

November 2022

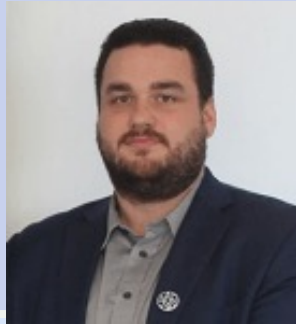
Chapters Advisory Council Update

Internet Society Board of Trustees Meeting
November 2022



The 2022 ChAC Steering Committee members are:

Pierre-Jean Darres
(Canada Québec Chapter)



Frederic Taes
(Belgium Chapter)



Jordi Domingo-Pascual
(Spain Catalonia Chapter)



Niran Beharry
(Trinidad & Tobago Chapter)



Agang K. Dithlogo
(Botswana Chapter)



Heba Sayed
(Egypt Chapter)



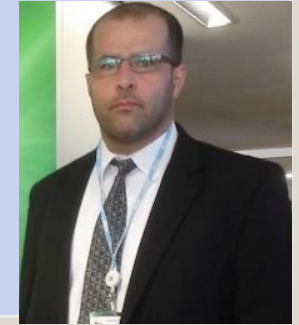
Adebunmi Akinbo
(Nigeria Chapter)



K Mohan Raidu
(India Hyderabad Chapter)



Zahir Qasrawi
(Palestine Chapter)



The members of the Steering Committee (SC) can be reached individually by e-mail, or via the Internet Society staff liaison (via saegesser@isoc.org) – the SC uses an internal mailing list to support its work.

Outreach activities with chapter leaders

Participation of ChAC SC members in regional calls with updates on the ChAC

Concrete example for Africa, where the regional calls are a platform to talk and exchange information, transfer of knowledge, sharing of chapter leader initiatives, collaboration



Topics worked on this year

1) ITU/UN discussions

- It was pointed out on Internet Society mailing lists that Chapters should be more engaged when it comes to ITU/UN discussions
- Challenge: the level of entry into these discussions is quite high: complex matters, many topics, how to approach governments... ?
- How to build a framework to engage chapters through ChAC?
- **Achievement in 2022:**
 - Collaboration between ISOC staff, ChAC-SC, OMAC and some chapter leaders with expertise in this field.
 - Staff shared:
 - ITU WTSA-2020 Issues Matrix (05 April 2022)
 - World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2022 - Issues Matrix
 - ITU Plenipotentiary 2022 Summary Issues - Matrix



Topics worked on this year

2) Interpretation within working committees:

- A request was submitted to the ChAC SC by Eduardo Diaz (Puerto Rico Chapter) to have interpretation on all Internet Society working committees
- Background: The Internet Society currently provides Interpretation (EN-> FR and SP) as well as captioning on for many of its online calls with the community (such as Community Week and the regional calls (where appropriate), most of its public documents are also translated to FR and SP.
- Challenges:
 - Working group discussions are by nature very interactive and interpretation may make the interaction rather cumbersome and slow - and are quite resource intensive (cost and logistics)
 - While interpretation on calls is one aspect of this discussion, the translation of related documents, such as the agenda, the notes, the comments on the notes would need to be kept in mind too



Topics worked on this year

2) Interpretation within working committees (cont):

Questions the group is considering through in its discussions :

- Would additional interpretation / translation help engage a broader community?
- To what degree would interpretation be practical during interactive working sessions? (incl. before and after the call - since calls are only one part of the work of a working committee)

As part of the full Chapters Advisory Council session during Committee week the Steering Committee asked the audience the following question:

The Chapters Advisory Council is constituted by members from around the world. Are you comfortable participating in its discussion and work in English?

- Yes, no problem at all - 86.49%
- Hmm... yes, if absolutely needed - 13.51%
- No, this prevents our chapter from participating - 0%



Topics worked on this year

3) Digital Sovereignty:

- The Digital Sovereignty project team staff reached out to the ChAC in April 2022 to solicit early input from chapters on this topic and to ensure the work developed is relevant and useful to the ISOC community
- 22 Chapters and 2 SIGs participated in this activity
- The inputs helped validate the findings from the project team's research that then moved forward with the drafting of the white paper on Digital Sovereignty.



Topics worked on this year

4) Chapter formation requests from places that are not internationally recognised

Background:

- From time to time requests for chapter formation from places that are not internationally recognised geographic entities are received (e.g. countries that have self declared independence, regions with autonomous communities, or defined as special administrative regions)
- Such chapter formation processes can quickly trigger geo-political discussions and the simple fact of naming a chapter will mean taking a geo-political position/opinion.
- The Internet Society is not a government and can therefore not provide diplomatic recognition or non-recognition of any body that purports to be a sovereign government. International recognition and sovereignty is a topic for nation states.



Topics worked on this year

4) Chapter formation requests from places that are not internationally recognised (cont.)

General recommendation from staff for chapter formation in places without a ISO 3166 code:

- Formalise the reference of ISO 3166 for the definition of chapter boundaries in our chapter formation policies as a guiding principle (it is already used on the chapter map and to determine the exact naming of our chapters)
- In cases that are not clear, the Chapter Advisory Council will be asked for a recommendation.
- Following the ChAC recommendation, the new application will go through peer review like all new chapter applications
- If there are any formal objections, the case will be brought back to the ChAC for a final recommendation to the Internet Society Board of Trustees
- If, based on the above, chapter formation is not possible in a given context, Internet Society staff will work with the individual members on site to explore other options for them to contribute to advance the Internet Society's vision and mission

The ChAC Steering Committee currently discusses how to name the chapters in an apolitical way as possible.



The full ChAC

Next full Chapters Advisory Council call on 15 November 2022.

The full list of current ChAC representatives is available on the Internet Society website: <https://www.internetsociety.org/chapters/chapters-advisory-council/list-of-representatives/>

Chapter Name	Representative
Argentina Chapter	Anabel Cisneros
Armenia Chapter	Lianna Galstyan
Australia Chapter	Cheryl Langdon-Orr
Bahrain Chapter	
Bangladesh Dhaka Chapter	Mohammad Uddin
Belgium Chapter	Frederic Taes

The full ChAC uses a Connect community to communicate with each other and can be reached by its members via INTERNETSOCIETY-chapteradvisorycouncil@ConnectedCommunity.org



Thank you.

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