
ICANN84 | AGM – ccNSO: Welcome Session
Tuesday, October 28, 2025 – 9:00 to 10:00 IST

CLAUDIA RUIZ

Hello and welcome to the ccNSO Welcome Session. My name is Claudia Ruiz and I, along with my colleague Joke Bracken, are the participation managers for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct, the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

Please observe the following guidelines to participate in this session. I will also post them in the chat for your reference. During this session, questions or comments submitted in chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form as noted in the chat. Interpretation for this session will include English, Spanish, and French. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom.

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 the language you'll speak if speaking a language other than English, and please speak at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. Thank you. And with that, I will now hand the floor over to Alejandra Reynoso, chair of the ccNSO. Thank you.

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.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

This is Alejandra Reynoso and I will speak in Spanish. Good morning, everyone. I'm very happy to have you all here again. I will give you a couple of minutes for you to get your interpretation devices. Great.

Good morning. It's great to have you here again at the ccNSO. I hope you enjoyed the event organized by our hosts yesterday for us, and I hope you've been able to learn about the story of the Irish people, very warm and nice people, and you could tell that during our meeting yesterday. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

I'd like to take advantage of this opportunity to remind you that if you have registered for our event, SCMC event, so the most important thing we have, please go to the back of this room, meet Bart or Claudia to get your stickers for today's meeting. We hope you will enjoy that meeting as well. Having said this, I would like to welcome you again and will give the floor to Everton for him to tell us what is prepared for us. Thank you.

EVERTON T. RODRIGUEZ

Thank you, Alejandra. Good morning, everyone. So, I'm Everton Telles Rodriguez from .br. So great to be here in Dublin with you and to be also with those who are joining us online, over there, wherever and whenever you are. Great to have you here at ICANN84. So, I'll be glad to give you an overview of our members meeting at ICANN84.

And this is our space, the space of ccTLDs, to learn, to speak, to listen, and to share what ccTLDs have been working on. So, as the Chair of the Meetings Program Committee, let me just put on my next slide here. Is it working? Second. All right, there we go. So, as the chair of the MPC, the Meetings Program Committee, I would like to introduce you to the list of our current members. And this is the group that coordinates and manages the high-level schedule of the ccNSO related sessions, which includes the ccNSO members meeting, agenda at the ICANN public meetings.

So if you have any comments regarding the ccNSO related sessions, please let us know. Some of them are here in the room. I see a couple of them here in the room. Yuri, I see some of you over there, Alejandra as well. So, feel free to reach out to us and make your comments if you have anything to add or even if you would like to join the discussions of the MPC. And before I dive into the schedule, I just would like to know if we have any newcomers today. Are there any newcomers? I see one, I see two, three. Can you stand up a little bit? Yay.

Welcome to the ccNSO. Thank you so much for attending the meeting. We'll have a dedicated session to newcomers, but I'll talk about this in just one minute. ICANN meetings can be really intense for first timers, but don't worry, there's a lot of helpful content on the ccNSO Wiki and also on ICANN Learn.

So, don't forget that our fantastic secretariat at the back of the room sends out daily digests, which are very, very helpful especially

for newcomers, but not exclusively for newcomers. So, stay tuned to those emails. As you already know, we have people and participants speaking in other languages than English. So, have your headset or your headphones with you ready at the Zoom room because other languages are also being used during the meeting.

And going to our agenda at the members meeting, which is made by ccTLDs and for ccTLDs. After this welcome session, we will have the ccTLD news session, which will be chaired by Russell Dekah Harada from .pg, and it will have pre presentations from .ng, .no, .co, .dk, and .am. This will be the ccTLD news session Block three. We'll convene a discussion about the future built by ccTLDs in the context of the WSIS.

This is a session organized by the ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee, and this session will be chaired by Annaliese Williams from .au. Block four, we will discuss the current ICANN review system and the ccTLDs will be invited to share their inputs. Chris Disspain and Annaliese Williams will conduct that dialogue with us. This will be a very important topic for the discussion among ccTLDs. And after that, by the end of the day on block five, we will have a joint ccNSO and ICANN Board meeting, then the ccNSO cocktail will happen at the end of the day. I hope to see as many of you as possible there.

