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# GDNR MEETING WITH LOCAL INTERNET COMMUNITY

Venue: MoCD Conference Room

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023



Organization

GHANA DOMAIN NAME REGISTRY

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Ghana Domain Name Registry (GDNR) is an agency established by the Electronic Transactions Act (2008) 772 to administer and manager the .GH domain space of Ghana. The GDNR is currently preparing itself to take over the management of the .GH from the current trustee in a stable and smooth transition.

The transfer of ownership which is technically known as redelegation, necessitates consent from the various stakeholders (government, trustee, local Internet Community. etc.) in the Internet Community.

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) a department within Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is responsible for maintaining the repository of Internet standards, distributing Internet numbers to regions for Internet use, and responsible for verifying and updating changes to Top Level Domain (TLD) information.

IANA as part of the redelegation process demands engagement with the various stakeholders in the Local Internet Community of GDNR which forms an integral part.

This Meeting forms part of the series of meetings the GDNR will be holding with the Local Internet Community to bring the community up to the speed of the activities of the GDNR as well as the status of the redelegation.

The purpose of this meeting was to convene the various stakeholders from the Local Internet Community to discuss issues of concern regarding the Internet ecosystem in Ghana as well as update and educate what is relevant on what they need to know about the .GH domain namespace.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- ✚ Give an update on the redelegation status.
- ✚ Strengthen the relationship between GDNR and the LIC
- ✚ Educate the community on the IANA processes of the redelegation

## **PRESENTATION**

Speaker: Mr. Asafu-Aidoo– Executive Director, GDNR.

His presentation was titled: "Redelegation: The way forward" and was outlined in four contexts namely.

- ✚ The GDNR
- ✚ .GH domain Delegation and Management
- ✚ Redelegation Situation
- ✚ GDNR Plans

### **The GDNR**

He started the presentation by underlining the Electronic Transactions Act (ETA) 2008 (Act 772) which establishes the Ghana Domain Name Registry and its mandate. He added that, the ETA 2008 establishes the GDNR as a non-for-profit entity which means the GDNR will manage the ccTLD as a trustee for the good of the community. Mr. Asafu-Aidoo further spoke about the governing board of the GDNR;

- ✚ Dr. NanaYaa Tina Owusu-Prempeh (Rev.) – Board Chair of GDNR
- ✚ Mr. Nana Kofi Asafu-Aidoo, the Executive Director of GDNR
- ✚ Mr. Andrew Ayitey Okoe Bulley, Minister’s nominee
- ✚ Dr. Francis Boateng Agyenim, Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research
- ✚ DCOP Vance Baba Gariba, representative of the Ministry of the Interior
- ✚ Mr. Lucas Yikimpa Chigabatia, rep of Public Universities
- ✚ Professor Daniels Obeng-Ofori, rep of Private Universities
- ✚ Mr. Isaac Teye Ayiku, Industry Forum
- ✚ Madam Estelle Akofio-Sowah, Industry Forum

He said the governing board is working tirelessly for a stable and smooth transfer of management of .GH domain name.

### **.GH Domain Delegation and Management**

He started from the history of delegation of .GH Domain in 1995. He stated that the .GH domain was delegated by Jon Postel who was then a one-time sole member of IANA. Prof. Quaynor became the trustee of .GH domain name for the nation and community. Mr. Asafu-Aidoo went deeper into RFC 1591 which details Domain Name Structure and Delegation.

### **Redelegation Situation**

Mr. Asafu-Aidoo stated that the board of directors is currently in talks with the trustee, Prof. Quaynor for a stable and smooth transfer. He added that there is currently an

inquiry on legal questions ongoing between the board of directors and the Attorney General.

The presentation also highlighted from history how the Country Code Top Level Domain (.GH) was entrusted to the current trustee.

Mr. Asafu-Aidoo took participants through the IANA Redelelegation guidelines which gives a clear procedure for delegating and redelegation of a country-code top-level domain (ccTLD).

He ended the session by highlighting the role of the Local Internet Community in the redelegation process. According to the IANA website, "It is a requirement that the requestor provide documentation indicating the local Internet community support for the proposed manager in operating the ccTLD, such as letters of support from interested and/or impacted parties, and the results of public consultations that led to the request."

He noted that, this consultative engagement with the LIC will be one of several similar meetings which the GDNR will be organizing.

