Note: The following is the output of transcribing from an audio. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases it is incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages or transcription errors. It
is posted as an aid to understanding the proceedings at the meeting, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.
On page: http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/calendar#oct
The recordings and transcriptions of the calls are posted on the GNSO Master Calendar page

Jonathan Robinson: It's about the GNSO PDP improvements. We'll have an update from Marika and Lars and have an opportunity to discuss where we are with this work. Yeah, go ahead.

Marika Konings: So this is Marika. So as you may recall, there's a list of GNSO PDP improvements that we identified a while back. On quite a few we've, you know, made quite a significant progress. One of the things we, for example, discussed this morning, the, you know, consideration of the charter together with the final issue report is one of those.

What we wanted to focus on today is one of the other aspects that were identified – how to make sure that there are materials and opportunities for people to learn and especially, you know, get introduced to work off the GNSO and how to make it easier for newcomers to participate and get an induction into what it actually means to participate and how you can participate.

So Lars is actually going to showcase some of the work he and Mary have been spearheading in that regard.

Lars Hoffmann: Thank you Marika. Yes we've been working with Mary on an online course and a new platform that's actually done in a different development department under Nora. And we've been working on the introduction to the

GNSO course that you can see online that we've been putting together. It's not completed. We had some great feedback from some community members, Heather and Carlos. And then (Reid) as well got back to us.

And so the idea was to make this aimed at newcomers. I kind of tried to think back to enough years ago when I joined ICANN I knew nothing - what would have been helpful for me to find out or to know. I'm obviously not expert yet so there might be shortcomings in there, but we're working on eyeing those out and this should launch very soon.

So if you go to the ICANN Web site, I'm just going to be two minutes. I'm not going to take you through it all of course. This is what it looks like. So you have the design is nothing to it there. So it's a platform that we're using. We're just fitting in the content if you want.

So the big headline, it is actually the GNSO, then the stakeholder groups and constituencies, information about the council, what is expected of counselors. There's a whole section on the PDP process step by step. The responsibilities for those who want to chair a working group, some information on how to keep up to date with the GNSO and then some videos of members from the GNSO.

There's been just some that we showed over time and we can add to this. And in fact I'm just going to show you very quickly – and some of the courses – so if you click here – so this is, you know, the stakeholder group and constituencies. So I gave a quick overview of all of them in there.

And if you open this up, then you'll see that his name is Chuck Gomes. And some of these have videos in fact inside.

((VIDEO))

Chuck Gomes: I'm a part of the (unintelligible) Registries Stakeholder Group representing (unintelligible) the registry from the (unintelligible) Internet domain names.

((END VIDEO))

Lars Hoffmann: So there's some of these videos on the…

((VIDEO))

Chuck Gomes: I've been part of ICANN since ICANN was formed in 1998. The rewarding part of it comes with time. It's a very complicated process, multi-stakeholder bottom up, takes time. It's messy, but when you succeed working with lots of others it's very rewarding.

From a GNSO perspective I think the best way to get started is to get involved in a GNSO working group. The working groups is where the policy development work really happens. It's where the bottom up multi-stakeholder process works. So it's a great way to get involved.

((END VIDEO))

Lars Hoffmann: So there's videos of lots of community members and this is how we're going to be adding to these as well over time. We will send this out to the council list. For those who would like to - you have to sign up. It's just an e-mail and a password. It's free obviously.

And if you have any ideas that things you would like to see in addition for factual issues that you would like to have added or if need be removed, you are very welcome to get in touch with us and we'll be working with you very happily.

So this is still work in process in terms of, you know, like for example the idea that we have these kind of courses for some of the PDPs as well, to give people overviews like what does this PDP do? Obviously there's an issue with keeping those up to date because as the PDP moves along.

But I think it's something we can work on. So it's a first step but I think it's a fairly decent step forward if I say so myself.

