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
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
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.
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_communication/Dispute_resolution_committee
- A global requests committee: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Requests_for_communication/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!