
ICANN78 | AGM – GAC Capacity Dev Workshop (10 of 10)
Sunday, October 22, 2023 – 4:30 to 5:30 HAM

GULTEN TEPE:

Hello, and welcome to the ICANN78 GAC Capacity Development Workshop Breakout Session Part 2 being held on Sunday, 22nd of October at 14:30 UTC. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN's Expect Standards of Behavior. During this session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form.

Interpretation for this session will include 6 UN language and Portuguese. Please click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room and once the session facilitator calls upon your name, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Before speaking, ensure you have selected the language you will speak from the interpretation menu. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. When speaking, be sure to mute all other devices and notifications. Please speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation.

To view the real-time transcription, click on the closed caption button in Zoom toolbar. To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multistakeholder model, we ask you to sign in to Zoom sessions using your full name. With that, I will leave the floor over to Tracy Hackshaw.

Tracy?

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.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you, Gulden. Welcome back as we do our reporting out. Thanks to all of you who did that great work in the last hour or so. And I'd like to ask Alisa and Owen to join. Well, not join me, but can you hit the stage as you say? We talked about yesterday being Oprah and Jerry Springer. This is going to be the view, right? So, who knows what the view is? You have all these talking arguments on stage. I mean, I'll try something a little different.

So, instead of going through the questions and responding to our list of observations yesterday and Zena as well, we're going to try and be a little more creative with our responses and not have just run through the questions one by one. We're going to try and do some summaries.

So, I'm going to ask Alisa Owen to see if they can sort of tease out the main issues by using the questions and get a discussion going, kind of like we did right at the end yesterday. So, we could be a little more interactive with it if that's possible, given a topic. Seems like you guys were really interactive there, so let's replicate that.

So, to help our view hosts, Alisa and Owen, can I ask all of the reporting out folks on site to join on stage? So, from the English group reporter reporting out folks, Spanish, Arabic speaking, Chinese, French. Did I miss a language group? You can bring it. You can walk with your notes, whatever you're using to capture the information. Join. And don't forget the group on Zoom as well will be part of this.

And I think I will start it. I'll kick it off by saying, so based on these four questions, I would like to start by asking all of you, including the Zoom

room, what was the key issue that arose from this? What one thing stood out from each of the groups that in your discussion, this is the one thing that you wanted to bring to the table? One core critical issue. I'm going to ask Alisa and Owen to take it from there. We'll start with that and maybe you could start with to give the folks online a chance to get some limelight. We'll probably start with their response to that question. So, did you hear the question online, Zoom room? Who's the reporting out on Zoom?

DR. SHAMSUZZOHA: Yeah. We can hear you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: All right. So, the question was what one key critical issue emerged from your discussions? Just one issue, and then we could take it to the rest of the group and then I'll hand over to Alisa and Owen to continue the discussion after that. So, Zoom, I can't see who it is, but I think it's a Bangladesh. Yes.

DR. SHAMSUZZOHA: Yeah. This is Shamsuzzoha from Bangladesh. Thank you. If a single issue is generous on the discussion of these 4 or 6 questions, that about the awareness of the policy makers about the importance of this issue. So, yeah. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Okay. That's one.

DR. SHAMSUZZOHA: So, most of the government, as we also discussed yesterday that they are not many of the government about the importance of the DNS system as well. The same thing happens here. They're not a lot of the importance of the system. So, the first thing that we need to do to have more engagement and initiative to bring the policy makers to know about the importance of the issue. So, it was, I think, the most important part that came from the discussion. That's for question one.

TRACY HACKSHAW: All right. Excellent. Thank you. Now that's not the only issue we'll raised, but I just want to get the first issue. So, let's go around the group with that. And I guess, Owen and Alissa, you can take it from here in terms of teasing all the other issues. So, maybe we'll start with PNG?

RUSSEL WORUBA: Good afternoon, colleagues, Russell Woruba from Papua New Guinea. I'm with the group, the English group on this side. One of the key issues that popped up in our discussion in this all issue is capacity building and human resourcing. Government is all about the public good and ensuring that our citizens are safe. But if we don't have capacity within government or within our civil sector to be able to have some form of technology adoption framework to ensure that our citizens are safe or the money is not being lost or they're doing all that, that becomes an issue for us.

HONG FU: Good day, everyone. I am Hong Fu from Net Chinese representing the Chinese group. To us, some of the major or the primary key points here would be how can blockchain integrate into the current internet system in fairness, security, stability, and resiliency. That there's currently 350 million users in the current DNS system. And according to today's presentation, there's about 7 million blockchain users with 1.5 million roughly worth wallet. So, how does that put into perspective and how can that be integrated into the current DNA system considering all these factors? Thank you.

