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ICANN80 | PF – ccNSO: How ccTLDs contribute to a better world

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – 13:45 to 15:00 KGL

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Hello and welcome to the ccNSO session on How ccTLDs Contribute to a Better World. My name is Claudia Ruiz and I am joined by my colleagues Bart Boswinkel and Joke Braeken, and we are the remote participation managers 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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ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to this session about how ccTLDs are contributing to a better world through work that supports progress towards the sustainable development goals. There's been quite a lot of discussion here at ICANN and elsewhere recently about the Global Digital Compact and the review of the World Summit on the Information Society and the potential for these to result in changes to the governance of the digital world, including multi-stakeholder internet governance.

Unless you're following these processes closely, it might seem that they're focused on internet governance, but they have their origins in development. The Internet Governance Liaison Committee prepared a paper that was circulated earlier this week, by Joke on the mailing list, about how and why these processes are linked to the SDGs.

For those who aren't aware, the SDGs are goals that aim to address global challenges, including reducing poverty, inequality, addressing

climate change, and peace and justice. But only about 15% of the SDG targets are on track and many are going backwards. Digital transformation has been identified as an area for urgent action to accelerate progress and closing digital divides and expanding digital inclusion is why the Global Digital Compact was proposed.

Next year we have the 20-year review of the WSIS. Outcomes of the first WSIS include formalizing the multi-stakeholder approach to internet governance and establishing the Internet Governance Forum. The first WSIS was about building a development-oriented society and progressing the Millennium Development Goals, which preceded the Sustainable Development Goals.

Today's session is about highlighting that connection and showcasing some of the ways that ccTLDs are contributing to one or more of the 17 SDGs. We are also joined by two guest speakers today. Sally, I know you are pressed for time, so I will pass straight over to Sally Costerton, ICANN's interim president and CEO, for an ICANN perspective.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you, Annaliese, and thank you all very much for asking me to join you to discuss this extremely important topic. As most of you or many of you all know, this is a topic that is occupying an enormous amount of the ICANN community. All of us -- the Board, the community, and the staff. A lot of resources. It's very high priority for us, so it's very timely.

I wanted to share just a few of our perspectives on ICANN's role in the context of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. They're

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very important to ICANN. The significance of ICANN's mission grounded in the technical operations of the Internet is paramount in light of the Internet's role in promoting social and economic well-being across the globe. How does the DNS, as a technical infrastructure that enables people, devices and systems to communicate, fit within the context of the SDG?

Many of you may know there are 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals focusing on economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. And they might seem a bit abstract at times, but it's important to remember that they are intended to tangibly impact people's lives and transform communities. They're an urgent call to action and a constant reminder of the important work that lies ahead for all of us.

The technical underpinnings of the Internet are stronger than ever. The domain name system is essential for the Internet's technical functioning and ICANN's community policy development process ensures the domain name system remains stable and secure and continues to evolve. The DNS infrastructure, including the ccTLDs at the national level, plays a critical role in supporting the Internet as the platform for sharing information, exchanging ideas and finding solutions to some of the problems outlined in the SDGs.

The internet ecosystem is crucial to promoting the digital economy and countless digital services. Our community's commitment to ensuring a secure, stable, resilient and interoperable internet, therefore significantly impacts the achievement of the SDGs. As you heard

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Annaliese say, some of them are going backwards. So we are needed, more than ever, to continue to deliver our mission.

When the UN embarked on its set of ambitious goals in 2015, it was guided by the principle of leaving no one behind. For those of you that were in the high-level government meeting on Monday, you would have seen the video that Doreen Bogdan-Martin, who's the IT secretary general, as I'm sure you all know, outlined this very clearly. She talked about their goal by 2030 of the 30% of the population of the world, who are currently unconnected, being connected. So, leaving no one behind. This is very aligned with us.

In the 2023 SDG report, alarm bells were sounded around this issue. According to the report, a considerable portion of the global population is being left behind as we approach the halfway point to the SDG target dates. Many of them have not been accomplished with sufficient progress, as Annaliese was saying. So, how can we help to foster an inclusive digital environment where people all over the world, irrespective of language, have access to the Internet and can optimize it?

Since the adoption of the Tunis Agenda in 2005, almost two-thirds of the world do have access to the Internet. While we should celebrate this, we need to do our part to bridge the digital divide. How can we do that? We need to try to be innovative in overcoming the barriers to access and ensuring that everyone can participate meaningfully. Beyond being connected, it is essential that everyone has the

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opportunity to engage in language and script. We talk about this a great deal in our work at ICANN.

