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BARCELONA – ICANN@20 Years  
Thursday, October 25, 2018 – 17:00 to 18:00 CEST  
ICANN63 | Barcelona, Spain

BRAD WHITE: If everyone could please take their seats, we'll begin in about two minutes.

If I could have your attention, we're about to begin this session, ICANN@20 Years.

This session was supposed to go one hour. We were going to have a 30-minute break. And then there was a special cocktail reception 30 minutes after this session ended.

I've been informed that the cocktail reception will begin immediately when this session ends.

So I'm now adjourning the meeting --

[ Laughter ]

We're going to -- this is not going to be a stiff and formal session. At least I hope it isn't. We want to make this a little bit fun and a little bit interesting.

The idea of this session we all know that ICANN's turned 20.

What we wanted to do is hear about ICANN at 20 through the eyes of some community members who have been around for a long time.

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Chris Disspain has been around since caveman eras. He also still has some interesting things to say. You don't look that old.

At any rate we wanted to get community perspective from these folks. That's why we're not seeing up here any former ICANN execs or any other people you may have seen previously when we celebrate ICANN in its earlier years.

We're going to kick things off with a couple high points about ICANN's past in the form of a video. Video will run about seven minutes.

Go ahead, Ted.

STEVE CROCKER:

The last 20 years have been pretty exciting at ICANN. We've built an organization from scratch and to do so in a way that was inclusive -- inclusive multigenerational, inclusive worldwide, inclusive all different segments.

And the challenges going forward are going to be the new challenges of the 21st Century. We need to listen to the questions of the younger generation, particularly, on all fronts.

JACQUELINE PIGATTO:

So what's the story behind ICANN's creation?

VINT CERF:

There were preceding activities around 1996 that led to government interest in the ICANN idea. And that was the consequence of Jon

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Postel's effort to manage the domain name system IP address allocation. Jon recognized that some day he wouldn't be able to do it and that he ought to have an institutional setting for this to continue. If it was going to do any good, it had to go on for an unknown amount of time.

IRA MAGAZINER:

There was a guy with a big scruffy beard and sandals, and I invite him to the White House. And, because of the way he looked, it took me about four hours to get him past security in the senior White House lunchroom. They had all these kind of very self-important cabinet office secretaries and others having lunch sitting there with Postel. And they're looking over at this guy in sandals and a robe.

And I thought to myself, 100 years from now nobody's going to remember any of these guys. But they are going to remember Jon Postel as one of the founders of the Internet.

ROXANNE JOHN:

In the early days, where did the money come from?

DIANE SCHROEDER:

Well, when I started, we had \$75,000 in the bank. And part of what I was asked to do was set up a financial system because it was being run off a spreadsheet by Mike Roberts, the first CEO.

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MIKE ROBERTS: My checking account and my credit card and some other things paid the bills.

STUART LYNN: Our sources of funding were always uncertain. And ICANN started off initially with a loan that we did pay off. But there was always uncertainty. So every year, hat in hand, we had to go to the community and beg.

SU SONIA HERRING: How did the U.S. government get international support for ICANN's formation?

IRA MAGAZINER: I set out around the world talking to different governments and different associations and stakeholders, corporate groups, trade associations that had an interest in Internet commerce and so on and, basically, tried to persuade them of this kind of structure, an organization that would be apolitical, made up of technical people but stakeholder based. Everybody would have a say.

PAUL TWOMEY: The first meeting of the GAC we had -- I wrote to every communications minister in the world and got responses, basically, at ICANN 38 or 37.

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**NII QUAYNOR:** ICANN has always been interested in global participation. It may have been certain regions were not as prepared because we had much smaller networks. But there was always an open door. And, in fact, that is the reason why we're able to increase the African participation in ICANN.

**ALFREDO CALDERON-SERRANO:** I know that ICANN was formed in 1998. But my question is: How did they decide that the bottom-up model was the best way to go?

**IRA MAGAZINER:** The last thing the Internet needs is bureaucracy. And it's going to be much better if it's stakeholder based and bottom-up rather than top down. People will be brought into it. And you'll actually wind up succeeding faster than if you tried to do these big multi-government bureaucratic processes. And that, I think, turned out to be true.

**ESTHER DYSON:** The genius of the U.S. government was to create something that sort of to protect this vacuum of power by giving ICANN very little power. He who governs least governs best.

