, and other human rights online, we need to be more engaged with the Global Human Rights Organization. Article 19 is very active within the NCSG. And I think we need to align our work there. And in terms of policy influences through the NCSG and Council on DNS abuse and the Human Rights Impact Assessment, we need to be more involved within that space. And I will call on our policy chair, Vitus, to do that more for us.

In terms of our role in policy development, we need effective participation more in working groups and public comments and policy development processes. Members of NPOC needs to be more involved. And that alone will also build into getting us more involved with what is happening in the GDC and Summit of the Future. If you look at now

what is happening, there's a lot of fragmentation. And it just looks like everybody is doing their own thing. And it will just end up having a big jamboree in September with nothing-- Our constituency will be lacking about in terms of voices.

In terms of advocacy for non-commercial interests, representation of not-for-profit operational concerns in ICANN's multistakeholder model working within the overall framework of NCSG. So, we need to really push more on that. In the next slide, I will say collaboration and partnerships, building alliances. We had a very good-- I think our last main partnership event was with PIR in Durban. That was the first ICANN policy meeting in Durban. Since then, we have not done much.

I feel that we need to revisit our relationship with PIR just as our colleagues in NCUC have done to see how we can get them more into our space and collaborative projects. We need to do that more, both at national, regional and global internet governance forums. So, people really know what-- Our membership base has grown, but it's growing, but are we really effecting stuff that affect commercial stakeholders, especially those not-for-profits.

Future directions and challenges. I believe we're continuing advocacy based on the new charter we have, improvement in our policy development processes alignment on issues with NCUC. I think we cannot do this alone. We have to align our work exactly with NCUC. We can agree to disagree, but we need to strengthen that alignment, it's important.

Challenges. Addressing issues on DNS as it affects not-for-profits globally, ensuring the sustainability of digital public goods that is inclusive to all. We just saw the mention of the 5 million registrars we have in Africa, and most of them are in South Africa. What do we do? I remember when we were launching .Africa, which is managed by the folks in South Africa, the registrar there. NPOC really did a lot in that, but that has died down in promoting the .Africa domain, which ICANN really wanted the continent to have. A strong voice at Internet Governance Forum on what the constituency stands for overall.

And in my last slide, my call for action is how stakeholders can engage with NPOC and support its mission. And we should continue encouraging participation in ICANN processes and the Global Digital Compact dialogue that is going on within ICANN. So that's the brief I have, and we can talk about it. Thank you very much.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Thank you very much, Poncelet. Anyone has any comment, question? Remmy, and then Adewe. I'm sorry for the pronunciation. So, Remmy, go ahead.

REMMY NWEKE: All right. Thank you, Poncelet, for the presentation. Remmy Nweke for the record, DigitalSENSE, Africa. You touched on a number of issues that if we take on carefully, will bring a lot of growth and development within NPOC. And one of the things you also said is the relationship with the PIR. And I wanted to ask, because I knew that within the NCSG, we

had a relationship with them. But if it has now been reduced to NCUC alone, are we still looking at it from the umbrella angle of it?

I know before now, we have representations that are kind of rotated within the family of NCSG when it comes to the board, even though it was not well managed, but we can still resuscitate that. But if one arm is now going ahead to engage them, I don't think that is heady enough. We need to understand the level of engagement NCUC currently is having with them to be able to resuscitate whatever relationship we are having as a family of NCSG so that we don't start dividing ourselves where we are not supposed to. Instead of going as a team, we now start going as a piecemeal. So, it's better we put our own house in order first before engaging them further. Thank you.

CALEB OGUNDELE:

Okay. Thank you for that feedback, Mr. Nweke. Let me just quickly give a little bit of information. So, it's not like NCUC or NPOC are having-- We're under one umbrella, just so you know. There's been a little bit of disagreements on a few things that I'm aware of, some few information that I'm aware of.

Now, I'm being careful about how I speak here because I speak, I wear the hat of ISOC board, and PIR is under ISOC board. So, I'm being careful. So, I entirely want to remove that hat of ISOC that I'm wearing right now and just put it as I'm speaking in my capacity as NPOC membership chair.

Now, what I understand that PIR has been saying more recently is that they don't want a situation where NPOC, NCUC is coming and asking that they want to have everything under NCSG. And I think that was more of a recent conversation that they want to see that everything goes through like the mothership and then NCSG, maybe at the EC level decides and allocate resources on those partnership or whatever is being done, right?

So please, we are all united at each point. It's not like NCUC is going behind us or NPOC is going behind us. We all work together for the same purpose. And it's always good that the optics are good with some of our partners that we have that they see that we are all united and that we all work for the same goal. Yeah, that's what I wanted to report all about. Thank you.

PONCELET ILELEJI:

I would like to add, when I mentioned that what I really wanted to emphasize was that, okay, we shouldn't be like a junior partner, although we are a junior, NCUC started before NPOC. Equity is only respected when you bring something to the table. And that's what I want to be honest about with us in NPOC that we should bring something to the table in this new re-engagement with team NCSG on the mothership working whether it's PIR or any other partners doing joint workshops together, empowering our members.

