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Do we need a global dispute resolution committee?

Workshop facilitated by User:Ajraddatz and User:DerHexer

Who are we?

User:Ajraddatz

- Wikimedia Steward since 2014
- involved in Meta-matters since 2010
- home wiki: wikidata

User:DerHexer

- Wikimedia Steward since 2005
- administrator on several projects
- home wiki: dewiki

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What do we mean with disputes?

- disagreements about content edits
- interpersonal social conflicts
- cultural differences
- conflicts between individuals or groups
- governance issues

What types of dispute resolution exist?

- calling your Wiki friends
- community resolutions (RfCs)
- administrator interventions
- mediation committee consultations
- Arbitration Committee motions

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Examples

friends — RfCs — admins — mediation — ArbCom

- **dewiki: yes — rarely — yes — rarely — limited**
- **enwiki: yes — sometimes — yes — rarely — yes**

Which kinds of dispute resolutions exist on your home wiki?

friends — RfCs — admins — mediation — ArbCom

Others?

Did you ever need dispute resolution?

How satisfied have you been with the resolution, by individuals and by groups?

Let’s talk about global and small-wiki disputes.

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What kind of global disputes have we experienced?

- nationalism
- cultural differences
- clash of authority about languages
- “administrator abuse”

How are multi-project conflicts currently handled?

- Request for Comments on metawiki
  - involved communities informed locally
  - longish discussions without clear end
  - several groups approached to make decisions, none of them responsible nor have the competencies (stewards, metawiki administrators/bureaucrats, global administrators, WMF, etc.)
  - uncertainty about the enforcement of sanctions

What types of dispute resolutions exist on a global level?

- for individual contributors: only the sledge hammer solution aka Global Bans after Requests for Comments
- for group conflicts: no standard solutions

Which solutions have been proposed so far?

- A dispute resolution committee: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Requests_for_comment/Dispute_resolution_committee
- A global requests committee: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Requests_for_comment/Global_requests_committee

How can we improve the situation?

Models

- Global ArbCom?
- Panel of stewards or random admins/users?
- Foundation-supported commissions (similar to OC)
- Structured RfC with entry barrier?

Structure

- Global involvement: How should this discussion be held?
- Scope: What should be the scope of the committee?
- Selection: Who could help with resolutions?
- Language: Which languages should be represented?
- Rights: What rights should they have?
- Authority: How do they get authority?
- Sanctions: What kind of sanctions should exist?
- Enforcement: How should sanctions be enforced?
- WMF involvement: Should the owner be involved?

Thank you!