MOHAMMAD MUBARAK: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Mohammad Mubarak from United Arab Emirates, representing the Arabic speaking team. Our main concern regarding alternative namespaces and emerging technologies is the lack of, I'll say, information of the stakeholders in order to take informative decisions regarding any regulated matters in general, as well as decisions in regard to the outcomes of the GAC. So, one of the recommendations that we have is that we enhance basically the capacity building capabilities in this aspect. Thank you.

DJIKOLMBAIBET KENNEDY: Good afternoon. I represent the French speaking group. My name is Kennedy. In our group, we discussed these issues, specifically the issue of the blockchain. But the more we discussed it, the more we realized that it wasn't up and coming technology. Nonetheless, for some African countries, this is not a priority. Because we have other priorities we must address.

Somebody once said that before you want to buy a car, you need to own a house. I think, we can use this proverb for the answer to the first question. There is an issue in some African countries, and this is often tied to the environment and the supply of energy and the use of technology to find appropriate solutions. So, this is what we discussed in our group. We should rather think about these issues before this other issue. Thank you.

THIAGO DAL TOE:

So, I'll be intervening in Spanish. In our group, but first of all, let me say that when we say key topics or key issues in addition to concerns or thoughts, and we're talking about security, let me say that that was very interesting that initial discussion, because we started at a philosophical level, trying to understand what the DNS space and alternative namespace could be. So, first of all, let me thank you for that.

Then I would like to say that we should continue with those exercises and look for new spaces to start thinking out of the box. So, there are many concerns, many individual concerns. We have different countries and different visions, and that is the perfect space to revisit this topic. There are many questions. For example, should there be any alternative? Is there any interest of integration? Is there any space or any interest from the governments or from the ICANN as an organization to open up an integration space to accept to start talking about an alternative space? Those were our first concerns basically. Thank you.

ADERONKE SOLA-OGUNSOLA: Hello, everybody. My name is Ronke. I'm from Nigeria. I am the rapporteur for the second English group. And the beauty of speaking last is some of the things you've identified may have been raised by earlier speakers.

So, for the second English group, we looked at the blockchain-based namespaces and the role of GAC, so to speak. And a lot of issues came up. A lot of suggestions were also made. First and foremost, we looked at, from policy perspective, what roles does GAC have to probably review existing policies or come up with policies that can address? We identified the role of ICANN, DNS gatekeepers. And we also did say, what forum do we have where this blockchain DNS or domain name has been discussed?

I believe it is the Spanish team that it said that probably we could go back to our national level or regional level to look at how we can come up with use case basis. And this can also help us [inaudible 00:13:47]. We also did borrow a leaf from the digital financial services when it comes to blockchain regulation. And we looked at why would you even want to evade regulation? There are lots of options maybe for investors that want to get away with fraudulent activities.

Then we also looked at issue of interoperability, technical compliance with the internet. And also, is there something that is attracting the other side? What is it? Is it the DNS system of ICANN process? Is it slow? Is it in dream innovation? Is there something we should look at? Why is it being attractive for people to have this alternate namespaces? Some do not want to renew their-- Yes. And all of that. So, these are some of

the things we spoke about. I know Tracy said one, but these are some of the things we talked about. Thank you.

OWEN FLETCHER:

Okay. So, one theme I think I am hearing is capacity building and a need for awareness building. Oh, I'm Owen Fletcher. Sorry. Not Owen Smigelski. From the US government. Well, that's perfect because I hope that we've done that effectively somewhat today, but also we can continue to do that through further capacity development.

I think maybe we can go to one of the other questions. Does anybody want to share the topic public policy considerations that you felt the GAC should keep in mind as we consider whether how to engage with this topic further?

RUSSELL WORUBA:

Thank you, Owen. We had a lot of discussion around this public policy challenges with blockchain namespaces. My team on this side, the main concern that came about is as a government, our concern is for the safety of our citizens. So, when we are considering the role that ICANN plays, how does ICANN play in this space? What's the embed of ICANN in this discussion so that we as a government can have very clear assistance or advice in how we develop our own policies within our own jurisdictions of data protection and privacy. That's public policy consideration that we have.

And our team from Africa raised a very important point about the decentralization of resource allocation under that blockchain

namespace. So, we must ensure there's a level playing field regardless of what emerges in this space. So, those are some key public policy considerations that our group came up with.

