
DUBLIN – Welcome Ceremony & President's Opening Session
Monday, October 19, 2015 – 08:30 to 10:00 IST
ICANN54 | Dublin, Ireland

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to announce the vice president, Europe, Jean-Jacques Sahel.

[Applause]

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Bonjour, ola, dobry den, nihao, salaam, shalom, good morning.

This is not Eurovision, nor am I Steve Crocker, as you may have noticed and Nancy told you, and we are innovating at this meeting.

In my capacity as the regional vice president, it is my privilege to be officiating as the master of ceremony for this opening, and so it's with great pleasure that I would like to welcome you all to the 54th public meeting of ICANN. Welcome to Europe. Welcome to Dublin.

[Applause]

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MR. NIALL MURPHY: I'm delighted to see so many of you here from all over the world. Stakeholders, leaders of our sister Internet organizations, from the IETF to ISOC, the RIRs and so many others, and good to have you all here and thank you for making it to ICANN 54.

I'd also like to recognize and thank the Minister of Communications, Energy, and Natural Resources, Alex White, TD, and his staff, for being here and for all their help in preparing for this momentous event, and also for their help in facilitating the visa processes for some attendees.

Now, I have many friends in this community in this room. Some of them have known me for quite a long time. Long ago, in fact, when I still had hair.

[Laughter]

And I received a very clear cross-community consensus advice from those of them who knew that I was going to speak here this morning. They said, "Keep it short."

[Laughter]

And so it's therefore without further ado, and with great honor and pleasure, ladies and gentlemen, that I would like to call on stage the ICANN board chair, Dr. Stephen Crocker.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: It's a good crowd here this morning. It's a pleasure to be here. Thank you, Jean-Jacques.

I understand what James Joyce meant when he said "When I die, Dublin will be written in my heart."

Dublin's literary heritage is phenomenal. As you walk these streets between sessions, remember, you are following the footsteps of George Bernard Shaw, poet W.B. Yeats, playwright Oscar Wilde, and many others. In fact, it was Wilde who once said something that may serve us well in the coming week: "Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the result."

So let's hope that the week ahead will be defined by successful results.

And I want to add my warm welcome to the ministers and all stakeholders who are joining us in Dublin and all others around the globe joining us remotely, along with regional Internet registries, our sister Internet organizations, the ISTARs.

And I should note at this point that we're extremely grateful to our host, the Internet Neutral Exchange or INEX, which has been an amazingly helpful host.

If you haven't heard, INEX has put together what promises to be a wonderful gala this evening, which is basically going to be spread across four prominent Dublin bars.

And before anyone gets too excited, let me remind you that tomorrow is also a workday.

[Laughter]

I'm told you'll need a wristband for the event, so if you haven't picked one up already, they're available at the INEX booth in the exhibitor area.

So that's the fun part of the meeting. Now let's talk about the work part, and particularly the transition.

For some, the work here in Dublin actually began last week with some important meetings involving the IANA stewardship transition. And let me ask: How many people have been here since last week working on this?

Yeah.

So for all of you, and for me, even though this is Monday morning, this is the middle of our workweek, so to speak.

I don't know about you guys, but I'm already feeling some of the pressure and some of the fatigue, so let me suggest that we all

stand up and take a stretch and get ready for this -- the next half of our working time.

[Stretch break]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: So the next time we all get up and stretch, there will be some alcohol in our hands, I hope.

All right. So without a doubt, many of us are, indeed, focused on this issue, as are people all around the globe. We're being watched. We're being watched carefully. And this is definitely a turbulent time and it's challenging everybody. It's challenging everybody in this room. It's challenging our communities, staff, the board for sure.

And it's also an opportunity. It's also an opportunity to show everyone how we work together. Make no mistake, the pressure is on and the world is watching.

It's been 18 months since the U.S. government asked ICANN to facilitate a global multistakeholder meeting -- sequence of meetings aimed at formulating a proposal on how best to transition the IANA stewardship functions.

Since that time, stakeholders from around the globe have worked tirelessly on the issue of how best to enhance ICANN's accountability.

Let me give you a glimpse of just how much work has gone into these efforts.

Roughly 300 people have been involved with working groups. More than 340 meetings have been held. And there have been 25,000 mailing list exchanges, and I suspect many people here have actually tried to read every one of those.