Wednesday begins with a casual meetup for ccNSO newcomers. This is a great opportunity for longstanding members also to connect with the newcomers and share experience and help to

build the sense of community that we do so well at the ccNSO. If you are interested in joining the buddy group of the ccNSO please email Claudia Ruiz at claudia.ruiz@icann.org, and we will have this buddy system between newcomers and the most experienced members of our community.

On block 2, Wednesday, we will have a session with the ccNSO and the GAC focusing the role of the ccTLDs and governments in abuse mitigation. Then on block 3, IANA Disaster Recovery is the title of the next session with perspectives from TLD-Ops, IANA, EBERO, AFNIC, and from the ccTLDs as well. Block 4, we will have a Q&A with candidates to the Board seat 11, and the ccNSO Council. The last session of Wednesday, we'll have a joint meeting between the ccNSO and the RSSAC. So that's-- yep. Oh, definitely, of course. Sorry.

And we are on Wednesday, and now Thursday. Thursday, we will have the ccNSO Council meeting, which concludes the ccNSO agenda at ICANN84. So, a quick reminder, please provide instant feedback at the end of every session. This is especially useful for us. This is one of the tools that the MPC has to continuously improve our meetings at the ccNSO. And when the meeting is over, a survey will be launched.

So that's another tool that we have to measure the level of satisfaction that the ccNSO has with the members meeting. So, there is another link here, which is for our wiki where you can find a lot of information about the ccNSO and about our meeting. And

that's it from my end. Welcome to the ccNSO, and I wish you all a great meeting. Thank you very much. Now, my pleasure to give the floor back to Alejandra. Thank you, Alejandra.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you, Everton. We have a very nice days and sessions coming forward. And now, what I will do is talk to you about the work that we're doing in the ccNSO, and I will talk to you about the work plan. So, what are we doing and why are we doing it right now?

Just a refresher, the ccNSO is a platform for ccTLDs and by ccTLDs with the aim of having a place where we can gather and develop global policies cooperate and learn from each other and engage with other stakeholders. And having these goals, it's the way we distribute the workload of the ccNSO. So, here, in the work plan, we put there all the activities that have a minimum duration of two months.

There's other activities that are shorter, but they don't get into this particular document. And here I am showing you the ones that are ongoing and or finished. On the policy side, the ccPDP3 review mechanism, it's under implementation. And everything related to information and practice sharing is distributed in the respective committee or working group.

Right now, the themes that we are working on are internet governance, DNS abuse, universal acceptance, ccTLD stability and security, tech day, and the planning of the ccNSO meetings at

ICANN. Things that are related to ICANN are the IANA Function Review and the ccTLD contribution to ICANN. That was the second finance working group. Those are completed. And the rest, that it's strategic operational and monitor of IANA performance are done in the respective committees.

And we also invest time in root servers related work and how we meet. And on the foundational point of view, we have the ccNSO governance and the continuous improvement under the GRC. We have the administration of the ccNSO under the council, which under it, we have the maintenance of the work plan by the triage committee at the travel funding by its respective committee.

And finally, the onboarding and mentoring by the OMC. These are all the activities that we are developing or doing to add value to all of you. And in my next slide here are all the ongoing starting or upcoming activities. So, many of these, I already mentioned the ones that are in gray, so, I'll focus on the other ones, the ones that are starting or upcoming that are in these, let's say, bluish color.

So, we have the ccPDP for IDN implementation. Once the Board approves this PDP, this is coming our way. Also, if you remember from the GAP analysis there were some topics that are presented as future work. Right now, two out of six are starting. One is the disaster recovery, and the other is the data accuracy. These study groups are going to look into what's IANA's role in these particular topics.

And if we move to the ICANN related activities, we now have the review of reviews and also the third CSC effectiveness review that was deferred until August. So, as you can see, we have a very, very busy work plan. This particular graph came from the information of the finance working group, and it's also an overview on the work it's getting done.