THIAGO DAL TOE:

I would start by saying that when we started talking, we came back to what we discussed yesterday. Governments are not fully aware of everything related to the domain name system. So, there's not such a big discussion on this topic. So, what about talking about innovation? What about moving forward on new technologies? But when we do so, we think about the problems we are facing today that perhaps may be also carried to the new systems. This is related to security, use of protection, user's rights, whether there may be some coordinating agency or a multistakeholder model as we have today.

Intellectual property, another key issue because we are seeing that some domain names all related to countries or rights that certainly are being registered in these new alternative systems. And we also discuss about technology neutrality so as to review what would happen with all these issues. So, as I said before, this is a philosophical discussion because we continue coming back to why moving forward in certain topics when we have all these issues and resolve. Thank you.

MOHAMMAD MUBARAK:

From our side, we have thought about few public policies that need to be taken into consideration such as what my colleagues mentioned including IPR, data protection, consumer protection, the security of the users, basically, and using the namespace. Thank you.

DJIKOLMBAIBET KENNEDY: As for our group, with regard to blockchain, this morning, one after the other, speakers told us that there's not only one blockchain, but numerous blockchains. I believe what's at stake there is also harmonizing the roots, and that there's a lot of work to do in order to placate those who will adopt these technologies. And I believe that we'll have to ask these hard questions, and we'll have to look at the interoperability of these different blocks, and we'll also have to look at the interconnectivity of blockchain. Should I carry on?

I'll move on to the third question. We believe that ICANN should monitor these different issues and should a report within the GAC group in order to really align on these new technologies. This is what we came up with within our working group.

HONG FU: Okay. From the Chinese group, we believe that regarding public considerations with we can look into something like what the WIPO did with some of our industry partners that they are providing a method similar to UDRPs for named contingents or named collisions. And we can look at that as a common ground to start bridging, integrating the blockchain into the current DNS system to find common policies or common factors to start bridging it to. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Okay. As you have discussed, the key policy considerations, the key issues, would you agree that this is important? Do you think this is

something to be focused on? So, let's see if you could find a way to talk about the importance of the issue, relative importance of the issue. I believe we have Nigeria who might bridge into that part of the discussion as well. So, you could use a public policy element, but let's start moving into how important do you think this issue is, relative importance. And from your group's perspective, do you think this is more important than anything else that we should be dealing with? Go ahead.

ADORONKE SOLA-OGUNSOLA: Of course. We did come up with a new term. I think we said it's alternate domain name system abuse. And when a member of the group came up with that, we were like, no, not another name or not another acronym. But the truth be told, it is very important for us to review the policies and come up with measures to see how we can really tackle this. Can we say it doesn't exist? No, it does exist. So, we also looked at how would it affect issues of resiliency, stability, security, sovereignty, for instance, of a nation. If somebody decides to go and register .NG, which is the country top-level domain name for Nigeria. Issues of malicious registration will come up, issues of consumer trust and consumer confusion or end user, so to speak.

We are looking at also issue of an example was given of something that took place before in the '90s history about named pollution. Are we looking at it, especially the forthcoming new rounds of gTLDs? What happens if somebody registered .ronke on the alternate block chain namespace and I want to register it? How do we address that kind of issues as GAC?

Then we also did say, I will reiterate that again because I said it earlier on, considering that we can't really identify or point a finger to any particular forum or industry group where these things are being discussed. The onus is on us as governments to go back, go discuss with our own multistakeholder in our countries. Are they aware of this? If they're aware of this, who is using it, what is it for, what's the attraction? Then as ICANN, ICANN also should look at how do we further educate or create awareness when it comes to issues of fraud and security, trust, and most importantly, the stability of the internet? Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

I like that point you raised about the collision in terms of the country code. Because do you know that ETH which is one of the folks who were talking about this. Do you know that's the 3-letter code for which country? Ethiopia. So, that's a live example right there of what could potentially happen. And if the Ethiopia is not even in the room to discuss this, this is what's happening. All right? So, take it away. How important this is really?

OWEN FLETCHER:

Sure. Yeah, I want to add a thought into. So, I would invite everyone reporting out as we're thinking about whether alternative namespaces deserve further attention from the GAC or from ICANN. How is the GACs role's distinct from other parts of the ICANN community? On the panel earlier, we had people from a lot of different backgrounds, and there are different stakeholder groups in ICANN that may have different views about this. The SSAC, for example, may have technical information that could help the GAC think about policy questions, and other stakeholder

groups could have interesting input as well. I'm Owen Fletcher, and I'm passing it along.

TRACY HACKSHAW: And by the way, there's a comment coming in from online. So, we could take the online comments now.

GULTEN TEPE: Sure. I don't have a--

DR. SHAMSUZZOHA: Thank you. Sorry.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Go ahead.

