
ICANN81 | AGM – ccNSO: Internet Governance Liaison Committee Session
Saturday, November 9, 2024 - 16:30 to 17:30 TRT

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Hello and welcome to the ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee session. My name is Claudia Ruiz, and I am the participation manager for this session. Please note this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and the ICANN Community Anti-harassment Policy.

During this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. Onsite participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace. I will now hand the floor over to Annaliese Williams, Chair of the IGLC. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thank you. Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to the working session of the Internet Governance Liaison Committee. It's nice to see so many people in the room. So today, we will be redoing our annual exercise, heat mapping exercise. It's an exercise we do each year to see what are the hot topic issues across the various regions, and then we use that to help inform our work program for the following year.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

So we also have an update by ICANN's Government Engagement Team today. And we will be doing some interactive engagement on the heat mapping exercise in a new format that we haven't tried before. Not sure how it's going to work, but we'll try and see and we'll do our best. I might hand over -- who do we have from ICANN? Is Elena here? Oh, Elena, I'll pass over to you. Thank you.

ELENA PLEXIDA:

Thank you, Annaliese. Yes, I came in very late and tried to sneak in. Okay, thank you for having us again for your exercise, which is becoming more and more interesting every time you're having it, and I'm really looking forward to the discussion. I will not take too much time. Seriously, not too much time. So from our perspective, and you know that the government engagement team of ICANN is really-- their monitoring developments at geopolitical level, legislation, the human processes and the rest. Of course, we're not everywhere, but we're trying to be as much aware as possible for the important things.

I would say, if you asked us what is the greatest challenge we see? It's definitely the geopolitical tensions that are growing by the day, if you will. There are increasing tensions between international actors, and the concerning bit of it is that we actually see these tensions slowly, of course, very slowly playing out in our space as well. I mean, in the identifier space.

So in a way, you are seeing this politicization also playing out on identifier space, you see the identifiers being drawn into the geopolitical agenda bit by bit. On the governance side of things, so the

governance over the identifiers, I mean, yeah, we have challenges that are ahead of us with the WSIS+20, and I will not talk more about that. I would just say that it's a challenge. It's not entirely new though at the side of the governance side of things. What I would say is a little bit new, not that new by now, is that we see this on the identifiers themselves. For example, when you have sanctions over IP addresses, this is something that's drawing identifiers into the political agenda.

When you have legislation in different parts of the world that is not unintentionally touching on the DNS, but specifically targeting the DNS or you have some other initiatives that are about creating or protecting own part of DNS, there's no such thing as my own part of the DNS, that's another indication of identifiers becoming slowly part of the geopolitical agenda.

We've even seen the identifiers being used as leverage in worse situations. That's my big example of the trend, if you will. So that's top of my concern wise, if you will. As regards legislation as such, legislative or non-legislative initiative, the big buckets, of course, data protection has been there for a long, long time. Cybersecurity is on the rise, and I'm sure that we will hear a lot of examples from different regions. And it's mostly the cybersecurity related legislation where you see the sovereign approach, including on identifiers in some cases being brought in. And parenthetically, I need to say it's completely reasonable, right?

The world is the way it is, so of course, governments need to think sovereignty. I'm not saying it's a bad thing, but applying it on the

identifiers is a completely different discussion. And finally, another trend is the content moderation, the online content moderation related legislation, which is not a such stat on ICANN or the identifiers if you will. It is though to my mind the concerning trend in the sense that we're seeing, for example, court cases against the DNS operators that might have nothing or very, very little to do with content. So it's something to keep an eye on and see where this direction is going. And I will finish with another bit. I mentioned buckets or trends.