Jonathan Robinson: Okay thanks Lars. You may say so. It looks great. So this is the ICANN sort of learn platform or - is there anything else you or Marika want to cover in the sort of PDP improvements update in this sec – so that's it?

Lars Hoffmann: Yes just (unintelligible) that.

Jonathan Robinson: Okay interesting and probably very useful for incoming counsellors, new participants and I guess for counselors to also communicate out through their different groups. Heather go ahead.

Heather Forrest: Thank you Jonathan. Heather Forrest. I just wanted to say a few words in support of what Lars has said. I went through the program last - over the course of this week with a fine tooth comb and I thought it was excellent. I've seen previous attempts to do something like this, not necessarily with the GNSO, and I thought this was quite user friendly.

The one recommendation that I would make really substantive which Lars you picked up on is if we can have some exemplars of a PDP and perhaps even a working group, this is how this working group works and that sort of thing.

I'll make a plug as well. I thought one of the most useful pieces of information – and it also comes out in a very clever crafting of the videos – is the how to participate in a working group and the articulation of the recommendation that a number of us made in that video, the best way to engage with ICANN is to join a working group.

But I thought the sensible recommendations there about perhaps if you're brand new don't attempt to chair the working group. I thought that the content was really very good around that material. So hats off to Lars and Mary and Marika for an excellent output really.

Jonathan Robinson: Great, thank you Heather. So as I said a moment ago, it's probably up to us to propagate this as well and assist with the communication of it because that way it'll A, be used and B, will get further feedback. Would anyone else like to contribute? (James)?

(James):   Thanks. (James) speaking and thanks Lars and Marika. I think that, you know, the content is going to change. The formatting's going to change, but just one suggestion, just kind of an off-the-wall suggestion, is that instead of using learn.icann.org/courses/gnso, how about icann.university or icann.new or icann.learn or something? Let's take advantage of some of the expanded gTLDs to really drive a branded presence for this initiative out to the wider community. Just a thought. Thanks.

Jonathan Robinson: Marika?

Marika Konings: If there are no further – this is Marika – so if there are no further comments specifically on this I just wanted to note in general in the GNSO PDP improvements I think we've made quite a bit of progress on quite a number of those.

And maybe it's worth for the next meeting to kind of recap where we are and kind of close off some of those items and maybe think of are there other elements that we should be working on as a GNSO, as a council as well as staff.

One of the examples is the - we've now had quite some experiments with the charter. Introducing the charter is part of the preliminary issue report. Is it something we should be codifying? Is it something that seems to be working so is it something for example where the (SCI) can look at how to write it into the PDP manual?

Similar here – are there further things that need to be done? Because I think at some point it's good as well if we can mark like okay this is - we've closed this project now off and we can move on to the next.

Or as well there are I think a couple of items where we actually haven't really done a lot and it's worth asking is it still worth going down that path or do we actually recognize that maybe it's not worth putting more energy in, you know, those ideas but actually start thinking about other aspects in which we can, you know, enhance and streamline the PDP as well as participation in the process.

Jonathan Robinson: Did I miss when you went in – if you thought – I mean the questions are all good and the points are. Did you have an idea of when we might pick up on that or…?

Marika Konings: Yes this is Marika. So basically whenever the council would want. I mean we've made this a standing item for each ICANN meeting, so next opportunity would be Marrakech unless the council thinks it's worth doing that at an earlier time.

Jonathan Robinson: I would imagine that some suggestions might come out of the work on Friday when the council has their sort of off-site session. But certainly, I mean, this links into that objective of continuous improvement and efficiency and effectiveness of the council's work in a PDP process.

So actually - and you're right. I mean, what we've essentially worked on is work through a series of ideas, completed some of them, made others experimental and not really progressed others. So it's worth going through those systematically at some point and so refreshing the work on the PDP improvements. Thank you.

All right, let's draw under that. Thank you Lars. It looks very impressive. I haven't been through it with the diligence that Heather has but it does look

very impressive at face value and I'm sure it's a useful resource so thank you very much.