This is a multistakeholder model in action and I want to just take a moment to thank everyone who's been involved. So thank you all.

[Applause]

This meeting, ICANN 54, is an important milestone. The finish line, we believe, is now in sight. The board has certainly come together and is committed to facilitate and support the community in every way that we can, and it's my sincere hope that we all come together in a positive spirit that is punctuated by mutual respect.

Even though the transition is front and center on all of our plates, there are a couple of other things that are in progress as well.

For example, even though we're focused on the transition, we have a search underway to succeed our unique and impossible-to-duplicate CEO, Fadi Chehade, but he'll be leaving soon, and as I said, the search is underway.

We are pretty much on schedule, which is a real challenge in these kinds of activities. We are currently interviewing candidates and it remains our plan to be able to announce a new CEO sometime around the first of the year.

This is also, as you're aware, our annual general meeting and that means that there will be some board members departing and new board members joining us. We will be making that precise change of departing -- the current board members leaving and new board members arriving at the very tail end of the session on Thursday afternoon. Please join us at the public board meeting that follows the public forum.

Now, I would also encourage you to attend a special session just prior to the public forum when we recognize some of our valued community leaders for their tireless contributions.

And another piece of business. We have been looking for some time at how we run these meetings. I'm told that we have 1800 people or so checked in for this meeting, and some 371 sessions scheduled. That's an extraordinary number.

There you see the slide showing the growth of meetings and attendees over time. We've grown quite a bit.

Clearly, our meeting strategy has to evolve to keep up with the increasing number of attendees and escalating demand for sessions, and this is true even if we remain stable at the numbers that we are now.

Two years ago, the board formed the meetings strategy working group with broad cross-community membership, and after a great deal of work and study and public comment, this group came up with a new strategy for ICANN meetings to make more efficient use of our time and to facilitate broader choices in where we hold meetings.

The problem is that if we keep having meetings this size, we'll have to keep coming back to Dublin. We wouldn't want to do that, would we?

We would, actually.

[Laughter]

In any case, after a great deal of work, we came up with a new strategy to make more efficient use, and I'll take a minute to go over this new strategy, which begins with our next meeting, ICANN 55, in Morocco, this slide showing the framework.

So we have now a differentiation among the types of meetings. We have -- we call them A, B, and C. We're not very creative with our naming.

The A meeting is comparable to what we have been using.

The B meeting in June, in the middle of the year next year, will be curtailed.

And the C meeting will be expanded.

The B meeting obviously will be one in which we are not doing certain things, and in particular, we won't have a welcoming speech like this and a number of other things.

There will be opportunity to interact and discuss any of these during the second public forum on Thursday. The board will have an opportunity to respond to any questions that you may have about this or any other topics, and it will be interesting and welcoming to hear your questions.

The third meeting of the year, which will be held generally around this time, is again similar to what we currently do but extended a bit to seven days, which will allow an opportunity to showcase the community's work and also to showcase it to a broader global community.

And again, there will be two public forums and a welcome session, as there are.

You can find out more about all of this on the ICANN Web site, which I encourage you to do.

That's the way ICANN meetings will look in the future, but let's jump back to this meeting.

There's obviously a lot of work to do, but what we accomplish here is more important and will help define the future, and please remember one very important thing. By defining the future, we also define ourselves.

Thank you and have a very good week.

[Applause]

It's now my great honor to introduce you to the chair of INEX and host of our meeting, Niall Murphy. Niall has been involved in Ireland's Internet industry since 1994 and he's been with INEX since 1999. He's currently cowriting a history of the Internet in Ireland through his day job as leading the Ads Site Reliability Engineering Team at Google Ireland.

Niall?

[Applause]

NIALL MURPHY:

Mr. Crocker, Mr. Chehade, Minister, and ICANN staff, thank you for the opportunity to address you today on behalf of your ICANN 54 hosts, INEX.

It is with great pleasure and great anticipation that I welcome you to Dublin.

If you will permit me to be nakedly partisan for a short while, this is a wonderful moment for Ireland. I have been involved, as you heard, in the Internet industry here for a little over 20 years, back when I still had hair, and Ireland has come a long way in that -- a long distance in that time.

