Dynamic Coalition on Blockchain Technologies
Report of Activities from Jan. 2019-May 2020

Introduction

The Dynamic Coalition on Blockchain Technologies (DC-Blockchain) remains a relatively new dynamic coalition, and continues to focus on broadening its participation base. That being said, participants in the DC-Blockchain remain very engaged and have actively contributed to a number of efforts since January 2019, including the launch of new projects. Key focus areas for DC-Blockchain from January 2019-May 2020 have included: (1) in-person workshops and continued research and drafting work on a model law for Decentralized Autonomous Organizations, (2) the launch of new efforts around capacity building and education, and (3) embracing a strong and diverse discussion about the interaction between blockchain governance and internet governance more broadly and how members of the DC-Blockchain can best contribute to overall themes and goals of the Internet Governance Forum. This report will review each of these areas of work in turn.

Model Law and Governance for Decentralized Autonomous Organizations

In early 2019, DC-Blockchain stakeholders expressed interest in the rising importance of the issue of Decentralized Autonomous Organization governance. A group of stakeholders held a series of informal meetings and calls until they coalesced around a proposal to the DC-Blockchain to launch a more formal project in that regard. In the Spring of 2019, the DC-Blockchain launched a project to theorize around and draft a model law for Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs). The project is geared not so much in trying to provide actual statutory language to be followed by specific legal jurisdictions, but rather, towards improving the theoretical and practical understandings of the intersection of DAO governance and governance with the rest of the Internet and the physical world. In particular, this DC-Blockchain project is geared towards improving the interface and facilitating the interactions between blockchain-based systems and the legal system with an inquiry into whether and how to recognize legal personhood for unregistered DAOs, an issue that is much discussed among government, technical, civil society DC-Blockchain stakeholders. Further, the project aims to capture the functional and practical implications of such legal personality recognition should even one legal jurisdiction move in that direction. The goal is to enrich our collective understanding of DAO governance and its interaction with the governance of other more general governance schemes, including that of Internet governance and legal governance of non-blockchain entities.

With these aims in mind, DC-Blockchain stakeholders gathered for in-person workshops in Cambridge, Massachusetts in September 2019, in Paris, France in February 2020, and in Estonia in April 2002, and collaborated together virtually before, in-between, and after these workshops to research, discuss and draft a governance report and related model clauses. At present, DC-Blockchain stakeholders have divided into two working groups to move the work forward, one focusing on the functional equivalence between legal governance for non-blockchain entities and

technical and other aspects of DAO governance, one focusing on mapping the current governance practices of existing DAOs. Each of those groups have sub-groups working on more discrete research questions. The hope is to distill some preliminary conclusions into writing before reconvening again in the fall to finalize a draft report and model clauses for presentation and comment at the DC-Blockchain Session at IGF 2020.

Capacity Building and Education

At the 2019 IGF Annual Meeting in Berlin, Germany, the DC-Blockchain held an interactive design sprint session in which stakeholders discussed the gaps in the governance of blockchain technologies in their industry and geographical region. The most commonly identified gaps revolved around capacity building and education. As a result, DC-Blockchain stakeholders organized five working groups, each with a unique project designed to build capacity and educate a wide diversity of stakeholders on specific issues related to blockchain governance. The first four of these groups include: (1) blockchain technology basics and terminology, (2) the implications of privacy laws across varying jurisdictions for blockchain-based businesses and applications, (3) creating a multi-stakeholder framework and principles to guide government adoption of blockchain technologies, and (4) the potential for a blockchain domain name system as a governance pathway.

Each of these working groups aim to progress in their discussions and design outputs as the DC-Blockchain approaches the 2020 IGF Annual Meeting. Each working group identified a goal output for completion by the end of 2020/early 2021. The DC-Blockchain is undergoing its own governance process of bringing the leader of each working group onto the DC-Blockchain formal steering committee, in order to better streamline the DC-Blockchain's governance process and further enable the DC-Blockchain's ability to incorporate and reflect the ideas, inputs, and interventions of a broad range of IGF stakeholders.

Exploring and Understanding the Intersection of Blockchain Governance and Internet Governance

The fifth working group formed at the 2019 IGF Annual Meeting picked up a theme that the DC-Blockchain has discussed throughout 2019—namely, how to understand the relationship between broader Internet governance issues and blockchain governance issues, and what ways the DC-Blockchain can best contribute to the broader aims of the both the IGF and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. With regard to the former, the general feeling among DC-Blockchain stakeholders is that the inter-relationship between blockchain governance and Internet governance remains undertheorized and poorly understood and a key contribution of the DC-Blockchain in the next year would be to bring greater clarity in this regard. With regard to the latter, the DC-Blockchain ahs previously identified SDG Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure as the SDG to which the DC's work is mostly closely related. In particular, the DC-Blockchain's previous reports on "How Blockchains Can Support, Complement, or Supplement Intellectual Property" and "A Primer on Cryptosecurities" evidence the clear connection between the DC-Blockchain and SDG 9. The DC-Blockchain's forthcoming research and model clauses on DAO governance similarly reflects this connection. The DC-Blockchain working groups hope to identify

additional SDGs to support as they build their outputs. By doing so, the DC-Blockchain hopes to reveal additional connections between Internet governance and blockchain governance more broadly that have gone underappreciated up to this point.