Outcome report
Spotlight Session
Monday July 5, 10-10h20 AM CEST

Session Summary: "Brainchains" are the invisible assumptions that limit and severely restrict the freedom of your thinking. If left hidden and unchallenged, brainchains risk hindering the digital transformation and full development potential of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs. By highlighting the assumptions behind two transformative technologies, the Internet and Bitcoin Protocols, Pindar will illustrate how surfacing and breaking brainchains can accelerate digital development in non-obvious ways.   Will the Internet continue to 'rot' , will 'New IP' or 'QUIC' protocol renew it in time or is the Internet itself a "brainchain" that must be disrupted to usher in something entirely new? Let's explore!

1. **Main outcomes highlighting the following:**

- The session covered the "brainchains" that might prevent finding tools for further development and technical 'leapfrogging' by LDCs/LLDCs/SID, where "Brainchains" were defined as: "A series of assumptions that invisibly limits, confines or restricts the *freedom* of thinking". Two examples of brainchains were briefly explored using the Internet and Bitcoin Protocols.
- The Internet, which counter-intuitively adopts a "stupid network" architecture, is a global data network that is not 'inter-national'. Its technical architecture broke the hidden assumption in traditional 'inter-nation' voice networks where 'distance equals cost'. It also did not assume the need for treaties between Westphalian nation-states. Indeed, the week's video conference livestreaming would not be cost-effective under the historic assumptions of the 'Accounting Rate System' of international voice networks. Voice is an 'app'.
- Similarly, Bitcoin, which adopts a radical 'slow network' architecture, is a global payment network that provides censorship-resistant digital value exchange across the globe.
- The next generation of economic-focused protocols will continue to break "brainchains" by further challenging the order of existing architectural assumptions.

2. **Main conclusions reached during the discussion:**

- The language around LDCs/LLDCs/SIDs - being 'least', 'landlocked', 'small', 'developing', 'islands' implicitly assumes a geographical, rather than technological, mindset.
- The emerging technologies that have a 'cryptographic identifier' mindset provide a golden opportunity for thought leadership by LDCs/LLDCs/SIDs.
- Data, not geography, is 'destiny'!

3. **Panellists contributions to the outcome reports:**
   - *What are the opportunities and challenges of emerging technology for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS*

     - *Break the brainchains, i.e. lose the geographical limitation and narrative associated with labels such as LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs.*

What are the most important points/aspects of the emerging technology that should be considered in order to accelerate the digital transformation in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS?

- *'Tools over Solutions' -- Focus on building tools to empower local solutions to be indigenously developed. Doing so avoids prescriptive 'solutions' which might not be relevant or economically viable.*

   - *In what way and usages could emerging technology help accelerate the digital transformation of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs?*

     - *There is no 'small island' in cyberspace. By changing the narrative from 'divide and conquer' to 'connect and liberate': The limitation of geographic 'space' is overcome, and 'time' becomes the new ordering factor.*

   - *What is your vision on smart cities in the next 20 years and why?*

     - *Citizens are smart, not cities! The focus must be on developing smart citizens not feeding private data to empower anonymous algorithms.*
     - *Entering the age of uncertain weather, we must all become more flexible and agile if we are to successfully navigate the constantly changing challenges ahead.*
     - *Remember, we "surf the net". We don't 'swim the net', nor do we "sail the net" -- barely standing up and "surfing" might be the best we can do.*