I remember very clearly my colleague, Dr. Niall O'Reilly, from University College Dublin, leaning over my cubicle in the computer science department where I worked explaining that the single 256-kilobit link from HEAnet that served 150,000 users was full and no one knew why. The problem went away after a few days, presumably as whoever was FTPing their CD-ROMs accidentally rebooted their machine, but it was a potent reminder that we were peripheral.

But today, no one could claim that.

For a start, I'm not sure you can even get anyone to sell you anything denominated in kilobits anymore. Furthermore, the Internet giants of the 21st century are here, some clustered

across the road in Silicon Docks, placing us at the heart of the information industry.

Indeed, since about a week or two ago, our data protection commissioner seems to be Europe's data protection commissioner, which is going to be an interesting journey for all of us.

The key point being that despite our size, small size, and our location, we have come, in some way, to matter.

It's also a wonderful moment for INEX, the premier Irish exchange point, who brought ICANN 54 here, and our members, including family member eir, providing the connectivity. This is an especially important day for INEX as we reach today the milestone of 100 members in our association.

I, as INEX chair, have a strong belief that what we've built is as much Ireland's future as it is Ireland's past. We're providing an environment here where businesses and individuals can explore what we have to offer, perhaps even consider whether they might want to call this place home at some point in the future, as well as welcoming back many people with connections to our island.

There are many opportunities in talking to IDA Ireland, our highly successful foreign direct investment agency, for

organizations considering locating here. We encourage you to take those opportunities.

Indeed, the IDA has a number of staff at INEX's booth number 4 today, and they will be delighted to talk to you.

In Buenos Aires, at ICANN 53, we announced that the ICANN gala would make a comeback here in Dublin in the almost spiritual home of great nights out.

At an event called "That Night in Dublin," we will be showing you the very best of live music, deejays, storytelling, comedy, and street performers across a number of fantastic venues in Dame Lane in Dublin City Center.

INEX, together with the .IE domain registry, Blacknight, InterConnect Communications, and Visit Dublin, as well as the ever helpful IDA, promises to be, as well as "That Night in Dublin," that night to remember as well.

And wristbands from our booth are required, available from our booth until 4:00, as said previously by Steve.

The camaraderie and coming together of "That Night in Dublin" will hopefully seep into the day-to-day business of ICANN 54, helping to create an environment where differences can be accepted and compromises achieved.

In that context, it's probably appropriate to reflect on the other great compromise on our island, that of peace in Northern Ireland.

Perhaps the same spirit which enabled us to satisfy long-standing differences might also infuse attendees here with the necessary flexibility and the will to succeed, to achieve consensus on the challenging issues facing ICANN, the governance model, privacy in a networked world, and its future direction in a rapidly changing environment.

Speaking again of our literary heritage, Irish author Brendan Behan once said, "Many of our fears are tissue paper thin and a single courageous step would take us clear through them." A northern Irish poet Seamus Heaney also wrote, "Believe that further shore is reachable from here."

Here in Dublin at ICANN54, I urge you all to take your single courageous step and to reach that further shore.

Thank you very much.

[Applause]

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you, Niall. And thanks to everyone at INEX, CEO, Barry Rhodes and Eileen Gallagher and everybody else for all their

hard work over the past year in making ICANN54 a reality and for organizing the much-anticipated gala dinner, of course.

Now, I would like to welcome to the stage the President and chief executive of ICANN, Fadi Chehade.

[Applause]

MR. FADI CHEHADE:

Good morning. I'm here first to talk about a leader in our community.

ICANN has many leaders, many people who work very hard and the type of leadership by ICANN is very different from the leadership we understand in the broader society. Here, as I've learned, leadership starts with humility. It starts with listening. It starts with working with everyone to build consensus. It's a different type of leadership.

And so once a year, many of us at ICANN get together and think about our community and the quiet leadership that happens every day on every list, in every meeting, in every effort. And we try to pick someone that stands out.

And this year, the ICANN leadership award will go to one of you who has, frankly, inspired me and helped me understand how with little we can do a lot.

So I would like to welcome the winner of this year's ICANN leadership award to the stage, Siranush Vardanyan.

[Applause]

So let me tell you a little bit about Siranush. How many of you bring your nieces to the ICANN meeting? So if I could ask Irina to please come on stage as well because Siranush brought her young niece.