**VABRIIA FILINOVYCH:** Why was the Affirmation of Commitments such a big deal for ICANN?

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PAUL LEVINS: I think the big deal was establishing that the organization needed to be accountable to the community. So it was not accountable to any one institution, any one government. And that is a fairly significant hurdle for people to jump.

PETER DENGATE THRUSH: It was at the Sydney meeting in 2009 where we had the meeting with the Department of Commerce and said, "Look, we're not going to be doing this any more. We're not going to reporting to you." And we didn't want ICANN's performance to be reviewed by a set of criteria created by the U.S. government by the U.S. government. So the brilliance of the Affirmation of Commitments is all that stopped.

CLEMENT GENTY: How big a deal were internationalized domain names?

CHRIS DISSPAIN: IDNs is the thing that I'm probably proudest of that the CCs did, the IDN fast track.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: A meeting is now underway in Seoul, South Korea, that could mean a big change for the Internet.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: A group that oversees domain names is expected to vote Friday to allow web addresses in non-Latin script that include Cyrillic, Arabic, Hindi and

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Chinese. That means for about half of the world's 1.6 billion Internet users, web surfing is about to get easier.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: I was chairing the ccNSO. Peter Dengate Thrush was the chair of the board. The Board passed the resolution to launch the IDN fast track, and everyone in that room was in tears because it meant so much. It was an extraordinary moment.

PETER DENGATE THRUSH: I'll put this resolution. All those in favor please raise their hands. I declare the resolution carried.

Well done.

[ Applause ]

GUSTAVO PAIVA: What did the IANA stewardship transition mean to the multistakeholder model?

LARRY STRICKLING: It was the most amazing, largest, most sustained demonstration of the power of the multistakeholder model.

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FADI CHEHADE: It was a process to test the community's method. Is this a community that would come together in difficult times and form a proposal that they all agree on?

VERONICA ARROYO: Did the ICANN founders know it would be like it is today?

STUART LYNN: I look at ICANN today, and I'm impressed and amazed at how large it's grown. And that was inconceivable when I was -- at the time I was CEO.

ESTHER DYSON: It was against a bunch of odds, but at the same time it was clear something like that needed to exist. There's got to be someplace you can go to resolve disputes. There's got to be some place to set policy. And, if we want more TLDs, there needs to be an organization that will do it.

MIKE ROBERTS: ICANN provides the forum for the various stakeholders to come together and argue it out. And that's exactly what they're doing today, 20 years later.

MARILYN CADE: It's just wow. We created an international organization in less than 20 years, almost 20 years that is stable, respected, reliable, and trusted.



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[ Applause ]

**BRAD WHITE:** So again, that gives you some of the high points in ICANN's history. I'm going to ask our panel to introduce themselves and go around, and then I'll explain a couple of rules and the way that this session is going to go forward. Chris.

**CHRIS DISSPAIN:** Thanks, Brad. I'm Chris Disspain. I'm on the ICANN Board. I've been around ICANN since 2000. ccNSO mainly. And I'm still here really.

**CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:** You can just hold that mic and I can project. No, I'll try and behave. My name -- try is the operative word. My name is Cheryl Langdon-Orr. I've only been around the last 19 years. I didn't come to be involved in this organization until the very first AGM in Los Angeles where I attended remotely. And again, like Chris, actually started off in the ccTLD community but took a tour through a few other places, not the least of which was the At-Large Advisory Community.

**BRUCE TONKIN:** My name is Bruce Tonkin. I've been at ICANN a while. I was the chair of the domain name supporting organization, then it turned into the GNSO which I was chair of for a while. Then I ended up on the board which I was vice chair for a while, and now I'm just a groupie really.

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MARILYN CADE: My name is Marilyn Cade. I was involved in both of the processes that led up to the creation of NewCo, then renamed ICANN. After ICANN was formed, I hold a community participation role and then I was on the GNSO Council for a while when Bruce was chair where mostly I think I just did what he told me. And I then became the BC, the business constituency chair. I'm now involved in the outreach for the business constituency. So I possibly have been involved in ICANN perhaps for as long as some of you in the audience who have been engaged 1996, 1997, 1998.

MANAL ISMAIL: My name is Manal Ismail. I'm the GAC chair. My first exposure to ICANN was in 2000 when we hosted an ICANN meeting in Cairo.