Right now, we have 137 volunteers in either a committee, a working group, or an external appointment. They're distributed in, well, the five ICANN regions, and also our NomCom councilors are doing some lifting there. And what was very interesting was to see that participants are involved from one up to nine activities. So, there are people who are in, well, many activities.

We have more than 10 working groups, two council committees, and 20 external appointments, and a very professional and beloved secretariat of three members of staff who make it all possible in the end. The information in this is that we know that you are looking for us to do more and more every time, which is something that we would aim to do, but we need to balance what we can do and what we want to do.

But not to say that we won't do it, it's just that it'll take a little longer while we finish some of the work. Another can start because we need to balance in order of priority and also in the resources that we have for doing so. We want the ccNSO capacity determined by the quality and the quantity of its human resources and the effectiveness and efficiency of the working methods.

So, this was just to inform you on how we are doing things, and if you want more information, here you have a QR code that goes directly to the portfolio of priorities, and I hope this is helpful. If there are any questions, I'm happy to answer any. Oh, yes. Pierre.

PIERRE BONIS

Yeah. Thank you very much. Hello everyone. Pierre Bonis from .fr. I was just wondering about the triage committee. Maybe I didn't see that before. It's a new thing, or I was just not paying attention the previous days.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

I would say it's new in the sense that it's one of the most recent ones, but it's not that new that it's been a couple of years already or more running. But maybe the reason why it's not that visible, it's because it is a council committee, so that's why. But yes, it has been working for a while. Thank you.

All right. Seeing no more comments or questions or hands, now we will move to our next topic of the day, and it is on the topic of serving the ccTLD community. And for this, we have Brian Beckham from WIPO to talk to us about the ccTLD services that are available. Brian.

BRIAN BECKHAM

Good morning. Thank you, Alejandra. Thank you, Everton. It's nice to be with you all here this morning. Maybe before I start, could I see, by show of hands, if you know that you already work with us?

Okay. So, a few, but it looks like a good opportunity to get to know some of you better. So, as Alejandra mentioned, my name is Brian Beckham, and I head up the internet Dispute resolution section at WIPO. WIPO, for those of you who don't know, is the World Intellectual Property Organization.

We are a specialized agency of the United Nations, based in Geneva, Switzerland. We have a number of external offices throughout the world. Those are smaller outposts, the headquarters where most of our staff are. Oh, sorry. I should know better than to slow down for the interpreters. So, all of the services that we do are done on a not-for-profit basis.

That doesn't mean that there are not fees associated with that. But in terms of the engagement with member states, and in this case, ccNSO administrators, that's done completely on a not-for-profit basis. Many of you will know that in 1998 and 1999, we convened an international consultation process spanning 18 meetings around the world to create a white paper that was the blueprint for the UDRP, the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy.

Since starting administering UDRP cases in December of 1999, we've remained the global leader. We had one case in 1999, it was the end of the year, we had about 1500 cases during the early years. And starting in 2010, we saw an increase of about 10% on average in cases. So, last year, for example, we had approximately 6,200 cases that we administered. That includes not only the UDRP, which is applicable to .com domain names, but ccTLD variations.

And so, for the disputes that we manage for ccTLDs, about half of those have just adopted the UDRP wholesale. Obviously, that's very easy in terms of administration. It's a very well-known dispute resolution system. And then for the remaining half, there are small variations to take account for, things like local law languages, court options, and so on. So, we have a great deal of experience in customizing the UDRP for ccTLDs, depending on the interest of the national government and ccTLD registry.

As you would expect, given our coverage of many ccTLDs, we currently have 86 ccTLDs that we work with. We have a very diverse team from all over the world. It ebbs and flows over the years in terms of the actual makeup of the team. But on average, we have about 25 nationalities and 25 languages covered. So, as you can see, we have a very deep bench of colleagues back in Geneva that help manage our disputes in quite a number of languages.

And then, of course, as you might expect to administer the disputes, we have panelists who come from many countries from around the world. That's not only in terms of an interest in geographic diversity, but of course, the linguistic capacity to manage the cases. And I will say one of the particular benefits that we bring to this area of global dispute resolution is that in some cases, there might be a question mark over which should be the applicable language of the proceeding.