DR. SHAMSUZZOHA: Thank you. Just about the previous discussion about the policy consideration for the alternative namespaces that is based on blockchain and simulated analysis. The discussion in our group of was we should consider the basic model based on where ICANN is operating. So, for setting the standards for ensuring the interoperability, and to make it acceptable and trustable to everyone, so the multistakeholder model is being followed in ICANN.

And if we look into the traditional telecoms' regulators of the arena, for example, people look into the standardization of ITU or IC or IT only

when they want to trust some introduction of technologies. So, the same consideration should come here as well that even at a position on GAC or ICANN is going to consider the alternative name spaces, the first thing is about the stability and the trustworthiness of the system, and how it can be come in. Either it should come in through the multistakeholder model that ICANN is following, or it should have some other convention where all the countries and vendors, they agree on those standards.

So, I think it's very important from a proxy perspective that whatever new technologies, it should not be-- if it is driven by a particular internet issue or like some vendors, definitely, we are going to get through to be accepted by everyone to develop a stable and secure systems. Most of the discussion was about the cyber security and stability. But actually, it comes to the same model, how those standards are developed. If it is based on convention or multistakeholder model, we can actually also ensure the security and stability of the system. So, it was the primary consideration and discussion in our group that for making the standard positive, we need to set or the GAC should focus on setting a positive, but either it should be conventional based or it should be based on multistakeholder model that ICANN is following.

In addition to that, there was another discussion. I was just following about the next question that, yeah, why there is order to set up a separate working group or not at this stage? We do not get any particular response, positive response. Some of the discussion was like, okay, we do not have a concrete technical proposal at this stage.

So, it's very difficult to consider even if we set a separate working group, but there are very less amount, very few amount of materials to consider. So, we can keep an eye on that, on the development of the alternate namespaces and when something concrete is coming either from IETF or IANA or like the technical groups, then I think the GAC can set up a separate working group to consider all those concrete proposals. Thank you.

ALISA HEAVER:

Okay. So, this is Alisa Heaver. Yeah. Today, we've heard a lot of information about these alternative naming spaces. And what I hope that we would do now is take back the information that we have received and discuss it with people in your community. And so, if we come back to our next ICAN meeting, and we are able to understand the topic better. I hope the discussion won't end today for us. Well, there were a lot of great people here at the stage. I'm sure they're happy to address further questions if we have them. Make use of OCTO, and really, if you want to know something, go to them and see if they can help you with further understanding what's at stake.

But I don't think today or this week, we're able to come up with any policy, ideas, or something because it's just basically freshly been landed in anyone's head. And I think it's important that we reflect upon this now and discuss it further and look at it from different angles. Also, the suggestion of Owen on inviting the RSSAC or the SSAC on getting also those perspectives on board. Well, I would want to stress that even though things are happening in the alternative naming spaces, well, I care about this DNS dearly. So, it's not that I think we should have this

capacity building to say we all want to move towards the other side, so to say, but it's something we should be aware of, and see and understand which issues are taking place there.

TRACY HACKSHAW: All right. So, I think we are ready to wrap up. Owen, do you have any final words? Yeah.

OWEN FLETCHER: Like wrap up all of it or just this question?

TRACY HACKSHAW: Well, we can start wrapping up, I guess. If we do have questions coming up from the audience. What end do we end? Sorry. Is it 5:00 or 5:30? Gulden? Sorry? Oh, 5:30. No. We have half an hour. Yes. I thought this was wrapping up, so I assume it was wrapping up.

OWEN FLETCHER: Not wrapping up, but I think I've heard other sort of allude to the importance of prioritizing and protecting the DNS and not necessarily advocating or pushing for any types of integration with the blockchain, but just maybe being aware of any movement potentially in that direction, with the priority being that the global internet should continue to work as it does. We wouldn't want to have that negative consequences for the DNS.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

All right. Since we have half an hour again, I think we can continue. So, I thought it was wrapping up. So, as we take the discussion further down, the important issue I was raising, relative issue about important within ICANN, I think, in governments. You were starting to give some solutions I heard about working groups working with RSSAC and so on. What other solutions do you think, based on what you discussed in your group that we can take here at ICANN within this space or within your own spaces back home to treat with this issue? And maybe we could start teasing in the other emerging technologies that are coming up to look at.

I was thinking, for example, is there a need for a GAC emerging technologies' working group or something of that nature where we can feed this information in regularly, they can report on it, have a discussion? Just throwing that out. What are your thoughts on that? So maybe we could go back to the folks on stage and not online for that response.

