

**ICANN Costa Rica Meeting
Ongoing and Pending Projects - TRANSCRIPTION
Saturday 10th March 2012 at 10:00 local time**

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Stephane van Gelder: So welcome everyone to Costa Rica. Welcome to the new council members joining us for the first time for this meeting. Welcome to the - I'm not going to say old - existing council members. Nice to see you all once again. Look forward to a week of productive work with you all. Welcome to our excellent staff support and welcome to everyone else in the room obviously who are joining us for these meetings.

I will probably have some housekeeping issues as we get into the morning but let's try and get the meeting started now as swiftly as we can and we'll come back to those throughout the day.

So our first session of this GNSO Council working weekend is just to look at the pending projects list. As you know this is something that we've strived to do for the last year at least is to make sure we keep the pending projects list on our radar.

Obviously it's an important part of the work that we do; I'd say a crucial part of the work that we do by prioritizing our work and making sure we're aware of all the - of where our pending projects are at, what's happening, what's happening in the groups, drafting teams and working groups that are working on policy and other matters on behalf of the GNSO.

So we wanted to start the weekend off with an update on those pending projects. And to do that I have asked Liz Gasster to - from ICANN policy staff to kindly give us an update on this. But before you do that, Liz, can I ask Glen to do a brief roll call please?

Glen de Saint Gery: Thank you, Stephane. I think perhaps we should just go around the table and let everybody say their name and who they are; shall we do that? Okay. Can we start from Mason please?

Mason Cole: Mason Cole, councilor for the Registrar Stakeholder Group.

Yoav Keren: Yoav Keren, councilor for the Registrar Stakeholder Group.

Thomas Rickert: Thomas Rickert, Nom Comm appointee.

Brian Winterfeldt: Brian Winterfeldt, IPC.

David Taylor: David Taylor, IPC.

Mary Wong: Mary Wong, NCSG.

Joy Liddicoat: Joy Liddicoat, NCSG.

Bill Drake: Bill Drake, NCSG.

Jonathan Robinson: Jonathan Robinson, Registries.

Ching Chiao: Ching Chiao, Registry Constituency.

Carlos Aguirre: Carlos Aguirre, NCA.

Oswaldo Novoa: Oswaldo Novoa, ISPC - CP.

Wolf Ulrich-Knoben: Wolf Ulrich-Knoben, IS (PDP).

Liz Gasster: Liz Gasster, ICANN Policy staff.

Jeff Neuman: Jeff Neuman, Registry Stakeholder Group.

Stephane van Gelder: Stephane van Gelder, Registrars.

Glen de Saint G ry: Glen de Saint G ry, GNSO Secretariat.

Margie Milam: Margie Milam, ICANN Policy staff.

Marika Konings: Marika Konings, ICANN Policy staff.

Julie Hedlund: Julie Hedlund, ICANN Policy staff.

Wolfgang Kleinwachter: Wolfgang Kleinwachter, Non Commercial Stakeholder Group.

Wendy Seltzer: Wendy Seltzer, Non Commercial Stakeholder Group.

John Berard: John Berard from the Business Constituency.

Lanre Ajayi: Lanre Ajayi, Non Comm appointee.

Rob Hogarth: Rob Hogarth, ICANN Policy staff.

Brian Peck: Brian Peck, ICANN Policy staff.

Glen de Saint Gery: And Rafik Dammak has not yet arrived. And I think we are all here. Han Chuan Lee is unable to join us. He is the ccNSO observer. And Alan Greenberg is not here yet. Zahid is not here yet either but they are in Costa Rica. Zahid and Rafik and Alan. Thank you, Stephane, over to you.

Stephane van Gelder: Glen, thanks very much. Over to Liz.

Liz Gasster: Thank you and good morning everyone. Thank you very much for the opportunity to chat with you today. I'm Liz Gasster of the ICANN Policy staff. I'm going to give just a quick update on ongoing and pending projects of which we're still kind of at a peak load I would say in the GNSO.

So we do have - kind of current status first - eight active working groups and drafting teams, which I'll review in a sec. One pending PDP related to the RAA; three possible PDPs, the thick Whois, uniformity of contracts and a specific law enforcement-related RAA.

We have five joint SO and AC working groups. And we have two projects awaiting Council action. Again I'll go through these in just a sec. And then in addition to that we also have quite a few activities in addition to these that are listed here like the Whois studies and other work that the ICANN Policy staff is engaged in.

In terms of active working groups we have the standing committee that met this morning. We have the Whois Service Requirements Survey Working group; we have a cross community working group. We have the IRTP Part C Working Group, the Consumer Metrics Working Group, Fake Renewal Notices Drafting Team, drafting team on locking of a domain name relative to UDRP and we have the drafting team on the IOC/Red Cross issue.

In addition I mentioned pending and possible PDPs; we have a potential Board-initiated PDP on the RAA. We have a potential Council-initiated PDP related to specific item I think Tim Ruiz raised, yeah - PDP for thick Whois on Wednesday and a preliminary issue report that we're working on for uniformity of contracts.