Because our members cut across board. And at the end of the day, it's all in the interest of the non-commercial users and not-for-profits we support. We all align in that. And if we all align in that, there's no way

that there should be any animosity or any disagreements when we are engaging folks to promote the agenda of not-for-profits. Thank you.

CALEB OGUNDELE:

Thank you very much. So just to wrap up, Kathy, I'm not trying to put you on the spot. Kathy is currently sitting on the board of PIR. But I don't know what hat she wants to wear right now. I'm not trying to put you on the spot, but I'm trying to deflect that everything goes to you.

KATHY KLEIMAN:

Kathy Kleiman, so pleased to be here. I have a different hat that I want to talk in, and that's co-founder of the Non-Commercial Users Constituency. We didn't just proceed NPOC, we proceeded NCSG. Back in the old days, there were no stakeholder groups. In fact, there were no competitive registries or registrars. There was just one, Network Solutions was the only gTLD registry and registrar that's going back a long way. And I'm not telling you how long that was because it was a long way.

So, in the old days, it was constituencies. And the commercial guys had three. They had the Intellectual Property Constituency, the Business Constituency, and actually it was very quiet at the time. It's not so quiet anymore, which is good. The ISP, the Internet Service Providers constituency. So, they had three constituencies. We had one, the Non-Commercial Users Constituency.

And we were dedicated both to non-commercial organizations and non-commercial speech online. We seem to be the only ones who

represent what the ARPANET and early internet actually had on it. Educational speech, research speech, political, personal speech, not commercial speech for years, right? Decades, commercial speech was the only speech ever banned from the internet. Not anymore, of course.

So, I want to say welcome. I'm so glad you are here because we have NCUC, we have NCSG, we have NPOC. You have a full room of people who want to work on the issues we need to work on. I just view it as incredible and we're all stakeholders together. And let's keep working on it because our voices and our energy and our activities and comments need to be here. Thank you.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Thank you, Kathy. Yes, I have a quick moment. I think we have a short time right now, but I just wanted to highlight some two things about Poncelet said before. One, it's about the IGF sessions. Yes, we don't have any proposals new, but we are open to anyone who wants to propose any session for IGF in the next edition. So would be welcome to have, if we have proposals to do that. So, this NPOC is from each member, not just from the EC, so all ideas are welcome to propose any session there.

And about the engagement of the NPOC in other spaces, we have several people doing a collaboration with internet governance schools around the world. I have been recently a speaker in the South American internet governance school done last week in Argentina. And I know that there are so many people from NPOC, ExComm that it's also

engaging with their internet governance schools around their own region or continent.

So, we are engaged, but sometimes the one thing that happened is that we are not telling the people we are doing that. And that's a thing that's a problem of communication. We are not saying, okay, we are doing this, or we are doing that, because sometimes it goes, okay, it's just like a different side and it's not. But we need to, that education, we need that unity as a stakeholder group. So, with that, I need to give the floor to our next comment or question that we have here. Our friend, can you repeat your name, please?

ADEWALE ADEDOKUN:

Thank you very much. My name is Adewale, and I'm based in Canada, and this is my first meeting actually. I'm kind of attracted to quite a lot of things you said when you introduced NPOC. And that's part of the things I was discussing with my friend, Caleb, which invited me for this meeting.

And so, my question is about awareness. And for some of my folks back in Canada, we do have quite a lot of discussions rubbing minds. That was where it comes in because I was sharing some things with him about for some of us, obviously probably in the Western world, giving back to Africa. And that was when he told me about ICANN and quite a lot of the policies of meetings been going on.

So, my question to you is how is the awareness to the world, to people out there that have similar minds, similar ideas, similar goals to come

in and share the mind and share the ideas to reach out to various communities back in Africa, Nigeria, I mean, all over the world, actually? So, I don't know if there's any form of awareness going on to bringing new members, bringing new like minds into your constituency or community. Thank you.

PONCELET ILELEJI:

Thank you for that question, Adewale. I think if I look at my colleagues sitting here, starting with our chair, Juan, you can see NPOC has a very brilliant ex-school that are ready to do things in a way that will include inclusivity, will include our new charter. It's no more like a membership. Chair is now like an engagement chair.

Caleb will be doing a lot of engagement. We have our secretariat run by Bulu. So, there'll be a lot of things that will come up with this new mandate given to our ex-school where I believe that we'll be more active, as Juan said, like in national, regional and global internet governance forum whereby sessions will be given.

And I think just watch out for that. And hopefully you will see it. Even on our social media pages, I was looking at them this morning. They were not very active as before, but they will come active again. Thank you.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Thank you very much. Sorry, we are running out of time so thank you very much for being here. This is all for now. Thank you very much.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you. You can stop the recording.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]