And so, we have many, many panelists, and of course, my colleagues on the team who can manage the case in multiple

languages. So, where you have one party putting documents forward in one language, and another party asking for documents to be provided in another language, we can help facilitate that on our end operationally and also with respect to the panelists who are appointed to hear the case. So, that's been a great benefit to the case parties into the system over the years.

This is a slightly outdated map. It was the best one I could find that was reasonably up to date, but as I say, slightly outdated, that shows you the global coverage of the work we do with ccTLDs. As you can see in the slide, the ones with the white bubbles have adopted the UDRP wholesale, and then the ones in the blue bubbles with the white text have adopted local variations of the UDRP.

So, as you can see, it's approximately a 50/50 split. And even on the map here on the screen, you can see some of the extensions themselves are in the local script. So, we have as I mentioned, the linguistic capacity, and that covers not only the documents that the parties bring to the cases, but the scripts of the ccTLDs themselves in terms of multilingualism.

As I mentioned, we work with many ccTLDs. In the early days, there were about half of the ccTLDs that we worked with, that we were partnering with. And so, depending on the year, we have a rhythm of adding maybe three or four ccTLDs. This is just to show you some of the partnerships that we've undertaken in recent years.

The ones that have the asterisk next to the name are not additions, because those are ccTLDs that we had already been working with. But part of our services involve not only the administration of the disputes but working with the registries and oftentimes whatever the corresponding department would be of the legal counsel office to make adaptations to the registration terms and conditions, to the dispute resolution policy, sometimes to update those when there might be changes to national law.

In some of the cases that you see on the screen, when the UDRP was drafted in 1999, obviously the world looked a lot different. We communicated with each other a lot differently. And so, when the UDRP was drafted, there was a requirement that the parties send five paper copies of the pleadings to us in Geneva. We then took those, we put one in our file, and we sent the rest out to the registrant contact information.

And that was the case until about 2009 when we proposed to ICANN this is a system that involves the internet and domain names, so, could we think about making this a little less paper and mail services heavy and a little bit more electronic? So, that was, that was called the eUDRP proposal, and that was adopted by ICANN's board of directors. And so, some of the asterisks you see are ccTLDs that in the later years moved to the eUDRP system.

And one thing to point out there is that although there's no longer a requirement, that the parties themselves send the hard copies to us in Switzerland, which obviously has time and cost implications.

But we actually have as a sort of a due process safety valve for the eUDRP. What we proposed to ICANN and what was adopted was that we would send a legal notification document by hard copy to the registrant. But it's a much smaller document of a couple of pages as opposed to sometimes.

I remember when I first started doing UDRP cases back in 2007, we would quite literally sometimes get boxes of documents sent to us, and we would pay some quite hefty sums to the postal systems to send those around the world. So, we didn't move it to completely 100% electronic, but let's say 99% because we thought it was important to have that safety valve for due process for registrants.

The one on the bottom of the middle there, .ua for Ukraine, like I mentioned, the ones with asterisk were ones which move to electronic systems. With .ua, I highlight that as an example where initially we started working with, as you all will know, some ccTLDs have direct registrations at the second level. So, the second level domain names are available to registrants. Others use both a second and third level system. So, you might have .org, .com, the kind of traditional gTLD extensions, .gov, .edu, et cetera, which are managed nationally at the second level.

And then ants can register domain names at the third level. So, with the example of Ukraine over the course of time, we slowly added more and more of the second, so applicable to the disputes, the third level. And so, the update that we did in 2004 was to add

about six or seven of the second level to the dispute resolution system.

This is always a popular slide to see where people fit. This isn't the registration numbers, of course, which you know. I think we heard Nick Wenban-Smith mention the other day that seven of the top 10 TLDs in terms of volume or ccTLDs. This is a sort of corresponding chart of the number of disputes in ccTLDs for the ones that we work with over the past couple of years.

So, you can see for the most part, as you might expect, where the registration numbers themselves are fairly steady, the number of disputes tends to be fairly steady. The one that you see with the curve starting in the bottom in 2022, .ai, obviously in recent years, given all of the things happening in that sector in terms of technological advancements, that's become a very popular ccTLD for registrants in recent years.