I mentioned joint SO and AC working groups; we have several working groups that are joint working groups with other SOs and ACs, the Geographic Regions Working Group, the Joint Internationalized - Internationalization - the JIG Working Group, the IRD, which is Internationalized Registration Data Working Group which just published its final report, the DSSA Security and Stability Working Group and the joint ccNSO or the ccNSO Study Group on use of names for countries and territories.

We do have a couple of projects still awaiting Council action. This is - these have been kind of tabled for a while now, the best practices issue and Whois access. So we still have a couple of things definitely in the queue. I think for discussion really the issue continues to be is the workload manageable?

We still have challenges with working groups - populating working groups actively with community participants. We do have new projects that we know of plus some that are not foreseen necessarily or anticipated that we need to be able to think about how we would manage.

And we still have, again, the challenge of broad participation and engagement in all of our working groups. There's always like a - kind of big crescendo at the beginning and then, you know, as working groups continue participation tends to really lag and that's a problem.

You know, we initiate working groups and then we really don't have the active support of the community to bring the work to closure at the end. So I think, you know, for discussion today might be just, you know, continued management of the workload and awareness on all your parts that there is a potential fatigue in the community and incredible work volume for the community as well as for staff.

And we really need to think about whether we have continued energy to continue to work on all of our projects and...

Stephane van Gelder: So, Liz, we were told there would be a photographer here this week. I didn't realize that would be the outcome.

Liz Gasster: There's still time to fix it. Thank you, Stephane.

Stephane van Gelder: Thank you, Liz, for that presentation. Before I open it up for questions I just want to stress what Liz said. I think we've actually worked very hard on the pending projects list over the past year certainly. And I think we've got some good results.

But it is important to keep track so I keep on referring to the list. And as you know we have a permanent fixture in our teleconference calls on the agenda to have a look at the list. And I urge you all to bring up any questions or updates - requests that you have so that - welcome Rafik - so that we are able to address any questions and keep things moving on those pending projects.

Does anybody have any comments or questions? Yeah, Wendy.

Wendy Seltzer: Yes a very important question which is to ask Liz if we can post that last slide someplace?

Man: Oh yeah.

Marika Konings: Just (unintelligible) actually all these pictures are publicly available on the ICANN Flickr site.

Stephane van Gelder: Marika, I believe you have to ask the Chair before you can speak. Yeah, Rob.

Rob Hogarth: Thank you, Stephane. This is something that Liz and I didn't plan but I thought it would also be helpful to note that there are a number of initiatives or activities that just the staff were continuing to work on. So while a lot of the

items up there do reflect community work, things that you're all volunteering for and participating in substantially there are still some outstanding things out there.

And from time to time folks will ask me questions about them or raise them so I just wanted to highlight some of those that are, quote, unquote, pending. In particular they're in the areas of budget, communications and more strategic structural items.

In the area of budget a number of your communities have been very good in working with a finance team on providing requests for additional resources. We also, as you know, have the GNSO toolkit and a number of your communities have been very good in terms of sharing your expectations for the coming fiscal year with Glen and what sort of administrative support that you'll be using. So you appreciate there's a lot of Glen's time that goes into those operations and getting that stuff together.

On the communications from you've all been wonderfully, you know, not asking every time you see me or Scott Pinzon where's the GNSO Website, where's the new thing that - thank you, John, thank you, Marilyn.

And that project is still underway. One of the challenges when you have a limited staff and you have additional things like new gTLDs, new ICANN.org Websites and the rest is it takes resources away from what we can do. And so I wanted to provide the assurance to all of you that that work continues.

We've identified additional resources by being able to bring Berry Cobb on board to help us out with some of that management and structural type issues. So I wanted you to know that that is continuing.

There's also in the area of structure and implementation of GNSO improvements this concept of providing educational materials particularly for many of you who are new, recognition that there's a lot of things that aren't

evident or immediately apparent to you in terms of working processes, in terms of what do I do at an ICANN meeting, in terms of a variety of things.

And so we have been working - particularly Liz, me and one of our other consultants, Seth Green, on developing educational materials not just for new people but for people who are re-familiarizing themselves or getting involved in things.

There's also - as we mentioned many of you weren't in the SCI meeting earlier today. But as we look just about a year from now we're going to be looking at another round of GNSO independent review. You know, we've reached that five-year cycle from the Board cycle perspective.

And so staff is doing some work with the Board particularly the Structural Improvements Committee, to try to make that process more regular, more smoother. And there's going to be outreach to a lot of you and your individual communities so that we can improve that process and make that more of an objective exercise.

So I just wanted you to realize that there is other stuff going on behind the scenes. And at any point if you're wondering what's happening with X or Y please reach out to Liz, me or any other member of the team to give you an update. Thank you, Stephane.

Stephane van Gelder: Rob, thanks. I would like to ask - unless there are other questions - I'd like to ask you guys how useful you find this list because we've - on the Council Leadership Team we've actually looked at how the list is formatted. And we've experimented with things for example there's a set of abbreviations on the list that I personally find useful but that, I'm told, have no real meaning. The list itself, as you can see, is broken up into sections.