HONG FU:

Hello, everyone. It's Chinese group again. Regarding emerging technology, we thought of AI since AI is already being used maybe for attacking the current DNS. So maybe it can also be used to mitigate these abuses or even as a tool to combat these DNS abuses. Thank you.

MOHAMMAD MUBARAK:

From the Arabic speaking team, we do share the same thoughts as our colleagues. The use of AI would be a good idea basically to secure the stability and security of operation of the DNS. As well as we do think

that, mostly, it's my personal opinion, to be honest, but emerging technologies have been used in different fields, and they were able basically to push forward and basically advance in these fields I would say in an imaginable way, for example, in coding.

Now you don't need to be a coder basically to write an application. In the medical field, they are using AI basically to restructure DNA codes or something like that. So, I think maybe we were focusing a lot on the issues of emerging technologies and maybe it will be a good idea to also look into how we can use these emerging technologies to, I would say, advance our own ecosystem as well as maybe come up with, I'll say, enhanced ways of even operating within the ICANN. Thank you.

DJIKOLMBAIBET KENNEDY: As for the French speaking group. So, we have one child, it's called the DNS, and that's why we gather here. So, we should look at all the issues revolving around DNS and move forward together while ensuring continuity. So as for the concerns that we had and that our governments have. So, first and foremost, we want to ensure safe internet. We also want to ensure resiliency of the internet, but also sovereignty.

So, we should look closely at these issues, make more efforts in order to come up with solutions. Furthermore, we should strive to create local content at every level, the local, regional level, and the national level. But we should also look at some measure of flexibility when we regulate them. I also want to stress the importance of collaboration. It is at the heart of our efforts, and we should really put it forward when we look at all these issues.

As for AI. It is an emerging technology. We would like for ICANN to address this emerging technology in order to support the work of our community, in order to bring more solutions to the table specifically for developing countries. And there are also ethics issues that we have to address. Thank you very much.

TRACY HACKSHAW: All right. We do have intervention online. Can we take that before we get to you, Owen?

DR. SHAMSUZZOHA: Thank you, Tracy. I think regarding that, in addition to the alternative namespace, in the online forum, I think some of that part is already discussed in other group members or colleagues, but I just want to reiterate the importance that the AI driven trend detection and quantum resistance encryption. So sometimes it's also limited and actually attached with the DNS system as well. So having a policy on that and keeping on these issues, but I think some of the members of the measure is very important.

In addition to that, the cloud computing and data storage issue, the issue of sovereignty and cross-border data flows So, these are the issue that we should put in front of us. And all these are more or less related to the cybersecurity issues. Because even for advanced technologies, I'm just giving one particular example from Bangladesh that a few months ago, we're having a national incident about fraudulent activities related to cryptocurrencies based on blockchain. So, this is the first time that we were concerned from regulatory viewpoint, from

government viewpoint about the adverse effect of blockchain technologies on the economy as a whole. It was a big event, so we had a collaboration in the government with the industry.

So, I think many of the countries are having this type of experiences. One of the most priorities is the cybersecurity. So, keeping that in mind, I think those AI-driven and encryption and cloud computing-related technologies that we should have eye on that issues, and priorities related to DNS, I think the GAC work on those particular issues. In addition to those, also about the OTT applications because most of the time, they're also related and using the DNS resources and the resources that is being allocated by ICANN. So, the unsocial uses of the OTT applications, I suggest the privacy of the database, and other issues that is hampering the public as a whole or any particular country. So, that should be in the priority of GAC. And also, how those the emerging technologies are affecting this issue, I think we should focus on these particular issues. Thank you.

OWEN FLETCHER:

I'm Owen Fletcher. Since one of the microphones is in my hand, I wanted to intervene and pick up on the mentions of AI, which obviously is not itself something within ICANN's remit, but I think everyone's aware of that. So just to build on the interest in this, because AIs a general tool that has applications across so many fields. If the GAC were to look into it further or consider AI further, what are the types of questions we should be asking ourselves?

I'd invited anyone to share thoughts on this. But just AI generally, obviously, is not an appropriate topic. What are the implications of AI

for, I don't know, DNS abuse or how contract parties perform their functions, perhaps? I'm not really sure, but I'm interested in ideas others might have. Thanks.

ADERONKE SOLA-OGUNSOLA: So, this is Aderonke from Nigeria for the records. I would suggest from the top of my head, maybe we should focus on AI addressing issues regarding risk and security of the domain name system. Because, like you just said, AI is too broad. So, if we narrow it down, we can just focus on how can we use AI to address or mitigate against challenges or issues regarding risks and also to ensure security. And we've mentioned issues of trust for end users regarding this alternate namespace. Then cybersecurity cannot be overemphasized. We need to continue to work at National, regional and it's a national level to ensure that we come up with various policies, so to speak.