Additionally, we've been working with our community to promote universal acceptance. We talk about this all the time. It ensures that domain names and email addresses can be used by internet-enabled applications. The role of UA and the work that we do around universal acceptance and the work that we're doing running up to the next round, is a very critical part of how ICANN can impact those quite-behind-the-pace SDGs. This is probably the most important point.

Now, if we use Africa as an example, as you all know, we launched the Coalition for Digital Africa in 2022. This is a second area where we can make a direct impact on those SDGs. The coalition's aim was to accelerate the expansion of the Internet in Africa and support the growth of the region's digital economy. One of the goals is to make it possible for people across the continent to use the Internet in their own scripts. We're fostering innovation and entrepreneurial endeavors with many partners, as you know now.

We have about 12 partners, we're in about 26 countries in terms of projects, so it's moved quickly. Many of those, of course, we're partnering with the CCs themselves, very directly. All of the countries that we're working in, the CCs are part of that process. We do this by partnering with governments. Well, governments, sometimes you see, sometimes they're not. But they are very frequently at the table to organize capacity development workshops. One of the work streams inside the CDA is ccTLD capacity building. We've done that very closely

in partnership with Smart Africa here in Rwanda, for example, and they've been a very big part of that here in Africa.

The success of the Coalition for Digital Africa would not have been possible without the multi-stakeholder collaboration approach, so other partners of the Association of African Universities to promote universal acceptance. Very active programs on the ground. We say we work on universal acceptance, but that's what we're actually doing. We're educating students through the African University Association to understand about universal acceptance as they become programmers and lawyers and engineers. As they go into the workforce, they understand why it's important and how they can participate.

Governments committed to the multi-stakeholder model, as Annaliese said, in 2005. The Tunis Agenda provided a framework that recognized everyone's role, including the technical community, IGOs and businesses. This has been the foundation for a secure internet. We think, and I hope you agree -- and I think this is interesting in the discussion today to see how the CCs have a particular perspective on this -- the implementation, the use of the multi-stakeholder model itself is a powerful contribution to the SDGs. That idea that no one should be left behind, that everyone should have a voice, we are showing that in real time.

I think we are role models. I do. I think it's a critical part of us being able to show the world how you can deal with these complex problems of shared resources, which the Internet is one of the largest, and how you

can put in place fair and open and sustainable governance into a process to support what the world's needs are.

This is very aligned, I think, with the sentiment, the purpose, for the Sustainable Development Goals. Of course, we know that there are some threats to that model, and so we have to be mindful. It's not perfect, and we need to be aware of that too. We need to do our part to educate our stakeholders around the world, to bring them in, to show them what we do so they can understand how it works. They shouldn't be frightened of it. They shouldn't feel that it doesn't have outcomes. They should have confidence in it.

Now, just before I finish, (and I'm conscious that you have a lot on this afternoon) specifically to the ccTLDs -- UN negotiations and many other multilateral processes, such as the GDC, which has been discussed at length already in this meeting -- many of you, and thank you for this, I hope it's helpful, you're involved in our WSIS network that we've set up. This is an ideal place for the CCs to share their perspective along with everyone else, and also to share your insight.

I would say the CC community -- many of our CC colleagues have been incredibly proactive in helping us to understand these, often very complex, processes. Most people don't know what a compact is. I'm a native English speaker and I couldn't define it for you, because I don't have a government background. I think it's hard sometimes to just understand what is happening here and why does it matter? And is it good? Is it bad? Should we worry about it? What should we do about it?



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I think as CCs, you have a very particular role here, because of the role you play in your countries, to really help -- you are manifesting that you are such an important part of that -- what that looks like in your country, to help those stakeholders understand how to bring these things together, how to join the dots. And also, to share what we understand in ICANN around what's going on in the UN, in the multilateral processes, so that governments understand it too.

Of course, they all go to the UN, but typically, it's the diplomats, it's the foreign service departments and governments and ministries that go to the UN. The Internet, unless I've missed something, is not being run by diplomats. I'm not saying they don't have a role. Everybody has a role. But the governments need to understand why the technical foundation of the Internet is the bit that delivers the content, and if you damage the foundation, you reduce the contents available. The Internet will eventually fail.

You may do that by mistake rather than by intent, but that fragmentation, those digital islands that may be created, you begin to fragment, you begin to risk and break, potentially, completely the Internet that we have today. And because that Tunis Agenda created that multi-stakeholder governance process, we have always run the technical community with the multi-stakeholder model. It works so well that it has enabled the Internet to become what it is all these years later, 20 years later.

Most people in governments, and I'd love you to contradict me, they don't understand this. Not just in governments, but anywhere. Most

people think the Internet is a magic trick, if you ask them. They just think it just arrives, like electricity. We know how it works, so we have to remember that it is not obvious to most people how it works, and therefore they take it for granted. And that's the thing we have to guard against.

