

IGF 2017 Reporting Template

- Session Title: Dynamic Coalition on Blockchain Technologies Session
- Date: December 18, 2017
- Time: 10:40 am – 11:50 am
- Session Organizer: Carla Reyes, Stetson University College of Law, and Primavera de Filippi, CNRS Paris
- Chair/Moderator: Benedikt Schuppli, Lykke Corp.
- Rapporteur/Notetaker: Qicheng Chen
- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations: Benedikt Schuppli, Lykke Corp., Henning Diedrich, Claryon UG (via video).
- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):
 - The participants discussed several varieties of blockchain governance, and the difference between purely technological governance and institutional governance.
 - Some participants queried whether an ICANN-type entity would be needed for blockchain governance, and the feeling was that such an entity may make more sense if proof of stake consensus is adopted more widely.
 - The participants queried and discussed the differences between blockchain governance and Internet governance, and how blockchain governance researchers could learn from the work ongoing more broadly at the IGF.
 - The participants discussed whether there was room in the technology to self-regulate participants through governance mechanisms.
- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

Henning Diedrich offered a presentation via video. There were some technical difficulties and the stakeholders were not all able to hear the video presentation well. Nevertheless, the presentation started by offering a broad definition of “governance” – the process of the interaction of decision making among actors to create, reinforce, and reproduce some form of social norms and institutions. Mr. Diedrich went on to discuss some of the important elements of blockchain governance, in order to lay the foundation for the discussion among stakeholders that followed.

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

Participants would like to see additional output next year, in terms of solutions from the technical community and other researchers for facilitating more effective blockchain governance, both on and off chain. Participants are very interested in using the DC listserv to consider ways to facilitate such output. Some suggestion was made that part of this facilitation needs to involve seasoned Internet governance experts, so that we can undertake a deep dive investigation into the characteristics that make Internet and blockchain governance different (or similar). The idea is that this would facilitate a two-way dialogue that may be mutually beneficial.

To get that far, though, an effort to document existing governance mechanisms in the blockchain ecosystem is needed. Mapping out existing structures may help the Dynamic Coalition also identify governance gaps. It is in those gaps that the dialogue between Internet governance and Blockchain governance considerations may be most useful. The Dynamic Coalition Coordinators will undertake an effort to coordinate contributions of expertise and research from the Dynamic Coalition in 2018 with an eye to producing a report on the current state of governance structures in the blockchain ecosystem and the gaps to be filled.

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session: 100

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session: 30

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?

The session did not address the issues of gender equality and/or women's empowerment, specifically.