
BLOCKCHAIN WORKSHOPS

Invitation to Policy Roundtable

14 December 2016

Nairobi, Kenya

We would like to invite you, or a member of your organisation, to attend the Global Regulatory Roundtable at the Africa Blockchain Workshops, organized by COALA and the African Development Bank.

The Global Regulatory Roundtable will convene key stakeholders and decision makers to discuss interoperable policy frameworks for regulation of blockchain technologies. Participants will explore the opportunities and implications of blockchains for the developing world and emerging markets, including applications for financial inclusion, transparency, accountability, innovation, and economic growth and opportunity.

The rapid advancement of this nascent technology is challenging existing legal frameworks all over the world. There is significant uncertainty about the regulatory treatment of digital currencies and blockchain technology at both the local and global level.

From New York to London, Dubai to Singapore, and Brasília to Sydney - governments are trying to understand the technology and to appropriately regulate its use. This regulatory uncertainty makes it difficult for entrepreneurs who are endeavouring to innovate and build new businesses.

Even large banking institutions who are well-versed with local and global banking legal frameworks, may be uncertain. For example, it remains far from clear whether

internal innovation projects are captured by new technology specific legislation in certain jurisdictions.

The Global Regulatory Roundtable will provide insight into the technological and commercial development of blockchain technology and a forum to discuss important regulatory and policy questions.

The objective for the Global Regulatory Roundtable is to promote the development of consistent technology and innovation policies and regulatory frameworks at the national and international level and to foster multidisciplinary collaboration in the development of policy and regulatory frameworks.

The hope is that such collaboration will achieve a balance that both encourages and facilitates the proliferation of blockchain technology, while any risks that arise through the use of the technology are also appropriately addressed and mitigated.

Discussions will be led by leading technology experts, academics, legal practitioners and entrepreneurs, with the audience encouraged to actively interact with the discussion leaders, and each other.

Chatham House Rules will apply.

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About the Blockchain Workshops

The Africa Blockchain Workshops is the 7th edition of the Blockchain Workshops. Previous Workshops have been held at Harvard/MIT (January 2015), Stanford (March 2015), University College London (June 2015), Hong Kong University for Science and

Technology (October 2015), University of Technology Sydney (December 2016), European Parliament (March 2016), and New York University (April 2016).

The Blockchain Workshops began as an initiative by Primavera De Filippi (CNRS / Harvard Law) and Constance Choi (Seven Advisory/CNRS) to explore the interplay between blockchain technologies, including distributed cryptolledger technology, decentralized identity, and existing legal infrastructure or regulatory regimes.

The workshops are interdisciplinary, and they gather a global group of lawyers, engineers, economists, social scientists and entrepreneurs involved in the deployment of distributed cryptolledger-based applications.

The key objectives of the Africa event are to:

- Foster local innovation with blockchain technology by providing deep domain expertise, background on current innovation and pilot projects, and critical dialogue.
- Encourage the ‘collaborating to compete’ concept where the entire industry works together to explore benefits from blockchain technology.
- Facilitate global innovation by engaging with regulators and policy makers and enabling them to establish better regulation through a clearer understanding of the global regulatory framework.

The Africa event will consist of four parts:

1. Public Conference (15-16 December)
2. Innovation Challenge (14 December)
3. Global Regulatory Roundtable () (14 December)
4. Internal Workshop () (12-13 December)

The entire event will be run over five days. The Public Conference is open to members of the public, whilst the Internal Workshop and Global Regulatory Roundtable are strictly invitation only.

Roundtable Agenda

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Welcome & Introduction

9:15 AM - 10:00 AM	Keynote: The Law of the Horse Do new technologies need unique legal frameworks, or can existing legal frameworks adequately adapt? How can the law keep pace with rapid technological advancement?
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Roundtable 1 - Core concepts and terminology What are the core concepts for distributed ledger technology? How can you distinguish between business activities and technological processes? Is it possible to create accurate standard definitions that will last the test of time? What are some of those definitions?
11:30 AM - 11:45 AM	Morning Break
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	Roundtable 2 - Characterising Digital Currency What is digital currency - money, currency, commodity, or intangible asset? Can these existing categories accurately define digital currency, or is it so unique that new definitions are required? How does this interact with existing legal frameworks for property and money?
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Roundtable 3 - Characterising the Crypto-token What is a crypto-token? Currency, asset, securities, or merely a system administration function? How can you appropriately regulate identical technological processes that have different commercial uses? Is there a need for a regulatory framework that adopts a purposive approach to characterising a crypto-token?
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Roundtable 4 - Use Cases - Payments, Smart Contracts, Decentralized Applications, Smart Cities, Internet of Things What are the key applications and uses cases for blockchain technologies? How can industry sectors and government stakeholders leverage the technology for reduction of transaction costs, increased transparency, economic growth and

technology innovation? What does the growth of mobile penetration and Internet of Things mean for developing economies and emerging markets?

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Afternoon Break

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Roundtable 5 - Policy & Regulation

What are some of the key activities that pose risk to consumers or financial markets? Is it possible to map out the various risk profiles and what would an appropriate regulatory framework look like? How can you balance regulation and innovation? Are there any technological solutions to mitigating risks that are inherent in distributed ledger technology? What are the key activities that create a high risk profile for AML/CTF? What are some appropriate regulatory requirements for each risk profile? Can anything be learnt from the regulatory regimes that are being explored for Mobile Money?

Registration

The registration fee is \$50 USD per person. All proceeds from registration will be allocated to further the creation of open-source legal policy research on the topics discussed.

To register, please go to:

https://coala_policyroundtable.eventbrite.com.au

Attendance is by invitation only. If you wish to nominate a person to attend on your behalf, or request additional invitees, please contact Constance Choi at constance@coala.global.