Another trend I think to be aware of is standardization. So it's not touching on ICANN, it's not touching on internet protocols for the time being, but we're definitely seeing that a sovereign approach to the way standardization is being made is also taken bit by bit, and god forbid it comes to our level, and I hope not, seriously, but I'm just putting it there as a standardization's also something. I will finish with that, very much looking forward to the conversation. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thanks, Elena. And thank you for joining us. We might sort of start our heat mapping brainstorming exercise. And for those who haven't done this exercise before, it's really just an opportunity to put forward the issues that you are aware of, internet governance issues in your country or in your region.

We have assumed that the WSIS+20 will continue to be a high priority topic throughout 2025 for this committee. Feel free to include it if you would like, but we are taking that for granted. This exercise is really just to see what else is out there and to make sure that we have visibility of

all of the topical issues. And we do use it to sort of track issues over time to see which issues are common across multiple regions or all of the regions, and to see how issues change over time, if issues are becoming more important or if new issues are being added to the list. So it is just useful information and helps us develop a better picture of what's happening around the world over time.

So the word 'cloud' there on the screen, these are issues that have been identified in previous heat mapping exercises as priority issues. And they may continue to be issues in your region or your country or they may not, but they are just a reminder of previous topics that we have identified. So does anybody have any questions about the exercise, about the rationale, about why we are doing it before we move into how we do it? But we might start-- there is the QR code on the screen, or you can type in the name if you would prefer to use your laptop.

JOKE BRAEKEN: Annaliese, would you like me to clarify how it works?

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Yes, if you wouldn't mind, Joke.

JOKE BRAEKEN: So if people type in the URL that is also added in the chat or scan the QR code, you end up in a Google document. So in this Google document, you see a table with various rows. So it would be good if you think about any potential topics that you could use, one single row per topic.

And also in the second column, select the region to which you believe that this topic applies. If there are duplicate topics, they are very welcome. If a topic you want to add is already listed or is already listed for a different region and you think it should also be listed for my region, please do make sure that you add it nonetheless. Multiple entries indicate that it's really truly a hot topic. So please take a moment to fill it out. And the overview will give us a nice picture of the various topics in which regions they apply. And it'll allow us also to compare with previous results of the heat map.

BART BOSWINKEL:

And if you want to, please add a description, a brief description of the topic as well, makes further assessment by the IGLC and appraisal easier.

JOKE BRAEKEN:

And if anybody is having any issues, feel free to use the Zoom chat as well, and we can then manually add it into the table.

BART BOSWINKEL:

Claudia, can you put the link in the Zoom room, please, so people can, if they want to, and check it again. Some people don't have it.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

I can see lots of activity in there, which is great. And just a reminder, if you see an issue that is an issue in your region and it's already covered

in another region, add it again with your region so that we know it applies across more than one region.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Excuse me, Claudia, could we maybe put the QR code or link back up? Mine crashed.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: I've got about another two minutes of the brainstorming. People are still writing, I think another 30 seconds, and then we'll-- Thank you for contributing to that. I think we've got about 80 entries there. And we have quite a few of the same issues that we have seen in previous years that are still that hot topics, but also quite a few new issues here that I don't think we have seen in previous exercises. So I guess I'm happy to open it up for a bit of discussion if anybody would like to make any comments or observations about what they're seeing or talk about any of the issues from what we see here that they think are the highest priorities.

BART BOSWINKEL: So what we're trying to do, again, this is an experiment from our side as staff as well, to sort these issues by region first and then ask people from the regions who submitted any entries to talk to these topics, and then go region by region. Because as you may recall from last year, we did the same exercise, we had to continue during the work, say the working group itself, and the results of this working group will be further analyzed by the group, especially those who are across the regions. I

think you want to do the napkin exercise again to really understand and go in-depth into the regions, and they will drive the agenda of the IGLC going forward.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thanks, Bart. Yes, this is the first step. It's the brainstorming element of this, and then we will sort of sort it out through region by region. We will share the list with the full ccNSO to see if any other ccNSO members who aren't members of the IGLC think that anything's missing.