[Applause]

Welcome.

First of all, happy birthday.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you.

[Applause]

MR. FADI CHEHADE: Siranush is an example of what we call ICANN leadership. This is her 18th ICANN meeting, I believe. And she is come to many of them making sure that she finds the resources on her own to come and show up here and be part of this community.

Siranush hails from Armenia, a country on the edge of Asia. And there she has been a leader as well. But before I go to what she

has done in her homeland, let's talk a little bit about what she has done at ICANN.

So she is the first winner of this award who is actually a fellow. She started as an ICANN fellow.

[Applause]

How many fellows here? Raise your hand if you are a fellow. I see a good 30, 40 hands here. Welcome to the fellows. Your first fellow here on stage.

By the way, we just got our first fellow to become a board member.

Isn't that right, Lito? Lito, please stand up.

One of our newest board members is a fellow.

[Applause]

Welcome.

So she was a fellow in 2008, and she's currently the chair of the AP RALO group. So happy also to have someone here from our At-Large community being honored as we should.

She has also represented the Armenian Association for the Disabled at the At-Large Structure -- as an At-Large Structure since 2012.

In 2012, you began also a two-year term as the Asia-Pacific regional member of the ICANN Nominating Committee. So she is very active in selecting also our next board members.

She has also invested herself to learn about Internet governance. She's an alumnus of Diplo. She is also an alumna of the first European summer school on IG in Germany in 2007. And she was also The Internet Society's ambassador for the IGF in 2010 and the returning ambassador in 2011.

In her own country, Armenia, she's heavily involved in a variety of global and local development programs, including recently the Syrian refugee work in Armenia and online safety issues for children. Siranush has a young boy who's very dear to her. She talks about him all the time, so she gives her time to the children.

She's one of the pioneers in Armenia of an online facilitation and training for sustainable development for Internet computer centers.

I will finish by just telling you if you got to know Siranush personally -- and if you don't, please find her in the hallways and talk to her -- this is someone who does things well, does them with the right spirit. And I can tell you that she embodies the values of this community in her work and in her participation. And we thank her for that. So congratulations.

[Applause]

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. Thank you, Fadi. And thank you, selection committee, for this great honor. I'm really delighted. And thank you for getting this.

And no doubt, there are many people in this community here in Dublin who are worthy to get this award. But I'm deeply -- I deeply appreciate for noticing and singling me out this time for such recognition.

And I would like to thank a couple of people for me being here and standing on this stage. First and foremost, for the great startup and support I received with my involvement in ICANN fellowship program.

Janice, Mama J for all fellows, thank you very much.

[Applause]

Thank you for serving as inspiration and model and teaching us how one can be passionate for the work he or she is doing. I would like to thank every single fellow, my fellowship family, whom -- every single person whom I met since my first fellowship in New Delhi, you all are sharing this honor with me.

I also would like to thank a powerful woman, a role model for many of us, my dear mentor, Cheryl Langdon-Orr.

[Applause]

Thank you, Cheryl.

I thank At-Large community for hosting me in this great world. I thank ALAC chair Alan Greenberg, ALAC members, every single RALO chair, At-Large staff, and particularly Asia-Pacific region leadership team and ALSs with whom I have the honor of working and getting a huge support and collaboration during this time.

And, finally, I would like to thank my family back in Yerevan, in Armenia; for my mother who is taking care of my son favorite who is 5 years old; my father who I'm sure is watching me from heaven and is proud of me; my brother and his family; and my very supportive husband and the great pleasure of sharing this moment with my niece on this stage. Thank you very much. Thank you.

[Applause]

MR. FADI CHEHADE:

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome the honorable minister, minister Alex White, the Minister of Energy Resources for Ireland.

Please.

[Applause]

ALEX WHITE:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's a great pleasure for me to be here this morning.

[Speaking Gaelic]

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Dublin and to ICANN54. I have quite a long title for my job. It includes communications. So it is a particular honor for me to be here and to share in this opening occasion of a critically important conference.

I know that there are delegates here from all over the world and I hope that you can take the time, if there is time in the coming days, to explore and enjoy our city.

This venue is a fitting location for ICANN's 54th meeting, its first visit to Ireland. We're a stone's throw away, as you've heard, from many of the businesses that comprise Dublin's Internet and digital heartland.