Then I was also thinking about CSAT. If we have computer incidents response team in our various sectors at home. Then the last thing that comes to mind is issue of data processing when we talk about data privacy. Do we come up with some form of regulations or policies to further strengthen data protection to ensure that some data are stored properly? Yes, I know we have the GDPR and all of that, but how and where do you store your data also matters. They say cloud, but where? Can you store your data at home? Thank you.

RUSSELL WORUBA: So, Russell Woruba from Papua New Guinea. Of course, the emerging technologies that have really captured our attention in our discussion

were quantum computing, AI, and more so generative AI. And the algorithms that current ChatGPT was the one that you see. It just goes and it scrapes all the data. And it depends on that data being not as biased as it was to begin with. So, what the data is trained on, and it could essentially be biased, and when you extrapolate it to use in courts or in law or justice sectors, then the data becomes skewed, and it introduces bias in our way as government make decisions or public policy in that regard.

So being aware and having some form of interventions in place that allow us to have some level of certainty by which we can trust AI data. And that has implications on data governance. I mean, in my country and duties here, we were working on a data governance and protection policy, and we aim for that to become legislation early next year. And that in itself is something that raises questions when we have AI being used for certain applications. So, when we start to talk about Web3, then it puts another level of dimension. Our policies and our legislation cannot even catch up, even if we do regulations. The sheer change in that--

That's why we believe that GAC and ICANN should come out really clear. And even though these are early days for us, we believe at least have some guidelines by which it can help us to at least get our countries to start thinking about this, to start talking about this, having some guidelines in place that will allow us to engage in these sorts of conversations. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: So, as we kind of hone-in on what's happening here, we're talking about alternative naming spaces, emerging technologies. What precise solutions can the GAC and ICANN put forward that's actionable to just move this forward? So, let's be on the talk. Let's move into the actions' discussion.

ALISA HEAVER: Sorry. I got a notification of phone that there are some people in the queue wanting to speak outside of the panel. I think we should do that. Because, well, it's an open text session.

GULTEN TEPE Thank you, Alisa. We have Nobu from Japanese delegation and then Marco from Netherlands on the queue. Thank you.

NISHIGATA NOBUHISA: May I speak now? My name is Nobuhisa Nishigata from Japan for record, and I'm answering some question from Owen about how we react to the AI thing. Since I'm doing the vice-chair at the OECD Working Group on the AI Governance, then I'm doing the GAC representative from Japan, I'm kind of unique position to look at both in the same time. It's quite busy time, you might add, but it's fun to see both from both sides.

And then let me put my question after looking at what we discussed at the OECD forum, including the IGA from the AI side. We already talked about how the algorithm do or we need to discuss some ethic issue, those kind of things. It's true. And then maybe we could do this in GAC

as well, like inviting an expert then we have some discussion about it. But on the other hand, my question to you is maybe we can think the opposite way as we are at ICANN meetings. So, meaning that that from the internet perspective, how we see these particularly the new technology, particularly the ChatGPT or generative AI.

My point is most of the data which is used to train these new AI technologies is everything in the internet, right? Just look at what or how OpenAI did create their great service on ChatGPT. It just crawled everything in the internet, then they just digest all the data, then its outcome is the services. But we're not sure how correct the old data is because it's in the internet, right? But thinking back that we share the value with the open and the free and the interoperability of the internet, then we shouldn't, or from the government perspective, we cannot ask the internet to be 100% correct for the data.

So, then my question. I don't have the answer yet so I'm putting in some question like how we think this issue as some kind of connecting point between the generative AI and what we have in the internet. So, thank you.

MARCO HOGEWONING:

Okay. This is Marco speaking for Netherlands. And I think our Japanese colleague already went through part of what I was saying, and then there was a lot to reflect on what Owen brought up earlier, and other people mentioned in AI. I think the first thing we should do as a GAC is think what we're here for, and this is the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. Enough part of the Dutch delegation and other multilateral organizations where we have similar discussions,

and we want it all. And I think we should really see, and that was the first question that popped up in my mind this morning, which we started discussing alternative namespaces is okay, I'm here and I'm here to have an opinion about the DNS. This is not the DNS.

And unfortunately, my US colleague has disappeared, but I think he worded it eloquently in our breakout session is that maybe one of our priorities is, first of all, to reassert ICANN's mandate in terms of One World, One Internet. And I heard it in the-- I'm happy to sort of see, like, okay, where does AI fit into the DNS space? Because I think that's our mandate here. But in terms of, yeah, we can do everything, but I think as a word of caution, I think there's enough to do in the DNS space itself. before we delve into problems that might be better discussed in other forum and maybe the Internet governance forums. Sorry to be raining on everybody's parade a bit.