Then the committee undertake several steps to analyze the issues, seeing which ones are common across all regions, and looking at which ones are new issues for us, or which ones are continuing to be a priority, and then we sort of undertake an impact versus effort analysis of the issues and help us decide which ones we prioritize for the forward work plan.

Are we able to look by region or, yeah. Oh, there it is. Is there any chance of making it a little larger or-- Thank you, that's much better. My eyes are getting old. So, we might start with the African region, since that is the one on the top. Would anybody from the African region like to share about the issues that they had put forward and perhaps tell us why they thought they are the priority issues?

ABDALMONEM GALILA:

Yeah, this is Abdalmonem Galila for the record. I am from Egypt, so it's one of the African countries. Actually, I wrote here two topics, the first one related to the IPV4 exhaustion. Still one block of IB version four still

exists for AFRINIC, and most of the countries inside the African continent have some IPV4 is restricted for the new technology production like the telecom operator, mobile operator, telecom companies use this IPV4 that are reserved for themselves for the future project.

And at some time, this IPV4 will be exhausted completely, and the other side that the access for the internet using this IPV4, the price will be up, the price of single IPV4 will be up, this is one of the issues. And after a while, this will be a limitation for the future project for the telecom operators, as there are no IPs to accommodate such kind of increasing of internet users that will be exist from time to time in the future is the first topic.

The second topic about it is not related to Africa as I don't have idea for Africa for this topic. The second topic related to the retirement or the out of service TLDs, for example, some ccTLDs due to some circumstances, they're out of service. So what is the future for these TLDs is for these domain names, register for these TLD, the second thing. I think is the last thing. Sorry.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thanks for that. I think those might be two new issues for this committee. I don't think we have seen those before. So thank you for your contribution. Yes, please.

BARRACK OTIENO:

Thank you. Barrack Otieno from Africa Top Level Domains Organization. I think I'll broadly categorize the issues into demand side issues and supply side issues. Statistically, I think Africa still accounts for probably 2% of internet users globally.

And largely, it has to do with issues related to access, issues related to literacy and issues related to uptake of the value chain, various products and services on the internet. But more fundamentally, there is demand because there is need for the internet locally and for the demand to be met, various solutions, infrastructure and software related have to be deployed, which means that Africa cannot be left behind when it comes to AI and other emerging technologies that will actually help us to leapfrog.

Of course, the issue of RIR governance is also prominent, but again, it's because of the demand. People are now realizing that the internet is critical to our day-to-day lives, and more importantly, we want to be involved in its governance. So maybe I'll try to summarize in a way with those many of your remarks. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thank you very much for that.

ABDALMONEM GALILA:

What I miss, this is Abdalmonem Galila for the record, the domain name industry uptake. I mean, why most of the companies or the citizen who are looking for domain names within the continent, they are looking for .com, or .net, or .org domain names rather than the domain names that

are attached to the ccTLD for example. It means that there are a lack of awareness, maybe there is the high prices of the local domain name, maybe it's one of the issues, we need to discuss or to see what are the issues behind that. It affects the full domain industry, not the local ones. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you. Would anyone else from the African region like to add anything? Perhaps --

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Afternoon. My name is [00:35:31 - inaudible], South Africa. I think this is across all regions, the issue of data privacy and data sovereignty and all of that, I think coming from Africa, that's a big issue for us in terms of where our content is stored, our data is stored and all of that. But also coming back to the issue of data privacy overall, is that you find that there are a lot of conflicting data protection legislation.