More to the point, we are right beside the 18th century port walls, our historic link to the outside world and the point of departure for many thousands of Irish immigrants.

Few countries have benefited from the transformative power of the Internet socially and economically to the extent that Ireland has.

We are home to nine of the top ten global software companies, ten of the top global ICT companies. And the top ten born-on-the-Internet companies all have significant operations here in Ireland.

Because we are in Ireland, we have long been limited by the simple facts of geography and trade and transport, energy, and access to markets. But online, we are no longer an island.

The growth of online and weightless services has allowed us to become a hub for a range of businesses. We've realized many of the benefits that greater connectivity brings, be it through improved access to information and learning, better access to public services or less tangible things like the ability to speak face-to-face with loved ones across great distances.

Today the digital economy represents 5% of Irish GDP and we expect this to rise to 10% by 2020.

It employs almost 100,000 people directly and indirectly and traditional sectors like farming and retail are increasingly embracing technology to improve competitiveness and extend their national and global reach.

The Irish government is determined to widen and deepen our digital society so that the benefits of greater connectivity can be realized by all of our citizens, all of our citizens, regardless of their economic and educational background and regardless of where they happen to live.

We're creating an environment that promotes and encourages digital innovation and a culture that nurtures future generations of digital-savvy citizens and Internet users.

Some of us can remember a time before the Internet. In little more than 20 years, we've witnessed the evolution of the Internet into something that is central to our daily lives, something that is used by individuals to exercise their fundamental right to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds.

We expect these rights to continue and to expand as we see more innovation that will deliver even greater benefits.

I believe that we have a responsibility to ourselves and to future generations to preserve the conditions that allow the development of the open, free, and unitary Internet that we enjoy today.

And ICANN has played an important role, a critical role, in coordinating and developing the Domain Name System that serves the global community.

We must exercise great care when considering any changes to the systems that underpin the Internet's successful operation.

The decisions we make about how we govern and use the Internet are felt and their impact will be felt by a growing global community of users.

I believe, ladies and gentlemen, that this diverse and vibrant community must have a voice in how the Internet is governed.

So I welcome and applaud the decision of the United States government to give voice to this community and to facilitate the transition to a truly multistakeholder model of Internet governance.

In particular, I commend the work of all those who have devoted so much of their time and energy to engage with the multistakeholder process. Ireland firmly supports the multistakeholder model of Internet governance.

And I am hopeful that this week will mark the successful agreement of the proposal to enhance ICANN accountability leading ultimately to the successful transition of the

stewardship of the IANA function to the multistakeholder community.

I appreciate that these are not simple issues. And I am fully aware that there are strongly held views on all sides about how this process might come to a conclusion.

Nevertheless, I am sure that with a little goodwill and a lot of coffee this meeting can come to a productive and successful conclusion.

So I want to wish you all well in your work. I wish you well in your deliberations here in this room and in the convention center. I hope you enjoy your visit to Dublin and get an opportunity to see some of the city and the country. And I very much look forward to seeing you back again in Dublin some time soon. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

[Applause]

JEAN-JACQUES SAHEL: Thank you, Minister.

And thank you again for all your support. We do like our coffee. We do like our Irish coffee, too. Now I'd like to welcome back to the stage Fadi for the President's report.

[Applause]

MR. FADI CHEHADE: We've made a lot of progress. And I know it feels sometimes that we're in the same place. Many of you who come to these meetings often see how difficult it is to keep the momentum of our work.

But I believe we have made very good progress. We've tested our multistakeholder model to the ends of it. But we are moving forward.

And I think this community that comes together here in Dublin will continue in its commitment to keep the momentum forward to finish our work and to deliver to the world what the world is watching us do.

I have no doubt. We are able to do that, and we will do it.

Now, this is also our annual general meeting. So let me just do some highlights over what we have accomplished in the last year.