Your role in coordinating people and explaining this to them in your countries with your journalists, with your politicians, with your influencers, don't take it for granted. It relies on the governance model that it's had since 2005. Don't mess with it. That is what the GDC engagement has largely been about -- the Global Digital Compact has been. I really believe that the work I do with you in the countries, my teams do with you, this is our priority right here, right now. Because we have a limited amount of time.

I think there's enormous amounts of support in the world, don't get me wrong. I don't think it's a crisis. There's a lot of understanding that what we have works and people should not -- don't break it. Don't fix it, it's not broken. And don't break it. Because if you do break it, we might not know how to fix it. Don't take it for granted. I think that would be my message to you. Please be the standard bearers, the flag carriers, in your countries, but don't take it for granted. Because if I think about the SDGs, one of the biggest contributions we can make is to secure that future. Thank you, and thank you for being so indulgent with the time. I hope I haven't overrun.

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**ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:** Thank you very much, Sally, and thank you for making time to fit us into your schedule. I'm not sure whether you have a moment for a question, Sally, if there is one. Are there any questions for Sally?

**NICK WENBAN-SMITH:** Thank you, Sally. It's a very valuable and interesting discussion. Particularly, a lot of the time we spent here in the policy weeds and it's nice to elevate the discussion to higher-level aspirations. I suppose my question is, as I look at the SDGs, particularly 11, about sustainability, and 13, about planet and environmental protection, and I do wonder why can we not have just two in-person meetings a year rather than three?

**SALLY COSTERTON:** Thank you so much. That's a great bridge. I really appreciate it. It's a great question. I've been asked that question for lots of reasons -- for financial reasons and for sustainability reasons. And I promise we didn't set this up, because this is going to look like a setup and it really wasn't. I'm going to ask my colleagues in the Policy Support Team, and I'm just about to go and talk to a smaller group of community leaders to have this conversation -- I'm going to ask the community to convene very informal conversations over the summer about this topic. It's 10 years since the community created the current policy we have on meetings, which is the rotation model, and the three meetings a year, the community forum, the policy forum, and the AGM.

This was the product. In fact, this lady was sitting next to me -- this is when we first worked together, Anna and I -- a lot of meetings we had, didn't we, on the famously-called Meeting Strategy Working Group, which ran for a couple of years, and we met every two weeks, I think, for a very long time. This was a very multi-stakeholder process. It was completely multi-stakeholder. This was the product of that. We took it to the Board and the Board approved it. And that has been the guidance therefore ever since.

Now, we've obviously been through COVID. We ran about seven meetings or eight meetings virtually, completely virtually during COVID. And that gave us the time to build a hybrid platform, really build that out. Because when I first came to ICANN, we had Adobe Connect. Does anybody remember Adobe Connect? Yes. But that was just what everybody had. I mean, in those days, nobody had heard of Zoom. I don't think it had been created, actually. I don't think the company had started.

It started kind of around the beginning of the pandemic, if I remember. So, we've moved really fast. I think the fact that we could pull together 2,000-people virtual meetings -- we were actually being used as a test bed by the Zoom CEO to try out new technologies and new ideas for virtual meetings. We've been in the vanguard of that. We kind of leapfrogged during the pandemic. So we've been in the vanguard of that, we kind of leapfrogged during the pandemic.

Excellent question. I'm going to put it out. We're not going to have a big public comment. We'll just have a few informal conversations. I'll

leave it up to you. But what I do want to do is I want to collect your thinking. Where are we now? What have you got an appetite for? Are you ready to give up meeting? Some people really want to, other people really don't. Do we take a meeting and go break up that and to have more regional meetings? Because we have a lot of regional meetings. I'm going to call it a conversation over the summer, because it's a long time ago. It's a great model, but it's got really expensive. Inflation is hurting us. You've seen that on the numbers.

So, what do we really want? And I don't want to ignore the environmental goal because that's the other thing that's happened. In the last year, for the first time in this calendar year that's just ending, the CEO has had a specific Goal 8 to create a strategy. What is our strategy going to be? So it's like a strategy for a strategy, if that makes sense -- or a plan for a strategy.

It's also been put in the Board discussion and the community discussion and the FY26-30 Strategic Plan, it's in there too. That's going to be an important part of that summer conversation. We need to look in two directions. What do we want to do from an efficiency standpoint? And what cost-saving process improvement, those kinds of things -- what do we want to do from an environmental standpoint? And I'm really interested in the outcome.