BRAD WHITE: Great. Thanks all of you. So let me introduce two more people that you'll be hearing from during this session. Oliana Sula from Tirana, Albania. Oliana, stand up so they can all see you. Next to her is Tola Sogbesan. How bad did I mangle, Tola? Am I close? We -- here's the way the session is going to work. For more than a month we've been soliciting questions online via email, questions that people would want to ask this panel about ICANN's first 20 years. These two fellows will read some of those questions and then these folks will answer. Every third question, if you have a question in the room, there's a microphone

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in the middle, you can queue up there and every third question will be from in the room. So that's the way that we're going to proceed.

So that said, Oliana you want to read the first question?

OLIANA SULA: Yes, of course. We have our first question from --

BRAD WHITE: A little closer to your mouth.

OLIANA SULA: Okay. So hello, everyone. We have our first question from Amrita Choudhary from India. I hope I'm right in pronouncing the surname as usual. So she says that from what I have heard and read the ALAC was not formed until 2002. However, ICANN was formed in 1998. This means that ALAC was formed four years after ICANN was formed. My query is during this four-year period. Did the unaffiliated Internet users have a role in ICANN?

BRAD WHITE: Cheryl, you want to field that one?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Sure. I'm happy to start with that one. Not so much because I once had a role in the At-Large Advisory Committee but rather that I was part of that general Internet end user and registrant of a domain name

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community that was involved in that four-year period. Because when I mentioned I remotely participated in the first AGM, it was because we had this organization, the domain name support organization. And that was very much specifically designed to allow and encourage the whole cornucopia of interested parties to work together in a more or less collaborative way. So it was a superb example of a beginning of a multistakeholder model, in my very vast view, but Marilyn, you're probably --

MARILYN CADE:

Thank you. Marilyn speaking.

Just to follow up on this, what some people don't know is that we actually held an election for five of the board members, and it was individuals who voted on a regional basis to elect those board members. So we also had a process after the election which indicated to us that direct elections were really not going to work and so Carl Bildt, who had been the finance minister in Sweden, accepted the role of conducting a fast-track study supported by Denise Michel who was then a consultant and the community came together and recommended the basics that evolved into ALAC.

BRAD WHITE:

Tola, you want to ask the next question, please? >>ADETOLA SOGBESAN: We have another question from Rudi Daniel from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Eastern Caribbean. His question, It's clear that the U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton was key in the

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formation of ICANN. Was the organization's formation a function of judicious timing?

The other item. I would like to express my sincere thanks to ICANN to this opportunity to take part in the unique multistakeholder pursuit that drives the global Internet. Thank you.

MARILYN CADE:

This is Marilyn speaking. When I give my really interesting two-minute speech I'll say more about this. President Clinton had an eCommerce agenda. There was a parallel set of processes that were elevating the visibility about the need to create something to replace the functions that John had been performing under a government contract at a university. So the eCommerce agenda that was being developed by President Clinton, the Sherpa was Ira Magaziner. And industry -- and I was a part of the industry coalition that was working on the seven eCommerce priorities -- eventually we decided that the role of the Internet was going to be so important in eCommerce that it fit into the President Clinton's eCommerce agenda. So we also had an extremely friendly vice president, vice president Al Gore, who had championed the High Performance and Computing -- High Performance Communications and Computing Act which was funding a lot of research which was also contributing to the growth of eCommerce. So it wasn't planned, but it was certainly more than an accident. I would maybe say that certain things came together.

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BRAD WHITE:

I might add, by way of follow-up to what Marilyn just said, Ira Magaziner, the former aide to President Bill Clinton, sometimes referred to -- we refer to Vint Cerf as the father of the Internet. There are many who refer to Ira Magaziner as the father of ICANN. Just today we published a blog from Ira Magaziner. We've had a number of blogs being posted over the last few weeks from some of ICANN's early pioneers. Ira's blog went up today. It's well worth a read. Maybe if you don't catch it today, catch it on your way home whatever. It's very fascinating. Sir.