So naturally, you might expect that there would be an increase in the number of disputes in .ai registrations over the years. That's held true, not only for the .ai ccTLD, but of course, in the UDRP, we've seen quite a number of cases in recent years where under .com and the traditional TLDs you would see a registration of a brand name with the term AI or GPT or that sort of thing appended to it.

And so, that's driven an increase in the number of cases we've seen with those terms. That happens to be the one that's in the news recently. When there are events in the news, we often see disputes

where terms are added to brand names corresponding to what is happening in the news.

This is a screenshot of a resource that we have on our webpage. We produced it a few years ago. It's still largely relevant. It's called the Guide to WIPO Services for Country Code Top Level Domain Registries. As you can imagine, the content follows the services that we provide for ccTLDs on our website. We really try to make information both for filing parties, for registries, for member states, for IP offices.

We know that ccTLDs come from many different ministries and government departments, so we try to make information of that very accessible on our website that's useful to all of those different parts of the ecosystem. So, for each of the ccTLDs that we work with, we have a dedicated webpage. On the screen there, you can see the example for .ie for Ireland, our local host, where we provide a kind of a standard list of information that would be relevant for the parties to the cases.

And I would say, for people who are thinking about working with us or even want to benefit from the information that we provide for other ccTLDs, this is a really useful snapshot of the things that are useful to account for in dispute resolution systems. So, you can see, for example, I mentioned that about half of the country codes that we work with adopt the UDRP, the other half make small tailored variations.

So, you can see there for example, kind of towards the top of the screen, the relevant differences between the UDRP and the local policies. So, the types of rights covered for a lot of European and other ccTLDs, the UDRP is based on trademarks. A lot of ccTLDs make variations to account for identifiers that are protected under national law. One that's been popular in recent years is geographical indications.

Sometimes that involves certain types of business identifiers, sometimes even personal names, names that are protected under national law, government names, that sort of thing. So, you can click on that link and see the different types of rights that are covered under each of the national policies. Sometimes the criteria for what is considered to be bad faith is different under the ccTLD policy versus the UDRP.

For the UDRP, there's a standard two-part test for some ccTLDs. They've simplified that and made it effectively a one-part test. And so, you can click on all of those and see what the specific difference between the UDRP, which again is the first policy from 1999, and the local ccTLDs is in each of the cases where we work with that ccTLD.

One of the initiatives that we've started undertaking recently is, obviously, the services that we provide come at the tail end of a timeline. So, somebody has a business, they don't register domain name, a bad actor registers that, they have a dispute, they file a

case with us, we provide a service, which is similar to what would be available in courts.

But the benefit of the UDRP and the ccTLD policies for the parties is that it's much quicker and much more cost efficient than going to not only local courts, but if you can imagine registrants and brand owners coming from all different parts of the world, having to go to a foreign jurisdiction, hiring local council, obviously that comes with pretty significant time and cost implications.

So, the benefit of the UDRP is that it operates globally and in a multilingual manner. So, we thought it's very useful that the UDRP and ccTLD variants exist when disputes arise. There's a well-known process for resolving those disputes.

But kind of in the same spirit of there's a lot of conversations that you all will be very familiar with in terms of the DNS abuse question. And so, we thought, wouldn't it be great if we can try to put some tools in front of people to help prevent disputes from happening in the first place.

So, we've started to work with national IP offices and ccTLD registries, and we understand very well that depending on the country, there are a lot of different relationship arrangements in terms of how that works. Some examples that I'm aware of, for example, EU, Australia, and Morocco, there's a kind of a information sharing relationship where when you go, for example,

to register a domain name in .eu, you might get an alert that says have you also registered your trademark?

And on the other side of that coin, when you go to register your trademark, you might get an alert that says, while you're registering your brand name, have you also thought about protecting yourself online with a domain name? So, it's really providing information to those parties to make sure that they have the opportunity to register either the domain name or the trademark registration to prevent disputes from happening down the road. And it's proven to be very useful.