### **GDNR Plans**

- ✚ The GDNR is building capacity for its staff and acquiring the necessary equipment in preparation to administer according to the ETA.
- ✚ The GDNR is working on its various policy documents which will be shared with the community for comments and inputs.
- ✚ The GDNR in its quest to promote sales of the domain name and create a competitive environment for .GH registrars, the GDNR will accredit and license Registrars.
- ✚ The GDNR will automate as much as possible all the processes involving the registration of domain names.
- ✚ The GDNR will continue and expand on working with community building.
- ✚ The GDNR will continue in awareness creation and education.
- ✚ The GDNR will liaise effectively with various government agencies such as Registrar General (RGD) and NITA with the aim of growing the domain.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

After the presentation, participants of the meeting were given the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts about the .GH namespace.

### *Question*

Someone asked about the readiness of the GDNR and plans to manage to .GH domain name registry should the current trustee handover of the management of the domain registry to GDNR.

### *Answer*

Mr. Asafu-Aidoo outlined the staff strength of the GDNR, he also emphasized on the fact the GDNR will build a strong community, locally and internationally. In the event of a challenge beyond the capacity of the staff, experts in the community may support them. He added that the National Information Technology Agency as a sister agency of the GDNR also has skilled engineers and resources with great government backing, so the GDNR can always tap into their resources.

He added that managing a domain is not only about your technical ability marketing also plays a key role, the GDNR has over the past three years been organizing and attending events just to market, educate and create awareness about .GH domain name.

### *Question*

A participant asked the hierarchy the GDNR will use to manage the .GH domain registry.

### *Answer*

He answered that the GDNR will use the International Best Practice which is the 3R model which is the Registry-Registrar-Registrants. He added that the GDNR has currently put together a provisional registrar group with the aim of preparing them to be accredited with a provisional license to sell .GH domains soon.

### *Question*

Someone asked about the business model the GDNR will use to manage the registry. He added that the GDNR should not wait till after redelegation before we intensify our marketing campaign.

*Answer*

The GDNR has already started .GH domain adoption awareness campaign through events and other engagement with other stakeholders. The GDNR also intends to partner with the current trustee to promote the registration of .GH domain names.

*Question*

A participant followed up with a question about the registry model, he asked why the current trustee has not opened up to allow for more registrars to sell the domains.

*Answer*

It was answered that the ETA 2008 (Act 772) mandates only the Ghana Domain Name Registry regulate registrars hence the current trustee could not make it open for new registrars. Currently, NITA is the registrar for the .GOV.GH.

*Question*

A participant asked, can there be a worse case of a blackout should the redelegation not go as planned.

*Answer*

Mr. Asafu-Aidoo answered that the current trustee has assured the GDNR of a smooth and stable transition. He added that since the servers are already housed with NITA, such occurrence would be less likely to happen.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ✚ The GDNR should embark on an offensive marketing drive to make the .GH is very visible and a preferred choice for everyone.
- ✚ The GDNR should organize more of similar meetings to keep the LIC updated with the redelegation process and the activities of the GDNR.
- ✚ The GDNR should partner and work closely with the current trustee.
- ✚ The GDNR should approach the Registrar General Department for possible incorporation of .GH registration in the registration of business.

## **CONCLUSION**

Most attendees at the event were convinced that redelegation is necessary, and they were also eager to lend their support to the GDNR should the registry require it in the future.

It was noted that new representatives always attended the LIC meetings, and this hinders the continuity of the communication between stakeholders. The GDNR hinted on getting a permanent person of contact (POC) to help curb the instance of having to repeat the conversation between the community.

The GDNR will also share the various domain policy with the community for comments and inputs.



## APPENDIX

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
George Decandi-Nelson	GDC
Raymond A. Bill	NCA
Kwadwo Boadu Jr	GDNR
Richard Boateng	Nita
Isaac Delali Nyarku	GDC
Reginald Darko	Nita
Benedict Obirim Sagoe	GDNR
Aaron Felix Opoku	CSA
Ruth Kyere Ferkah	MoCD
Elizabeth Amanquah	MoCD
Francis Acquah Amaning	GDNR
Cephas Kotei Mensah	MESTI
John Williams	MESTI
Yaw D Sakyi-Danso	OAGMOJ
Vanessa Issah	GDNR
Dominic Savio Numekevor	MOI
Richard Kafui Amanfu	Institute of ICT Professionals Ghana
Eric Dela Akoetor	GCTU
Joseph Ola Mensah	GDNR
Amma Owusua Amoako-Atta	OAGMOT
Justin Agbadokude	Ghana Dot Com
Acquah Michael Takyi	RGD
Quao Ebenezer	RGD
Linda Asamoah	GDNR
Bobbie Osei	Telecoms Chamber
Eunice Hilda A. Mensah	Ghana News Agency
Prof. Quist Aphetsi Kester	GCTU
Nana Kofi Asafu-Aidoo	GDNR



*Attendees present at the 2023 Local Internet Community Meeting*