I was just wondering if, you know, is this actually useful for you guys? Do you have suggestions for the format of the list? Should it be changed? Do you

care? Marilyn. Is that - when you do that does that mean you want to ask a question when you do - yeah.

Marilyn Cade: Because otherwise I should just jump up and down in my chair? Oh sorry. Yes, thank you, Stephane. Marilyn Cade. I have a comment about something that Rob said but a response to this question and I'll take the response to this question first if I might?

As the chair of a constituency I find the list very helpful. The list however I think it's important to understand that the list is broader than about gTLD projects. And I think that's good. I think it's - that makes it a helpful tool to the entirety of the leadership, the constituencies, the SG, the houses.

So one thing I might just ask is if it would be possible to think about a column - and I'm just making this up, Rob, as I'm speaking - but it might be possible to think about a column or an asterisk if it's a topic that for instance the reviews - the GNSO review which is about the GNSO not just about the GNSO policy approach - would be a cross-cutting topic I think.

So maybe it would be helpful for us to think about enhancing it - the - sort of the at a glance aspect of the list to put a little more information like if there's - if it has a multi-year impact or if it's cross-cutting or related just to gTLD policy. Thank you.

Stephane van Gelder: Thanks for that, Marilyn. Jonathan.

Jonathan Robinson: Thanks, Stephane. I think it's a useful list. I think it's very helpful to be able to get a quick digest of the landscape. It may be helpful to put names - some sort of contact name there of either ICANN staff and/or anyone, you know, a chair of the group to the extent that that's relevant.

Stephane van Gelder: That's actually on the list already. When you - there's a high level summary and then if you click on the links or if you...

((Crosstalk))

Jonathan Robinson: I apologize. I have - what I really actually meant was very helpful to do that, that's right, yeah, sorry.

Stephane van Gelder: Thanks. Any other - Wolf.

Wolf Ulrich-Knoben: Yes thank you. Wolf Ulrich-Knoben speaking. I also agree with the list, it's very helpful to myself and also to our constituency as well. For somebody who is not very much deeply involved so members of the constituency, for example, who are not on the Council and so I wonder whether it would be possible to put some indicator in such a list which means about the, you know, not the priority but about the load - the workload or the heaviness of the different items.

Because we list those items, they are different - they are different in the amount of work to be done. And so the question is there a way to do so.

And while I have the mic so I also would like to share some views about the question of prioritization. And this was back to Stephane, I wonder how it fits together. You know, in the last year we decided the Council to have meetings just every four weeks - from four (unintelligible) weeks.

And so in some meetings - some telephone conferences with the Council - and have ended earlier. And there were things that had been planned. So that might be a kind of indication to somebody okay there is not too much work to be done if the Council finish its work after one or one and a half hours.

So I know it's different but I wonder myself how this fits together on the one hand but we have heard by Liz, you know, heavy workload of stuff - heavy workload - in connection with those projects. And on the other hand the - is

okay the meeting structure we have - that's the question. I don't have a solution yet but there's something which doesn't fit very well together. Thank you.

Stephane van Gelder: Thanks, Wolf. It might also be an indication of the quality of the work that the Council has done over the past year which has allowed us to streamline some of these projects and get some of work done.

Before passing it over to Alan I'd just like to remind the people behind us that these are open sessions and we are discussing things that are for the Council and the community as well so please do not hesitate to ask questions or make comments; just come up to the table, grab a mic, state your name and please do so; don't hesitate to. Alan.

Alan Greenberg: Thank you. Just a very short comment on something Wolf said. It strikes me that the Council meetings ending early can have just the opposite meaning; that the key people are so overwhelmed that work products are not getting to the stage where they're ready for Council yet.

And so you can read that both ways; it depends on evenly split the work is to a very large extent. I know certainly in groups I've worked at you see the same people over and over again and their limit is just - there are just limits to how much they can do and get to - get ready to get to Council so.

Stephane van Gelder: So I have Jeff, Joy. Sorry.

Jeff Neuman: That's okay. I was - this is Jeff Neuman. I was going to say the same thing as Alan. I think it's actually a demonstration that the bottom-up process is working; that it's not the Council that has to do so much anymore it's really the work - the bulk of the work is being done by the groups that are - the working groups, the drafting teams and all the other teams that are set up.

And the quality of work I think that's coming out of those groups are, you know, of such that, you know, the Council doesn't necessarily have to do so much tinkering and is sort of getting out of the policy making arena.

Stephane van Gelder: Joy.

Joy Liddicoat: Thanks, Stephane. And just to pick up on Jeff's point particularly as I new councilor I just wanted to thank staff for pulling together this list; I found it extremely helpful. And it certainly clarifies in terms of broad picture the work that the GNSO is doing and certainly that staff overview I've found extremely helpful and clear.

I hear that there are comments about how that can continue to be improved. And my only suggestion would be to just please keep that simplicity and clarity because I have found it very useful. Thank you.

Stephane van Gelder: Thank you very much. Any further comments? In which case we will end that session now. We've got five minutes to go until the next session which promises to be interesting. So let's have a short break and we'll start again in five minutes time. Thank you very much.

END