I haven't got an agenda, I want to hear what you think. We'll collect that up and we'll share it with you around the end of the summer. Then that will help me then say, okay, it feels like we're hearing this and this, now we will go away and do some work on what that might look like to be

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different in terms of how we meet. You know, that kind of approach. But it's a really important question, so thank you for giving me the opportunity to share that with you while we're all together.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thank you very much, Sally. We will move now to our next speaker. If I could just remind all speakers to please speak slowly and clearly and close to the microphone. Our next speaker is someone you may already know. Ana Neves, she's the head of Internet Governance and the GAC representative for Portugal. She's also the vice chair and immediate past chair of the Bureau of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

ANA NEVES:

Thank you very much. I was just trying to see if you can read what is written there in the circles. It's a pity, because I cannot either. Well, this is the United Nations intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder digital cooperation bodies and forums that exist nowadays. It would be very good if you could perceive what is happening in each circle. I'm here as Vice Chair of the CSTD but I'm also the GAC member of Portugal. I'm in all these different processes on internet governance and on multistakeholderism.

You can see at least that in green, you have a circle that is almost in the center, that is the CSTD. You can see a circle with at least four letters only if those are CSTD. CSTD is the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. It was very interesting. That denotes that

you are in the HGLC, then we denote that you disseminated among you all, because you put the finger on the right thing, that is everything, all these movements, they have origin in development to have an impact in development.

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development was considered by the United Nations General Assembly as the right place in all the UN family to be the body, because it's a functional body of ECOSOC. It means that it's very close to the General Assembly. To be the formal entity to capture, to follow up, to propose to, to follow the WSIS, both the Geneva Action Plan and principles and the Tunis Agenda that affirms that we have different stakeholders on the internet governance and set up the Internet Governance Forum.

Since 2006 you have had the IGF, the Internet Governance Forum, until nowadays. And you have WSIS, 2003. Normally, you know it as the WSIS Forum. For some of you, maybe you don't see the differences between the WSIS Forum and the IGF. The WSIS Forum is really centered, and the main target is to respond to the principles and to the action plan of the WSIS 2003.

When we have ITU organizing together with UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD, and other specialized agencies in the UN, maybe you consider ITU the main entity for digital. It is not. All those principles that then are developed through the action lines and the action plan, they have to be developed by the different specialized agencies in the United Nations family. That is what you have in this circle. If it can be disseminated, maybe you can read more easily. We will find the different

organizations where they have their own role nowadays. The WSIS had two phases, 2003 and 2005, and now we are in 2024. WSIS review is taking place to have an adoption of something in 2025. In 2015, we had the WSIS+10, and we were far to know that we will have a Global Digital Compact where all the principles are being re-discussed.

Coming back to the WSIS+20, we had a first phase of 10 years after, so in 2015. It was in 2015 that the sustainable development goals were adopted as well. In 2017, Antonio Guterres, the secretary general for the United Nations, considered that it was a mistake that digital was not part of the Sustainable Development Goals. He decided to start something that he called the Digital Cooperation Roadmap to see how the digital could enhance, could improve, could make it something to achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030. What he did was a road towards the Global Digital Compact that is nowadays being negotiated in New York. I don't know if some of you are following all those discussions and if you read the draft and all the way that we had since 2022 towards now, the end of these negotiations--

Thank you, much better. So I think that now you can read something, at least. You can see the CSTD, you can see UNCTAD, the IGF, ITU conferences, and then you can see WSIS in the blue circle. Then you can see in the yellow, the other events that are being held every day and that serve the digital. When we hear that we don't want the duplication of bodies in this discussion of the Global Digital Compact, I think that we should be much more ambitious. From all these circles, we should have the ambition to have less entities dealing with the digital. It will be so much easier. Because, even in governments, we don't know who



is dealing with what. But they are adopting several resolutions that have impact. But if you are not working together, the impact is not so strong as it should be.

Now, on the Global Digital Compact, who from here in the ccNSO, you heard about the Global Digital Compact? Can you raise your hand please? And who is managing your ccTLDs -- are being discussing in dialogue with your ministries responsible for the Global Digital Compact together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? She says so-so. In the case of .pt, they were very clever because they invited, recently, the GAC representative to be the chair of the advisory council of .pt. In this way, the dialogue is really strong. More than that, I was able to bring the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the discussions as well. Nowadays, they know exactly what the ccTLD.pt is and what is a ccTLD. I imagine that our delegation in New York, they know a lot about digital and what is at stake nowadays.

The principles that we have in the Zero Draft of the GDC, they are very good principles. They are more accurate than in the Tunis Agenda because of the multi-stakeholder process. But on the other hand, they are being re-discussed. We know the United Nations opened the Pandora box. So even the multi-stakeholder, the multistakeholderism as we normally say, is in jeopardy. I think that you have to read the note that your colleagues done for you on WSIS+20 and on the GDC and to better perceive the situation, because you have a very important role in the negotiations.