And I think when GDPR came into place, everything across the board was GDPR compliant, and yet some of the clause in GDPR conflicted with some of the clause in our legislation. I think it's something that we need to look at to say that how do we balance what ICANN does in terms of data protection and not just take one region's regulations as superior to everybody else's. How do we begin to take into considerations Africa and other jurisdiction in terms of doing that. Thanks.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you. And this committee did have an expert speaker a few months ago exploring because I think that the data protection had come up in a previous heat mapping exercise. And the committee invited some expert speakers on a couple of the issues. And so there is a recording on the African Data Protection session that was done. I think that'll be on the IGLC website somewhere, if people are interested in that. It was a really informative session, so if you weren't part of it, I would encourage you to have a look. Thank you. Oh, yes, go ahead.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you for giving me the floor. My name is [00:37:48 - inaudible], I came from Tunisia. And I have maybe a question. So we have a lot of topics here, but my question is which topics are director related to ccNSO working group? Maybe because it's a huge topic. So many topics, maybe ccNSO working group could not be concerned by this topic. So this is my first question. My second question is or my second maybe proposition is about country code TLDs and content protection behind the ccTLDs, so I'd like to join my colleague, Abdalmonem, first, how to encourage content developing behind the ccTLDs and how to protect content behind the ccTLDs. Yeah, that's it for me.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you. A few things here. So this, and I should have started with this, this is the Internet Governance Liaison committee of the ccNSO, and the purpose of this committee is to encourage discussion amongst ccTLDs about internet governance issues including those processes and discussions that are taking place outside of ICANN.

Many ccTLD managers are very closely connected to the national and regional internet governance discussion forums in their countries and regions. So, CCs are often very well placed to know what is of concern to the people in their community, in their countries or in their region. And this committee is about encouraging CCs to share information amongst ourselves about what is happening and to encourage CCs to get involved in some of those conversations that aren't necessarily taking place at ICANN. And at this exercise, there is a lot here, but this is just a brainstorming exercise. There are multiple steps along the way as we refine and choose which issues the committee will be considering. We do need to move on to some of the other regions and to hear some inputs from other regions. But did you have a very brief?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

Yeah, just to explain the first part of my question. For example, here, access, is there any relationship about how ICANN can develop and encourage infrastructure in the African region, for example?

BART BOSWINKEL:

This is, as Annaliese said, this is brainstorming. So what you do is you've got a huge list. The next step is really drilling down on what is relevant for ccTLDs and what is within the remit of the ccNSO, hence a little bit, but that's the next phase of this. So this is a two, and when we started this is a two, three-step approach, but you need to start somewhere, and this is probably the best way to capture all the ideas and what is happening, which potentially impacts ccTLDs because that would be the next step of the process, to what extent the group feels it impacts

ccTLDs or relevant for ccTLDs. So your question is a bit premature, but it will be addressed.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thanks, Bart. We might move on to the next region, and I would invite anybody from Asia Australia Pacific. Anybody from that region like to share any observations or comments? No one? There seems to be quite a lot of issues from that region, and nobody wants to--

JODI ANDERSON: Hi, Jodi Anderson, .nz, internet New Zealand. I don't know if there's anything very much to add, I think the list of issues there probably pretty much reflects what our issues, what are the issues that are in a lot of regions, obviously cybersecurity, digital inclusion, my eyesight is failing me, and yeah, future of internet governance, misinformation.

Those are all issues that I think a lot of regions are, are facing. In terms of New Zealand, which is in this region, obviously, there's not a lot at the moment that the government is necessarily doing in these spaces. It's more that these just continue to be issues for communities. Those are the type of things I added. Yeah, I'm just sort of squinting at the screen to try and see if there's anything else I should mention. But there's nothing. Yeah, is that enough comment?

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: That's great. Thank you, Jodi.

JODI ANDERSON:

Cool. Thanks, Annaliese.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

I assume we're going by regions alphabetically. Okay. So we'll have a look at Europe. Anybody from the European region like to comment on any of the issues put forward for that region?

ALICIA HARDING:

It's Alicia from Nominet, .uk. So disinformation is a big one for us in the UK at the moment, and I think in Europe more widely. We had quite a lot of kind of civil unrest earlier on in the year, and there's a bit of a question of kind of what is the role of the DNS in kind of trying to tackle mis and disinformation, which is not something that our kind of online safety act or the EUs, I think DSA does at that kind of level of the internet infrastructure.