Unfortunately, we have cases when-- and these typically tend to be small businesses because oftentimes, large businesses with more resources are more aware of how these things fit together. And so sometimes even before they launch a brand, they go and register the domain names so that they don't have bad actors coming in and registering domain names before they get the chance to, before they launch a product.

But we do see, unfortunately, sometimes situations where a brand owner would register its business name with the National IP office, and before they have a chance to get the corresponding domain name, because the information from the IP office is made publicly available, then people will monitor the lists of published trademarks and go and see is there a domain name registered? If not, they will swoop in and register that, and then of course, they offer to sell it to the brand owner.

But we think if that can be prevented and the brand owner has all of the information to prevent that from happening, that's a very useful piece of information to have. So, that's the screenshot of the slide that you see on my left-hand side, the IP offices in and ccTLD registries. It's a really new program, so we have a couple of partnerships where we're trying to kind of coordinate this information sharing, and we would love to see that take root and get more traction, again, in the interest of preventing disputes from happening and empowering small businesses to protect their rights online.

The kind of corresponding other side of that is really raising awareness with small businesses about the benefits of having their own presence online. Still today, a lot of small businesses use Facebook and Instagram and these types of services to promote themselves online.

Recently, we had the school holiday back in Geneva, so we went to visit my wife's family in Lebanon and went to order some food, and I look online and I, of course, don't find a website even on Google Maps for the business, but of course you can go on Facebook or Instagram and find these people and send them on WhatsApp messages and get things delivered, which is very handy, but of course, you're dependent on these third party services and whatever terms and conditions they have for your online presence.

So, we've alongside the idea of sharing information between IP offices and registries, tried to present information to small

businesses about promoting their business presence online. And I think it's something that would especially resonate with this crowd because what we know and what I see in my daily life, I live in Switzerland, I know you all will see the same, it's very common to see trucks driving around or billboards with a .ch domain name in them as opposed to a .com. So, that's really important for local businesses to use their own ccTLDs because that's recognized by consumers in the local community.

This is just a very high-level snapshot of the work that we do. Obviously, the case administration, the UDRP or the local variations, the awareness raising that I mentioned on the prior slide, the policy assistance, we're very happy to help with drafting terms and conditions and dispute resolution policies, and then the operational assistance fits hand in hand with the case administration.

And so, I think the main thing I would point out here is that we do all of the services when we work with national registries on a completely free basis. We don't charge any fee to the ccTLDs. As I mentioned earlier, we're a un specialized agency, this is part of our services to member states. So, we do this as part of our institutional mandate. Obviously, there's a fee associated for the parties to the cases.

In some of the ccTLDs we work with, there are discounts for small businesses. Some of them offset the fees. So, in the example of .eu, they subsidized the case filing fees for the parties to make it more

accessible. But again, all of this is part of our institutional mandate that we do at no cost to member states. So, that's all I have, and I'm here to answer questions all week. I would love to work more with all of you.

As I mentioned, we have a team back in Geneva who covers most languages, and so, we'd be happy to answer questions or hear from you afterwards. This is our generic inbox, and if you send us an email, we'd be happy to provide you with information packets and happy to field any questions.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you. Thank you very much, Brian. I believe we have a question in the chat. Joke, could you please read it?

JOKE BRAEKEN

Yes, we have a question from Samir. The question is, "Could you please share if there is any direct relationship between the number of disputes and registration?"

BRIAN BECKHAM

Well, I suppose generically I could say the more registrations you have, the more likely are to have disputes. I don't know, I'm sure other people have done much more scientific studies on that, but obviously, where there are more registrations, you're more likely to run into problems.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you. Any other? I see Olga has her hand up.

OLGA CAVALLI

Thank you, Alejandra. Thank you. It was me. Thank you, Brian. Very, very interesting. This is Olga Cavalli, for the record. I'm a NomCom appointee to the ccNSO. So, for those ccTLDs that not in the map that you showed, which is the process for them to approach the WIPO? You explained that they don't have to send the papers in paper anymore, but what would be the process to get in touch with you instead a process of screening what they do or evaluation?