You have to make them understand why the Internet cannot have those principles -- open and fragmented, and all the principles that we all know that cannot be in jeopardy. Of course, in the governments you have very different types of governments, but the governments that are for the multi-stakeholder, they are trying to develop the best environment possible to have on board the different stakeholders for a policy decision for the policy making.

Public policy, it has to be informed. If it is not informed by the ones that are working on those fields, who can do better? It's the same for climate. It's the same for the environment. It's the same for wars. Why do we have these wars? If the public policy for war would be decided by different stakeholders, I don't think that we would have more wars.

Yesterday, because of you, ccNSO, I visited the memorial to the genocide. And the main message in all that horrible genocide that existed, what I heard was "peace," and to "forgive." I thought, well, there are really different stakeholders together that can achieve this outcome, because the majority of governments are talking about power and not about decentralized decision-making. We have to hear everybody to make an informed policy and making decisions.

On development, it's for development, but it's for development of developing countries as well. Because a lot of developing countries have enormous problems that they are the same as the development countries. We have to engage more on the CSTD, because it's the intergovernmental body but it has different working groups where all the stakeholders can negotiate, discuss on equal footing. Those

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working groups then inform the CSTD for the resolution that will be then endorsed by the ECOSOC and finally it will be adopted by the General Assembly. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you very much, Ana. If you have questions about these processes, there really isn't anybody better than Ana to help you understand them. We are running a little bit behind, but I'll take one quick question if there is one.

OLGA CAVALLI: Thank you, Ana, for your explanation. I have a philosophical question. I follow you and I see that you're very much involved in all these processes, and I have done this for many years. How possible do you think that a developing country -- we have many developing countries represented here in the ccNSO -- can follow effectively all these processes? You see that's somehow possible or you think there are difficulties for them to follow all these processes and to get involved with relevance? By the way, this is very good. And another question, which means the bigger circles, the different colors?

ANA NEVES: Yes, it has an explanation. The bodies more in the center, they are the ones that have a role in legislation. The others developed legislation and implemented it. The others are like meetings and events that reply to the resolutions. You see in green, intergovernmental bodies established by the General Assembly or specialized agencies of the

United Nations system. The dark blue is multi-stakeholder bodies established by the General Assembly. The red, multi-stakeholder forums convened by United Nations entities. Finally, in yellow, the multi-stakeholder conferences organized by United Nations entities. This is the intergovernmental world, the multilateral world, trying to have the multi-stakeholder component on it.

On your question, if we will have few circles here, it will be much easier for both developing and developed countries to follow all these meetings, negotiations, and be part of the processes. We have a myriad of entities and it's very, very difficult for a country like Portugal, for instance, it's very difficult to be in all these forums. So we have to choose. That's why I normally say that there should be a different institutional arrangement for digital in the United Nations, much simpler. That would help us in better understanding what we are talking about when we are talking about data, artificial intelligence, and all the other emerging technologies and all these new movements. That's why it's so important for the ccTLD to be engaged with the ministry responsible for the digital policy.

As all these processes are very international and they have a world-based basis, the contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the ministry responsible for the digital is very, very good. So, to have meetings, to have dialogues, to have the regional and the national initiatives of the IGF, always to have the ccTLD and the ministries responsible for everything. And I'm talking about content, I'm talking about the regulator, I'm talking about the associations of the private sector, of the civil society, of the consumer, you name it. We found the

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National IGF is a very good place where we can discuss and make awareness.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thanks, Ana. And thank you for your question, Olga. We are running behind, so I won't be taking any more questions, but I'm sure Ana will be happy to speak to you during the break. We will be moving now to presentations from ccNSO members and hearing about how their organizations are working towards some of the 17 SDGs. Our first ccNSO member is Bonnie Mtengwa, IT manager of the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe. I'm sorry?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm not trying to be behind you, but it was not a good presentation.

BONNIE MTENGWA: Good morning, everyone. Good evening. My name is Boni Mtengwa, the IT manager for POTRAZ. I will be making a presentation on behalf of the Authority. The Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe is sometimes known as POTRAZ. We are the regulator in Zimbabwe. We have got a mandate to ensure connectivity and provision of sufficient domestic and international telecommunication services, and also to promote the development of systems in Zimbabwe.

We have to exercise licensing as far as telecom licensing is concerned. We also license them to establish codes and standards as far as telecommunication services are concerned. Also, to promote the interests of consumers as far as provision of quality of service and

telecommunications. To maintain effective competition between persons engaged in the telecom sector. We are responsible for monitoring tariffs.