DAVID MARGLIN:

Hi. David Marglin. I'm a 20-year community member, like Marilyn, and I was at the first meeting in Cambridge. I represented IANA. So I've been around a while, and I would help with the foundation at the Berkman Center. So I'm glad we made it these 20 years. This is for you, the panel. How in the 17 to 20 years that you've been involved, what expectations, if you think back to when you first became a member of the community, did you have and how has ICANN lived up to those expectations and what personal expectations do you have for the next however many years you care to look forward into the future?

CHRIS DISSPAIN:

So I didn't have any expectations because I arrived a month after I had started my job as the CEO of the .AU ccTLD, except it wasn't the .AU ccTLD manager, it was trying to be that. And I was told after three weeks that I should go to this ICANN meeting, and I said what is ICANN.

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And so I arrived with zero expectations and ICANN has consistently met those.

[ Laughter ]

These days I have a lot higher expectations and ICANN tends to meet them.

BRAD WHITE: You know, this panel, when you add up the collective years, we're talking over 85 years of ICANN experience here.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Thanks, Brad. That's great. Thank you so much. That doesn't include you, though, right, because that would take it up to 120.

MARILYN CADE: Brad, Brad.

BRAD WHITE: In that context I asked each of -- go ahead, Marilyn. I'm sorry.

MARILYN CADE: Mike Roberts made mention of the fact that when we opened ICANN's doors there were four staff, a \$1.3 million line of credit, and Mike's personal credit card. For many months Mike and Molly, the key staffer, did not receive salary. My expectation, because I was very involved in many of the tactical aspects of those issues of trying to get people to

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agree, including going so far as to bullying -- I mean, encouraging my employer to apply to be an accredited registrar so that we would have five. We could go ahead with the launch. My expectation was that we were going to get past the start-up stage and we were going to develop a revenue stream. And we were going to avoid the need for governmental intervention. And it's been interesting at times when there have been hearings both before the European Parliament and also before the U.S. Congress, but I think that when you ask sort of if has ICANN met our expectations, I think the ICANN community has come through every time. And so yes, ICANN has met my expectations.

BRAD WHITE:

I had asked these guys to prepare -- I said you know what would be interesting is given how long each of you have been at ICANN, give us your most profound memory or in the first two decades what stands out in your mind. I'd like to hear that. Chris?

CHRIS DISSPAIN:

Okay. So I thought about this a lot and I could do the IDN thing that was on the video, but actually in the very early days when we were trying to form the ccNSO there was an awful lot of hard work being done by a relatively small group of people. And the CCs -- a lot of ccTLDs turned up at ICANN for one reason and one reason only and that was to make sure that absolutely nothing happened. CCs were sovereign and this ICANN thing was all a little bit weird. And we finally managed to get to a point in Montreal in 2003 where we had, we thought, enough consensus to at least say to ICANN, as it was going through its second



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iteration, ICANN 2.0, that we were -- we had the makings of a CC support organization, ccNSO. And the story is that I was chairing a room of ccTLDs to bring us to a point where we were able to say, yes, okay, press the button. Meanwhile, in the GAC, Sharil Tarmizi, who was the chair of the GAC, was chairing the GAC to bring the GAC to a point of accepting the formation of a ccNSO because the GAC had to agree to that. And a community member ran from the ccTLD room to the GAC room and knelt down beside Sheril and said, do not let the GAC approve this because the ccTLDs are going to reject it and the GAC will look really silly. And then ran back to the ccTLD room and walked in the door and said, do not approve this because the GAC is going to reject it and you're all going to look really silly. And it shows how far the technology has come that in those days Messenger was quite a rare thing. What he hadn't realized was that Sharil and I were on Messenger and so I got a note from Sharil saying, what's this about you not approving it? And I said, I have no idea what you're talking about.

I use that as an illustration to say that, you know, I think we have come an extremely long way. That sort of stuff just doesn't really happen anymore. We are all rowing in the same direction. Thanks, Brett.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

I'm going to take a very early and then a sort of a middle of the aging episode here. And I want to go back, because you're still standing at the -- at the microphone, to what made me think a second visit to ICANN was going to be well worthwhile and that was the absolutely brilliant way that someone, you know, from the Antipodes could be engaged,

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obviously through the Berkman Center, because we had excellent remote participation. We had real video running. We had ICQ running. We had -- was it Ben, I think, literally passing notes at one point, you know, down to the floor. It was primitive, but it was successful. And it struck me that there was a genuine desire to engage. That genuine desire did continue and wax and wane and lots of things happened but the most important thing that makes me warm and fuzzy from -- and I am going to go back to what you did do on screen and that was the role of what I think was probably one of the first formal cross-community activities we'd done and that was getting that Internationalized Domain Names fast tracked for country codes to use. And to -- to literally untested, unchartered, unproven methodology put us together and get that sort of success in the extraordinarily short time we did it, that is something I'm sure most of us are proud of. But that's one of my super moments. And it probably built right from where we started the way we did. Thanks.