BRIAN BECKHAM

Yeah, thank you. It's a very good question. I should have covered that. For the ccTLDs themselves, we are very happy to work with you in a flexible manner. We have agreements where we have, I would say, almost a handshake between ourselves where we say we're happy to field disputes if you appoint us as a provider.

We have obviously legal documentation. If it's important for your national government, we can sign an MOU. So, we are flexible from very informal to very formal. Whatever works for you, we're completely comfortable working with, with that process.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you. Pierre, please.

PIERRE BONIS

Yeah. Thank you very much. I'm Pierre Bonis from .fr for the record. So thank you for the presentation. Just wanted to share with colleagues that what has been said about the choice given to the ccTLD between the UDRP and the local registration laws is very well respected by WIPO, and I thank them.

And .fr, we have an agreement with WIPO. And the best example of it is that I give you this example, Côtes de Provence, which is a very fine wine, you know it, CôtesdeProvence.fr was brought to WIPO and Côtes de Provence won the case. CôtesdeProvence.com was brought to WIPO and Côtes de Provence lost the case, which mean that there is a huge difference between UDRP and the local law, and especially when it comes to geographical indication.

So, thank you very much for WIPO, and I'm very sure that at least for our European colleagues any agreements with WIPO would ensure that the geographical indication are protected because this is European law. Thank you.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you, Pierre. Please, your name for the record.

MARCEL HOFMANN

Yes. Hello, I'm Marcel Hoffman from SWITCH, .ch, and thank you very much for your presentation. We are using your service too, and just because someone asked even though the registrations are not going up like they used to be, we had for .ch sharing in the last 15 years, something between 10 to 20 cases. So, in our case, you

would think it would go down, but it didn't. Well, that's not that much, I think, and yeah, thanks for your service.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you. Frederico.

FREDERICO NEVES

Just to add case outside of Europe, my name is Frederico from .br. We have been working with WIPO for more than 15 years, and we have more than almost 700 cases dealt with the local process. It's not UDRP, but it's respecting the Brazilian laws and the .br registration process, and we are very glad to work with them, and it works pretty well for us. Thank you very much.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you. With that, one last one, and then we move to our next presenter. Please, name and affiliation.

RIYADH ZEHLAH

Thanks a lot. My name is Riyadh Zehrah, ICANN IT fellow. It was nice introduction about the WIPO, and it allow me to ask for friendship with WIPO in my ccTLD. Thank you.

BRIAN BECKHAM

Yeah, maybe in the interest of time, I'd be happy to follow up with you directly after the session. Thank you for reaching out.

RIYADH ZEHLAH

Thanks a lot.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you. With that, now we are moving on to AfTLD perspectives with Barrack.

BARRACK OTIENO

Thank you very much, Alejandra. And good morning, everyone. I don't have slides, so I will just share perspectives, which will touch on some of the things that the previous speaker has mentioned. So, I represent Africa Top Level Domain Organizations, the regional association for country code top level domain registries in Africa.

We collaborated with WIPO between 2010 and 2015 actively because at that time, the strategic plan for Africa top level domains organization identified the issue of dispute resolution as an important component or an important aspect of ccTLD management that could be addressed.

One thing I would like to point that when you look at then and when you look at now, yes, it was a priority, but it may not have been as relevant or as important as the season we are in, as the number of internet users are growing or going up in our region.

As many of you may know from statistics, compared to the rest of the world, majority of the countries in Africa still don't have a lot of penetration when it comes to internet usage. And our partnership

or our collaboration with WIPO then was in awareness creation or awareness building, and many of the ccTLDs at that particular time focused on establishing dispute resolution mechanisms as an important part of their daily operations.

The focus, of course, was on both UDRP, and it was also trying to look at local registration laws, even though between 2015 to date, we have seen, of course, the impact of GDPR and also the impact of what is known as the Malabo Convention, or an effort that is aimed at ensuring that each African country has its own data protection mechanism.

So, there has been a bit of a contention between the international aspects or the international law and also the local aspects or the local data protection mechanisms. Having said that, what is common is for ccTLDs in the African region to have multi-stakeholder dispute resolution panels that then address some of the contentions that arise when it comes to domain names.