Basically, we are running with the team, leaving no one and no place behind. This team is under the Universal Service Fund. It's Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), and Goal 9 (industry innovation and infrastructure and reduced inequalities). These are the main areas that we are focusing on. With this, we undertook a project that is called Computer LAB per School program. Most of these that are benefiting are in the rural areas as part of the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS 1). Some are benefiting, but mainly it's focusing on the rural areas. The project also aims at facilitating the equipping of digital skills to people so that they can take the future jobs in IT.

The statistics are, a total of 6,500 have been distributed to 215 schools, each receiving 30 computers. In addition, each beneficiary receives internet connectivity for a full year, which enables them to kickstart their initiatives and e-learning programs. For the 2022 fiscal year, 126 schools benefited and were also given 30 computers each. POTRAZ has also connected 518 schools to the Internet. We are targeting 1,500 schools by next year.

In 2015, POTRAZ embarked on a "Connect A School/Connect A Community" project which saw 60 schools benefiting and received 80 computers each. Also, a server to host the content and a projector for each school. The scope of the project involved installing the

computers, buying furniture, and equipping the labs. The teachers were also trained on the project to utilize the computers. So, refurbished the labs, equipping the labs, internet connectivity, training the students, and working with ZESA (Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority), especially in connecting electricity to sites. Also, engaging solar guys. If there was nothing at all, we were involving the solar people to install.

As far as numbering is concerned, we have got the Telecoms Act and the Domain Name Registration, SI 111 of 20223. We have started the development of the DNS framework and implementing the DNS framework. We are hoping to finish that as far as that one is concerned. Also, we are in the process of setting up a DNS registry and the creation of policies and procedures. The timelines are, development of the Expression of Interest is going to be done by POTRAZ. We actually did the development of it and we are now at the stage of publication of the Expression of Interest. After that, we're going to evaluate the Expression of Interest and license the DNS registry. The development of policies and procedures will be done by the POTRAZ and also the DNS registry. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thanks very much, Bonnie. Just in the interest of time, because we still have two more speakers, I might hold off questions for all of our ccNSO members until the end of the session and take questions for everybody at the end. Our next speaker is Pierre Bonis, CEO of AFNIC. And Pierre, please accept my apologies for getting the speaking order wrong.

PIERRE BONIS:

Thank you very much, Annaliese. Hello to everyone. I'm Pierre Bonis, CEO of AFNIC.fr. I'll try to give an example of what we are trying to do as a ccTLD in the context of the SDGs. As our colleague from Zimbabwe said, there are several SDGs that seem to be more directly linked with the mission of a ccTLD. The funny thing is that this is not the same number, the same SDGs that has been quoted by my colleague from Zimbabwe and myself, but it means that we are complimentary. There is the quality education, it has been very well stressed. There's a lot of things that our ccTLDs are doing regarding education. I remember that in IGLC, there has been a lot of talks about the capacity building involvement of ccTLDs towards their various communities. Industry innovation and infrastructure, because we are a little bit on infrastructure and responsible consumption and production.

What are the tools that we use to assess the progress that we are doing in achieving the SDGs and assessing it to start a continuous improvement of what we are doing? We choose to apply the methodology of ISO 26000 and the carbon footprint approach. As some of you may know, ISO 26000 is not an approach that leads to a certification. We had to find someone who could have a methodology of certification and levelization that was very, very inspired by ISO 26000. In France it's called Committed to Corporate Social Responsibility by AFNOR, but it's also a certification that is recognized in Europe.



The result of it -- and this is a point I really wanted to make, and I don't want to give the impression that we are bragging about what we are doing. It's really impressive that for the first time we were evaluated last year -- it was the first time, so it was about describing what we are doing and what we have done for 20 years. Because of the multi-stakeholder model, because of the community model, because of the mission of the ccTLD, that is general interest and public policy and equality of access to internet to all -- because of what we are doing and our mission, and I really think that this is the same thing for most of the people in the room -- an evaluator coming from outside and trying to assess what we were doing and how much we were useful in terms of these SDGs gave us a very, very good evaluation for the first year because we were almost exemplary.

We were evaluated very high and we were very surprised by that. We realized that the model we are carrying -- and that's what was said by Sally and Ana -- is in itself a first answer to what is asked by the SDGs. That's what I wanted to share here. Being sure that most of us in the room, we would do the same thing. We would go to this kind of evaluation. We would have the same kind of result. This is maybe one of the best evidence that we can bring something to the discussion on the SDGs. I'm not going to comment too long on the next slide, but that's the funny thing of the evaluation. We are evaluated towards the 17 SDGs, and sometimes it's very peculiar.