If you look at our community's work, it continues to baffle me how much we get done. Like you, I attend many global meetings on various issues. And often I go to these meetings, and the meetings are good. There are a lot of bilaterals. We meet a lot of people. But the work, the amount of work that gets done, nothing compares to what we get done here at ICANN. I take off

my jacket to remind us all we are in a working meeting. We come here to get things done. Look at this incredible record just over the last 12 months. From the ASO to the IETF to our own ICANN naming community, the number of meetings we've held, the number of policies we've put through, the number of motions we've approved. Just recently since ICANN53, as you can see, 18 proceedings have been closed. This is incredible work. My chairman mentioned the numbers at the bottom. The community work just on the transition. And, yes, I think we all know that it's not just about effort. It's about outcome. But we need this effort. We need people to put time. And let's not forget at ICANN, it's mostly volunteer time. It's people leaving their children with their mothers and coming across, many of you pay your own way to be here to volunteer to give your time to ICANN.

So thank you. Thank you for this great report card from a great community.

Now, if I look at my team and what we have to do to support you, the number of activities we've accomplished -- I'm just showing you some highlights here. 760 new top-level domains delegated, 1200 signed. These are numbers we didn't even imagine a year ago.

From my perspective, I promised you a global support center. We now have a global support center, 24 hours a day, 5 days a week. We built the hubs around the world. And we distribute this activity. And, if you call today, we have people answering you in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Turkish 24 hours a day. These are all new things we've put in place in order to make sure our community is supported.

The compliance rate after the three-year reviews, 96%. This is work that reflects you as a community and the great service we offer the world.

I wanted also to point out on the financials I've shared with you before how much work we've done to give you visibility and make you make us accountable for our budget work.

I'll highlight that for the first year ICANN's publishing, as I'll show you on this example, the exact numbers per project on where we're spending. There are hundreds of projects on our Web site. This is off our Web site. So, under the objective advancing our organization, technological, and operational excellence, there's a particular goal. And under that goal, there's a portfolio of activities. And under that there is one particular project as an example, which is this meeting. How much is this meeting costing us? \$3.2 million. Everything we do at ICANN is now

detailed down to the project live on our Web site. So you can keep me and keep ICANN accountable to the community for how we advance our work.

I want to look forward a little bit and spend a few minutes talking about the transition. I think ICANN's remit and responsibilities, especially in light of the transition, are now being tested.

And so, in order to talk about this, I wanted to just touch on a model we've been using to explain where does ICANN's role start and where does ICANN's role stop?

So, if we were to stratify Internet governance and digital governance in general into three layers, there's, obviously, the infrastructure layer. This is the layer with all the networks. I think we're pretty clear how this is governed in its remit. And the IETF and the IEEE and the ITU and the administrators and the regulators already have this layer pretty much managed. Then there is this logical layer, which the IETF, the Regional Internet Registries, ICANN -- we work together to make sure that this layer is stable and secure.

This logical layer is where all the focus is now because of the transition.

And then you go to the economic and societal layer where all the issues around content, human rights, cyber security warfare -- all the issues that the world is grappling with as the Internet becomes the horizontal fabric underneath everything happen.

Now, I show this because it's very clear that our remit starts and stops in this logical yellow layer.

We do not have any responsibility in the upper layer. And, when the transition happens, the pressures on ICANN will increase for us to possibly expand our remit. And let me be superbly clear here. The community has spoken, and it's important to underline that in every possible way. ICANN's remit is not in the blue layer. It is not in the economic and societal layer. This is a technical organization. And our job is to maintain the stability of these unique identifiers and the resources necessary to make sure they work.

So, when people ask us to render judgment on matters in the upper layer, we can't. However, we cannot also walk away from our responsibilities in our layer.

So how do we find that balance? How do we explain when the president of a country met me recently and said, "Here's a list of Web sites. They're all promoting terrorism. Close them."

And I said, "Mr. President, we are operating a layer. And we have no remit or responsibility to render judgment on which sites are terrorists, which sites are good pharmacies, which sites are bad pharmacies, which sites are committing crime, which sites are infringing copyrights. There's a difference between ICANN being the coordinator of a technical layer and ICANN starting to make the factual or legal determinations as to which sites should be open or closed."

So let's be superbly clear that our role stops at this yellow layer.

Now, to those of you here and in the world who say, "But is ICANN walking away then from its responsibilities in the yellow logical layer?"