KAREL DOUGLAS:

Hello. Karel Douglas, Trinidad and Tobago. I just wanted to also contribute to a very important topic that Owen raised and also just mentioned by Marco and others. And I almost want to apologize because I was struggling to understand some issues, and the fundamental issue was a jurisdiction issue. As a lawyer, I think most of us legal people ask the first question is what is the remit of ICANN.

ICANN as it stands is for the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers in the DNS. is this alternative namespaces assigned names and numbers? If it's not, then the question of jurisdiction arises, does the ICANN have anything to do if two persons privately decide to come up with a technology where they could communicate with each

other, that does not use assigned names or numbers or doesn't use the DNS?

So, I do apologize if this question was answered before because I may have missed the question and the answer, but I think it goes back to what maybe some were saying. Is that, well, so, yes, I mean, these issues are important issues to respective countries. They do raise a lot of security, privacy, etcetera, etcetera. But who is the governing body that controls if at all any of these so-called new technologies.

So yes, I think the question is Marco was saying maybe we have to rethink how the remit of ICANN, how ICANN does. Maybe it needs to expand its jurisdiction to include these other forms of technology. Thank you.

OWEN FLETCHER:

I'd love to respond chiefly. I'm Owen Fletcher. I mean, I'd like to think that everything we heard today wasn't a total waste. I think we did hear about ways that people who are going after blockchain names are plugging into ICANN in different ways or could potentially or plugging into the DNS. We talked about possible technical integrations between blockchain namespaces and the DNS. There was a reference to the arrangement that the World Intellectual Property Organization has with a blockchain namespace to use the UDRP to resolve trademark-related disputes in that namespace on a voluntary basis. They reached that arrangement.

And more generally, we have ICANN-accredited registrar is also offering registration services for these blockchain names. And maybe

implications for the next round of new gTLDs with name collisions, especially if let's just say dot wallet, which I'm pretty sure is not an existing gTLD in the DNS. That'll be a very popular one probably in the next round of new gTLDs for people to apply for. And that will then create the possibility that people will register domains in the DNS under dot wallet that are the same name as you have existing under other people's registrations on blockchains. So, there's the increased risk of name collisions that could affect the DNS.

So, for me, at least, I think there are some ways where there are potential policy implications that the GAC should monitor and be aware of. I don't think it should be about trying to expand ICANN's remit to proactively address things that the alternative namespaces are doing. Rather it's about protecting what we have in the DNS and the One World, One Internet approach. I welcome reactions from anyone else.

TRACH HACKSHAW:

All right. I think we are now final 5 minutes. So, I'll leave this. So, I add my pending what's a solution to this issue question that I was trying to raise before. See if I got that addressed. I also wanted to say that even though ICANN's remit is what it is, I still go to these IG meetings and see ICANN there, talking at all the meetings, all the total meetings about things that maybe IG related. So maybe ICANN does have a role to play in the wider space.

And maybe you could give that some thoughts on the other side because ICANN commented on the GDC recently and what the tech envoy said. ICANN was at the IGF making some observations. So, it's an interesting discussion that we have here that ICANN keep its remit,

want to keep its remit here, but it's also out in the spaces talking about the IG issues and it's role in those spaces.

So, having said that, maybe one final word from each. Anybody want to put an online speaker about the solution to this? What do you recommend?

ADERONKE SOLA-OGUNSOLA: This is Aderonke for the record. I don't have a recommendation, but I just want to further build on the gentleman from Trinidad. Great. So, your question, if I'm correct, is, we should look at it from the perspective of jurisdiction. And I'm also trying to throw out a question to the community. To the best of my understanding, there's only one organization that has the mandate to assign names and numbers for the internet. So, that's ICANN. The second question now is, is there any other organization or group of techies that can wake up one day and decide to start issuing .bitcoin, .x, .nft? Is that not encroaching on ICANN's jurisdiction? I don't know. It's for the governments, policy makers, lawyers. Let's discussed this further. Thank you.

THIAGO DAL TOE: Thiago Dal Toe from Columbia. In our group so as to close this subject, this is something to be further discussed. Otherwise, there would be no need to have it studied, to do some research, or, ourselves, realize about that and put this on the agenda. We are not solving any problem. We were discussing in our group that when blockchain started to be used so as to change currencies, the central banks, the governments never requested this change, never requested this new technology. It

was a group, an external group that wanted to decentralize and create their solution. When the governments became aware, they said, well, this is a problem. It is inside of us. So how do we bring them in?