For instance, on "aquatic life" we reached 64% of the target. We don't know why. I have no idea what we are doing in aquatic life. Still, it's the evaluation that shows that. It means that it can be a little bit artificial

sometimes. But this is a UN methodology, and it gives evidence that in our own organizations, we are already with good practices, with contractual compliance, trying to find, in the supply chain, responsible people to work with, having a strong social politics and HR politics. We are already contributing to that.

Of course, there is this important carbon footprint or approach because it's part of the SDGs. As you can see, we have started some time ago to evaluate the carbon footprint of AFNIC. For those who are interested, we will be able to discuss that. It will be too much time for us to go inside it. The thing is that in absolute values, we reduced the carbon footprint of AFNIC a little bit more than 20% in 10 years, having a growth of domain names, but also of staff. So this is something that is possible without reducing the intensity of our work and operations.

As I said, there is also the HR approach, and that's something I wanted to share. I mean, the way we approach the SDGs is not that we as AFNIC are going to contribute to the world well-being of people who are working in companies, but we are going to make sure that in our own company, there is some well-being. And I think this is the idea (the idea of the SDGs) that every organization has to do for itself what is expected from all the other organizations. We are not changing the situation of the workers in other organizations, but we care about our workers and our staff, as you can see.

This is something that we share with a lot of you. We had a presentation by CIRA yesterday. We know that Nominet is doing a lot of things in that, that we are a lot in this community to use the benefits or parts of the

benefits that we are doing to reinvest it in solidarity projects. This is a non-for-profit approach from a lot of ccTLDs, and it counts, and you have this figure that shows you that only for last year, that was a little bit less than €1.5 million distributed to local projects.

Next slide, this is part of another commitment that AFNIC took that is 11% of the turnover invested in public interest projects and actions. And not only of the benefits, because if I'm a very, very bad CEO, there will be no benefits and there will be no investments. But still, there are people who are buying domain names, so we will still have a turnover for the next few years, I think. The commitment is much stronger than the benefits, and you see that it goes from grants to IETF to local projects to international cooperation and our participation to the Coalition for Digital Africa, for instance, and also capacity building in France. And to finish the work on R&D that we are doing on evaluating the carbon footprint of a DNS request.

Last slide, this is to echo also what our Zimbabwean colleague said. We are very much involved in capacity building and training, and especially for SMEs and young people in France. The figures you see are in one year. It's every year, so there are a bit more than 25,000 SMEs that are trained for their online presence. 4,500 young people in universities or schools, also for their online presence. I'm not talking about specific technical training. There is also another project that is called Tous en Ligne, 3,000 SMEs that are trained -- but more than trained, I mean, they built their total online presence with a three-week training through our program. That's it for me, I hope I was not too long, and I'm happy to exchange with you later on these things.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thank you, Pierre. Our final speaker is joining us remotely. Please welcome Alexandre Barbosa, head of CETIC.br, the Regional Center for the Development of the Information Society. Go ahead, please.

Good morning and good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for having me here with you. I wish I could be in Kigali with you, but it is not possible. Let me start by saying that I think that Sally and also Ana have already set the stage in terms of the role that ccTLDs should play in terms of being engaged in the sustainable development agenda. Of course, we all know that internet and digital technologies are key enablers for sustainable development. As Sally has also said, domain name systems are crucial in this context. But I would say that not only DNS, but the internet infrastructure as a whole plays a very important role.

What I'm going to discuss with you very briefly is what NIC.br as a ccTLD for the .br is doing in terms of being aligned with the development agenda and also how we go beyond infrastructure only. It was already mentioned, sustainable development agenda, the WSIS+20, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Digital Compact. I had also included NetMundial+10, which is not a process but rather a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform that took place recently in Sao Paulo in April. In my opinion, the outcomes of this meeting really provide relevant input for SDGs, Global Digital Compact, and the WSIS review. That's why I included this.

I will focus on two key components. First, infrastructure, connectivity and digital inclusion as a very important enabler for sustainable

development. Then I will discuss a little bit beyond infrastructure to showcase how NIC.br has been a very important actor in the ecosystem in Brazil in terms of producing reliable data for policy design and policy monitoring. Data production and measurement is a very important activity at NIC.br that plays an important role in bridging the gap in terms of digital inclusion and also capacity building. I would say that three keywords that were already said by the previous speakers, I would name engagement, multi-stakeholder, and raising awareness and capacity building.