So that's a kind of interesting one. I think, yeah, GDC implementation and looking at kind of internet governance and how that relates to the development agenda. It's kind of like the UN processes, I guess, that we're thinking about at the moment with WSIS+20 and the GDC and kind of how the link is between what we do and I guess the kind of wider development agenda of WSIS and how to bring the kind of internet governance elements into that. So I think it's a kind of wider thing, but yeah. I think those are two that I would comment on.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you for that. No other comments from Europe? So can I go to the person from the region first? Peter?

PETER KOCH: Okay, this is Peter for the record. I added the sanctions because that's particularly in the numbers space, as we probably also heard has interesting effects on the ability to operate the services or reimbursed for that. I have no idea who wrote that second paragraph, so I can't comment on that.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you. And I think that is another new issue for the heat mapping as well. So we've got quite a few new issues this year. Yes, go ahead.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: What I see here from my point of view, there are some topics maybe lead to one direction. For example, this information, I think it is good, but it reflects to who will validate this data in order to be accurate. And if there is a rule entity who will make the validation, it'll reflect to the data security. Yeah, this is the first point.

Second point, for example, for access and for the domain name industry, access reflects to maybe it's some kind of universal acceptance. Why is the uptake of IDNs so low? This could be for access or also could be due the scarcity of IPV4 addresses, this will be access. Domain name industry, I think it'll be the same like access as well. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thanks. We might move on to the next region. She's Latin America and Caribbean. Anybody from that region here and then here.

OLGA CAVALLI: Okay. Thank you, and thank you for the exercise. I think it's very useful. My name is Olga Cavalli, I'm a NomCom appointee to the GNSO. I'm from Argentina, and I included cybersecurity and also cyber defense because we had major attacks in Latin America. And this discussion about attribution and if it's an attack from another state or from just a group of hackers or so that's a discussion in relation with regulations.

Many countries in the region are updating their privacy rules because of the impact of GDPR. Some countries like Argentina were pioneers in having a law like 20 years ago, but now it's not updated. So that's a process that's going on in the region. There is a different pace of development of regulations in different countries in the region about artificial intelligence. So that harmonization, I think it's a challenge for the region. Misinformation, regulation, and of course, spectrum is an issue. What we will do with Wi-Fi bands and, sorry, 5G. I think based on my experience, these are the most hot topics. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you. And again, several new issues that haven't come up before. So thank you. Laura.

LAURA MARGOLIS:

Yes. Thank you. I'm Laura from Uruguay. I think in our region, the future of the internet governance is also a hot topic. And the LAC EIGF took place a couple of days ago. And as Olga said regarding regulation, I think all the countries are working on that, on cybersecurity, on digital governance, on artificial intelligence. Well, I guess all the countries and maybe in other regions we are all working on that. But I think internet governance and the future is one of the most hot topics in our region. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thank you. Any other comments from that region?

DEMI GETSCHKO:

Demi Getschko from Brazil. I think most of the topics are well covered here, just to make, of course, to be aware that the awareness that we at CCs has some relation with these problems. Of course, we are related to the basic internet from the beginning. But digital inclusion regulation of the levels over the internet and others are a constant preoccupation of governments and internet governance. But this has some relation with the CCs but not so much. So maybe safe and secure to try to make clear the boundaries here, where this is a ccNSO issue really, and where this is an internet governance. And of course, like we as involved in the internet governance from the very beginning, we're interested on that, but more in personal capacity than in the capacity of running TLD. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you. I think we have one more region. Anybody from North America wanted to --

SABRINA WILKINSON: Hi, my name is Sabrina Wilkinson from CIRA. I'll speak to a few of the issues outlined. So at CIRA, we're thinking a lot about the future of internet governance, especially given recent and upcoming United Nations debates, our dialogues. We have other issues to flag our cybersecurity privacy, artificial intelligence. These are all issues that are currently being considered by our host of commons through various pieces of proposed legislation. And of course, I'll also flag internet access, particularly in northern parts of Canada as a key issue as well. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you. Anything else, anyone else from North America? Might have just been you we had. So thank you for participating in that. This is just the initial brainstorming exercise. So there are multiple steps from here to refine the list and to explore it and to see which ones are going to be the focus of the committee. So the next step will be for that list to be, well, the Secretariat and Marta and I will go through the list and pull it together and share it with the ccNSO as a whole in case there is any other issues that they want to add.