So, some countries are using electronic currency or bitcoins so as to be integrated within their systems. And the same would be here. We're not thinking that there is a problem with the DNS, and we need an alternative system. It's not the case. But we are observing certain players that are outside or getting out of our house, let's say, looking for a solution, and we are trying to think what would be the problems that we may face in the future. Would there be a problem? How do we bring them in again? That would be integration. We are not thinking about leaving our house and to go to some other jurisdictions.

TRACY HACKSHAW: All right. We're running short on time so let's keep it to 30 seconds wrap up. Go ahead.

DJIKOLMBAIBET KENNEDY: Thank you very much for these enriching exchanges. These 30 minutes were really fruitful, and we hope that further down the line, we'll be able to tackle the issue of blockchain. Nonetheless, remains the point of resources and communication, as well as the ICANN's vision. We also have the issue of jurisdiction and also legal issues. We also should think about starting up a lab that will allow us to tackle these issues.

TRACY HACKSHAW: All right. I guess not. I'll go ahead to Arab speaking group.

MOHAMMAD MUBARAK: I think the solution is what we always been doing is having discussions, collaborations between stakeholders to come up with solutions, basically. I think we should basically look into trying to adapt to what's coming because the world is adapting to these technologies. The world is embracing these technologies as we should. As my colleague mentioned, it might be not directly within our jurisdiction, but still, the collision issue is there and with the basically, technology companies and browsers specifically adopting the alternative namespaces, we should do as well. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you. I see the online group one. We are now 30 seconds, please.

DR. SHAMSUZZOHA: Thank you. I'll be very short. I think I just want to reiterate my previous intervention. Even it is not a core discussion, but I think even online group we discussed that, that can be side event or it can be relevant topics in our regular discussion in terms of jurisdiction, when you are talking about the AI, the importance of other issues. So, everything in terms of the DNS system, about the resources allocated by ICANN. So, within the whatever issues raised by us or it has been discussed here, all the technologies, our understanding is that it is in line with the DNS system and the resources allocated by ICANN.

For example, today, we discussed about the effect of IoT system on the research application, the IP addresses. It was tested before that the

millions of systems will be coming in the coming days and how they will utilize the system. It is already considered there in IPv6. The same way, whatever we are discussing in terms of security, AI, or blockchain, that should be in line with the DNS and the decentralization and the resource allocation in ICANN, and that is quite relevant. And I think even if it cannot be like core working group or like regular discussion, that can be side event or side discussion of how we should actually keep discussing on these issues. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Thank you very much. 30 seconds, Chinese-speaking group.

HONG FU: Okay. The Chinese speaking group would like to reiterate that any technology that we should integrate into the current DNS system with the current DNS system having 350 million domain names and billions of queries daily, that it should be integrated with fairness, security, stability, resiliency in mind. That it should not affect the current operation of the DNS, the current DNS. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: And English-speaking group.

RUSSELL WORUBA: Thank you very much. Yeah. So, a lot of discussion. Just want to encourage us that this is the beginning of a journey and there's a lot more discussion, a lot more sharing, and I believe there are enough

smart people in ICANN for us to figure out a way through this. So, we should all take a step back and look at how, what are our colleagues using blockchain, what are they trying to achieve? Of course, we are discussing certain areas of architecture where they are working together or supposed to be working together. But I think the whole business objective of what they're trying to achieve should be the main policy agenda we try to resolve in this issue as we're going on in our discussion. So, it's a start of an exciting journey, and I believe we should in, our next meeting, be able to become more clear in what we need to do. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you very much. And with that, I'll hand back over to the architects of today's session to wind this up. And before I do that, just thank the interpreters. Hang on just for one more minute while we wrap up. Thank you so much, interpreters and AB team.

ALISA HEAVER:

Yeah. So, this is Alisa Heaver. I just want to thank everyone for being so engaging today. I've really enjoyed the level of energy in the room. And I want to thank everyone who has made this day possible. I'm not going to name everyone due to time constraints, but, yeah, big thanks to everyone who has been involved in this.

TRACY HACKSHAW:

Thank you very much. Have a good evening. Bye, all. Thank you.

DAN:

Hey, everyone. Dan here from support staff. One quick moment. Today is the last day for the GAC vice chair's election. It'll wrap up at 2:00 AM local time, Germany. That's midnight 23:59 to be exact UTC. Any questions, get them to me as soon as possible. Any issues with tally, definitely let me know. Again, today's the last day for the GAC vice chair's election, and I'm happy to help as much as I can. Thanks.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]