And my answer is no. So, as much as we will say our remit stops at being the technical coordinator along with the Regional Internet Registries and the IETF, I also think as a community, we should understand that we have responsibilities in that ecosystem. Our responsibilities include the importance of, once determinations are made, to respond to these. How do we respond to these? I hope voluntarily. For example, credit card companies around the world now voluntarily close sites that are promoting illegal activity. There is no treaty. There are no laws. In their case they get determinations on spam or crime from places like SpamHaus. And they react. They do their job.

Now, in some cases, we need to enforce our contracts. And we should also not shy away from that. We have a responsibility as a community to do that.

Finding that balance needs you. It's not for me and not for ICANN staff to make that decision. It's for us as a community. Businesses, registries, registrars, IP holders, those concerned with public safety, governments -- all of us should work together. But it's not at ICANN. Because ICANN's remit is not in determining what action to take.

Our remit is to be responsible and respond voluntarily by inviting our community to do so or, when necessary, through our contracts. But we have no legal authority to make those determinations.

I wanted to underline that. Because I think, as the transition moves on, there will be new pressures that we will feel as a community. And it's important to outline these early.

Let me focus for a minute on my role in the transition, which is to implement what this community asks me to do.

So at ICANN we are getting ready for the transition. How do we get ready? There is a series of activities we are already starting. These activities can be bundled into these three important areas. The first is starting to prepare for the root zone

management system changes that need to occur, if the transition is successful. So we're not doing anything that presumes the transition will be successful. We are simply planning and preparing. And I'll explain that in a little bit. But the activities and the planning activities are in these three areas.

In terms of the root zone, the real focus there is to decide, based on your proposal, how are we going to implement the absence of the U.S. government's role in the updates to the root zone? And that work already started at the planning and thinking stage, not in terms of actual execution, for obvious reasons.

Also, the community has now designed this post transition IANA model that includes some new and important processes that you can see here. New service level agreements with our operational communities that need to be implemented. All of that work is already starting. And, finally, as the accountability teams wrap up their proposal, we will need to understand the impact of that on our work and on our bylaws. And that already has started.

So, if I lay these out against the timeline, which the community has set -- let's be clear here. The community was asked by the U.S. government earlier this year how long do you need to implement your proposals? And the community picked a date. And the U.S. government extended its contract based on the

community's input to the 30th of September 2016. Now, how do we get there? We first have to finish our proposals. Once the proposals are done, we enter into an NTIA review phase, which NTIA had said approximately five months. And, again, depends on many things. Could be shorter, could be longer. But I think that's a reasonable timeline. And then after that we have to implement what comes out of the proposal.

That's the plan.

So, alongside this plan, these three areas of work are happening. These three areas of work are led at ICANN by two individuals -- Akram Atallah, who is the president of our Global Domains Division, and David Conrad, who is our Chief Technology Officer seated right there at the front.

[Applause]

Now, I just want to be clear on what we're doing on these three areas now, what we'll be doing once the proposal is done, and what we'll be doing at the end. Because there is a very important distinction. Right now all we can be doing is what I call administrative preparation, starting to understand where the proposals are, what we will need to do, new people, new systems. All of this is being understood and planned by Akram and David. Then, once the proposal is handed to NTIA, we can

do a bit more planning. Because now the proposal is finalized. So we know what's in the proposal.

And some prework just to make sure we are ready for the real work which can only start once NTIA has approved and given us the go ahead on the proposal. So these are the three phases of work. I want to assure you that we are getting ready. We're putting the resources in place. But, again, our ability to move forward is very much in your hands. We need the proposals to be completed, because we cannot implement without having your final proposal. So we look forward to that work being completed.

Let me finish by saying this: This work has not been easy. It's been hard work. I think all of you know that.

And along the way a lot of our energies -- a lot of our patience has been tested. We've made mistakes. I know I've made mistakes. But I think what's important here is to stay together, to not forget the core values that we've lived with for many, many years. Let's anchor ourselves in these values. And let's finish the work. We're ready. Good luck.

[Applause]

NANCY LUPIANO: Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the stage Riverdance.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thunder and lightning batter the rocks.

Winds howl and great storms break on the forest, scatter the herds like grain.

Fire leaps from dark to dark. Fear and anger leap to meet it.

We will not go down.

We will not be beaten down like grain.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you, Riverdance.

[Applause]

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Now, welcome to the rest of the day and we have another program starting very shortly. Thank you for all coming.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]