And then the committee will undertake additional analysis including the impact and effort to help us determine which ones should be focused on. And all of the issues are considered from the perspective of

a ccTLD, like, why is a ccTLD interested in it, or why might they be interested in it? So thank you for that. We got quite a lot of new issues that we haven't seen before, so I'll be interested when we get to the further analysis part of that to continue looking into that and help us understand the issues a bit more.

So we do have coming up later in the meeting, we do have some other sessions that this committee, members of this committee might be interested in. In particular, I wanted to highlight the session that the Internet governance liaison committee has on the ccNSO main schedule on Tuesday at 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. We have some ccTLD managers and some government representatives coming to discuss the global digital compact ccTLD engagement in that, and looking forward to the WSIS+20 next year and how ccTLDs might engage and why they might want to engage, so that's on Tuesday.

Other sessions that members of this committee may be interested in are the regular geopolitical forum, which is on at 10:30 AM on Monday. And there is a plenary session on, I'm not sure what the actual title, is relating to WSIS again on Wednesday at 10:30. So I would encourage you to go along to those. We do have a couple of minutes left, so I wanted to ask whether there were any other items anybody wanted to raise. I think I'm gonna lose my voice. Go ahead. Thanks.

SABRINA WILKINSON:

Hi, everyone. Just very, very briefly. I had previously sent along a list or an email to this group about a questionnaire that Sarah has commissioned around the future of multi-stakeholder internet

governance, and in particular, the evolution of multi-stakeholder internet governance. I just wanted to flag that again for this group. And the survey is open to all technical community members. It can be found at cira.ca/research, cira, C-I-R-A.ca/research, and it's open until November 15th at 11:59 UTC. Thanks.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you, Sabrina. Was there something else over?

JODI ANDERSON: Hi, everyone. Jodi, Internet New Zealand again. Just wanted to remind everybody of the coalition, a Technical Community Coalition for Multi-stakeholder, TCCM. We did a presentation on it last ICANN. It's a sort of a coalition set up to bring technical community organizations together to focus on the current sort of United Nations processes.

We focused on the GDC this year, we are starting to focus on WSIS+20 next year. To find out more about it, you can go and have a look at our website, which we launched last month or month before. It's at tccm.global. If you want to find out more about it, you can look on the website, and there's a form to fill in an email address, which you can send a message to, or you can talk to any of the TCCM members who are here.

Can I get you to put your hands up if you're a TCCM mailing list member? Talk to any of these people. Yeah, all CCs are welcome to join. You can sign up to the statement to become a member, or you can just join the

mailing list to support you to engage in those processes. We'd love to have you come and talk to us if you're interested. Thank you.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS:

Thank you. Any other final items? No. So I would just also invite, if you are here in the room and you are not a member of the IGLC and you would like to be, it is open to all ccTLDs. So you can speak to Joke if you were interested in joining the committee. We meet monthly via Zoom in between ICANN meetings, and as we have just established, there will be quite a lot to be discussing amongst the committee, there are a lot of issues.

Our next meeting will be on the 4th of December at noon, UTC, and then the meetings for early 2025 are up on the screen now, 22nd of January, 5th of February, 19th of February, and then we'll meet again at ICANN in March. So again, thank you very much for contributing all of your ideas. We look forward to working through these ideas and narrowing down our work program for next year. So thank you, everyone. The meeting is closed.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]