Here, what we did in the past was try to understand if there is a correlation with the growth of the main names in Brazil and in other countries. We took a database from the top G20 and OECD countries in terms of ccTLD database domain names. We took variables from infrastructure like the number of autonomous systems, the number of IPv4/IPv6 addresses, internet exchange points in terms of connectivity and digital inclusion. We took indicators such as fixed and mobile broadband subscription/100 inh, average fixed broadband speed, internet users, which is a measure of digital inclusion, and also users of e-commerce and e-government. Brazil has, today, more than 5.3 million domain names. If you go for the DNSSEC, we have 1.6 million names. What we realized is that having a good infrastructure and a digital community does help in terms of growing ccTLDs, but it is not the only factor.

We also have different factors affecting the growth of ccTLDs like governance factors, including the governance model that we have established in Brazil since 1995, multi-stakeholder structure, having

voices from the government, from the civil society, private sector, civil society organizations, and academic and technical community. Another factor is trust and credibility of the .br in terms of operations and quality of services. Of course, a very important role or activity in terms of communication with society and particularly with the ISPs as key stakeholders in this process.

Besides that, .br goes beyond providing a reliable and resilient and high-quality internet infrastructure to provide to the society internet exchange points. For instance, with IX.br broadband measurement tools to measure the quality of broadband, ICT statistics, the national CSIRT. So, those are very important factors.

Now I will talk about other very important activities provided by NIC.br that are related to the SDGs. One of the very important activities within NIC.br is data production. NIC.br is funding all the measurement initiatives in Brazil in terms of public ICT statistics. We have a knowledge center on ICT data production, capacity building, laboratory of ideas and methodological innovation, and measurement of impacts of ICT in society. Currently, we have nine nationwide surveys representative of the respective universe like education, health, households, enterprises, et cetera. I took more concrete examples. Although ICT is an enabler for all 17 SDGs, I'm going to talk about four specific SDGs that we are very much engaged in, not only in data production and monitoring, but also providing reliable input for evidence-based policy design.

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One is SDG 4, quality education. We have the Nationwide ICT Education Survey measuring the adoption and use of ICTs and digital skills by teachers and students. We are very much engaged with UNESCO. At the Global Education Monitoring Report last year, it was focused on Brazil. We played a very important role in that. Also, with the UNESCO Regional Forum on Education such as ICT Talent Summit, Data for Learning project, which is a broadband commission for sustainable development. Those are examples of engagement of NIC.br in those agenda.

The next one that I would like to highlight is industry innovation and infrastructure as the SDG 9. We have here different surveys, particularly three of them are very important in terms of innovation. ICT enterprise surveys, which is our business survey. We have ICT internet services provider surveys with the ISPs in the country. In this particular case, it's not a probabilistic survey, it's a census, because we try to go to every single ISP in the country. We also have ICT and household surveys. We have been working on measuring digital connectivities at OECD and UNCTAD and ITU.

The other ones are SDG 5 and SDG 16, but I'm not going through much detail. Just to finish, I would like to mention that NIC.br provides a series of capacity building, not only in infrastructure like IPv6 and other security incident management, but also in terms of data production and data use for policy making. Here we have at least three very important workshops that are regional for Latin America.

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The Annual Workshop on Survey Methodologies, which is done with our Brazilian National Statistical Office. The Digital Transformation School with the UN ECLAC for Latin America. We also provide technical support in different thematic areas. Also, some MOOCs. And we have published, five years ago, a very important report, The Role of ICTs for Achieving the SDGs. This is already published. Although it has been five years, it's still very relevant.

Just to finalize, our cooperation with key stakeholders for data production and capacity building are really very important. We have been engaging with international organizations, different UN agencies, with civil society organizations, national statistical offices, and academia to produce reliable data. Those engagement and the multi-stakeholder approach is really critical for us. That's it from my side. If you have any questions, I'll be more than pleased to reply to any doubts or questions. Thank you very much.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thank you very much, Alexandre. I apologize to everybody for running us over time, but I'm sure you will agree it was a very interesting set of presentations. We are going into the coffee break now so if you do have questions for our speakers, please come and find them. We have two of them here, but perhaps since Alexandre is not here, I might take a quick question if there are any. Yes, go ahead.



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UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's not a question but a remark. I think we forgot to thank our colleague from Zimbabwe for his presentation, so I suggest we do that now.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you for the reminder. I'm so sorry about that. Can we thank all of our speakers? Sally, Ana, Bonnie, Pierre, and Alexandre. Again, apologies for running over time, but it was a really interesting set of presentations. I think there is a lot more to say on the SDGs and this will not be the last conversation the Internet Governance Committee is having on them. I hope you've had some food for thought for ideas from these speakers -- how you might work towards the SDGs in your own organizations. Again, please thank all of our speakers, and thank you for your time today.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**