Again, as I've mentioned, we've seen an evolution in the policy environment in many of the African countries, which now calls for fully fledged data protection officers or fully fledged data protection divisions within the ccTLDs that number one, would tackle the international dimensions that are brought by the GDPR, but number two, align the registry operations to the realities of the local legal and regulatory environments.

It's also worth noting that the difference between, say, 2015 and 2025 is right now, in many of the countries there's a lot of interest

from regulators to in a way regulate the functions or the operations of the country code top level domain registries. And having said that, the value of the work that WIPO is doing is really more important now as it was then.

Some important issues that the region is focusing on and that would benefit a lot, again, from collaboration with WIPO is certainly the issue of capacity building for registrants and end users. Many of the ccTLDs use the three R model. A lot of effort has gone into the registry side and the registrar side, ensuring that they comply, but now there is increased effort to make sure that registrants are aware of their responsibilities, they're aware of their rights.

This is done through cyber hygiene, this is done through a lot of promotions or education by the local ccTLDs. But again, more needs to be done especially in the aspect of whenever disputes arise, the end users need to know that these are the processes that can be pursued locally and globally. The other issue is capacity development on dispute resolution processes and mechanisms for the staff of the country code top level domain registries, and also those that are working for registrars, taking into consideration the fact that the three R model requires that all of them work in synchrony.

And lastly, as I have mentioned, many of the dispute resolution panels are multi-stakeholder in nature, and therefore it also makes sense to encourage communities of practice on uniform dispute

resolution and even the local mechanisms that are available just to strengthen the panels that the ccTLDs rely on locally. Thank you.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you very much, Barrack. Do we have any questions or comments for Barrack? Brian.

BRIAN BECKHAM

Thank you, Barrack. You reminded me of maybe something just to point out. As I mentioned, we're happy to assist with this dispute resolution process, which allows the ccTLD registries to use their resources for other initiatives.

At the same time, for example, some of our partnerships that were mentioned earlier, in the case of .fr and .ch, some of the ccTLDs that we work with, let's say, completely hand over the process to us, and we have a case administration team that manages that. In other cases, we have more of a granular working relationship, so we might work with the Office of legal counsel at the registry to provide them updates on the cases, any developments in the jurisprudence.

So, I think that the main thing is we have sort of an a la carte offering where we work with people sometimes. We work more on the cases, in other cases, we work more with the legal departments of the registries, and so for that former model that allows you to free up more resources, but we're perfectly happy to provide trainings for not only the ccTLD team, but the-- in the case, for

example, at the ICANN meeting in Kigali, we signed an MOU with Recta, and we've been working with them ever since.

And we helped identify local practitioners who would be panelists, we provided training for them, and so, we can not only do the services ourselves, but we can work in a more hands-on way with both the national registry and the local practitioners who are actually deciding the cases.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you, Brian. Any other comments or questions? Please, name and affiliation.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

Okay, good morning. My name is [00:58:32 - inaudible] from the Nigerian Registry. So, I would like to ask if there are experiences for you to share where you have leveraged AI for dispute resolutions?

BRIAN BECKHAM

Well, we're getting there. It's still early days, we're actually in the process of overhauling our IT systems. We're hoping to launch that internally at the beginning of next year. And so, we're hoping to see a lot of efficiencies in terms of the case administration using IT and AI tools.

We're also undertaking related process where we're looking in a much more concerted manner at using AI, for example, for summarizing the legal pleadings, even potentially providing a draft

output for the expert to look at. But it's still very early days, don't want to put the cart ahead of the horse, but we're certainly looking at that, and I think there's promise for that in the future.

ALEJANDRA REYNOSO

Thank you. With that, we will start closing this session. So, as you can see on screen, we have a survey for you to fill. Please enter at menti.com with the code above the slide or use the QR code. And our next session is the ccTLD news session at 10:30 in this room where we will hear from Nigeria, Norway, Columbia, Denmark, and Armenia. With that, welcome to the ccNSO and enjoy the rest of your day. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]