BRAD WHITE:

Bruce.

BRUCE TONKIN:

I guess I'll just run quickly through a few key events since I've been involved with ICANN and then perhaps reflect on what my expectations were.

So I think the key events that I've seen that have been highlights was 1999 when there were five registrars. They were called testbed

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registrars, which is really the introduction of competition in the registrar space, mostly around .COM and .NET and .ORG at that time.

Then in 2000 was the launch of gTLDs which was really shifting the system and opening it up. And out of that, we had TLDs such as .MUSEUM, such .BIZ, .INFO, .NAME even for individuals. So quite a diverse cross-section of top-level names that were introduced back in 2000.

Then the next big change is probably the launch of new gTLDs, which was about 12 years later. And we see -- and around about the same time, we introduced IDN top-level names both in the country code and in the generic space. So I think those were key events.

And then the most recent key event I think is the transition of the stewardship from the original government, the United States, which really acted as the steward and the supporter of ICANN, and basically ICANN evolving more to, I guess, more global acceptance as a standalone organization. So I think those are key events for me.

In terms of expectations, I think my expectation is that this organization which we -- more efficient than doing things in the purely government sector. And I think ICANN has shown at those key events that I mentioned, they were all very focused periods of activity. Usually people coming together from across constituencies to actually achieve each of those goals.

I think when we don't meet my expectations is WHOIS. So I know everyone is being positive, but I'll give a negative view. That's an issue

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we have been talking about for 18 years at least and very little progress. And, in fact, the original form that you see WHOIS today was created -- I was basically on the phone calls when that was created. It was done in about two weeks, and it was basically done as a contractual negotiation between registrars and the registries and ICANN staff, which would be Louis at the time. And then we've treated that like that so as it's in a stone tablet and we can't improve it, which is nuts. We all know -- and we proved a couple days ago no one in the room thought that we should keep the current system. So we also need to not just pat ourselves on the back but recognize what made things successful and how do we apply that same methodology to other things to make them also successful. So we've still got a way to go, I think.

So when you say what is my expectations for the future, is that we can take a very difficult topic -- and the topic of, you know, a directory service for information about domain names is difficult. It's complex. It's legally complex. But we have shown that we can actually achieve outcomes on complex topics, and we might -- my view for the future is that we can take those sorts of things on and do them within a 12-month time frame.

MARILYN CADE:

I'm going to go in a slightly different direction and tell a story very quickly that has some, I hope, humor in it about the days before ICANN.

In -- quite some time before we were actually launching the process that led to ICANN, a group of people, including involving consultation with Jon, were working on a process that ended up being called IHAC

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and led to something that was called the gTLD Memorandum of Understanding, which was going to create seven new gTLDs and a board which had three -- two intergovernmental staff on it, a staff person from a regional commission, and four people from the community.

And the process that they put together talking not only to themselves but in a fairly constrained environment -- Jon was well aware of it, so were other people -- ended up with a proposal that included a list of 300 entities that had to somehow go online and opt out.

And I worked for AT&T at the time. And so since AT&T starts with A, guess whose company name was at the top of the list?

So I'm in my office and the phone rings, and my secretary -- we still had secretaries. That was that long ago. My secretary comes in the office -- into the office and says, "Marilyn, AT&T's corporate general counsel is on the phone for you."

When you work for a business unit that's part of a bigger mothership and the corporate general counsel calls you, while you're taking the call, you pack your belongings because you know you're getting fired.

So I take the phone and I answer it. And the general counsel at the time, he worked for Bob Allen who was the consummate gentleman of CEOs. And I know he was calm and, you know, low voice.

But here's what I remember: Marilyn Cade? Yes.

ISOC? Yes.

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\$75,000 sponsorship? Yes. Moving the A root server to the ITU? What?

People think AT&T is involved if this idea. What?

Don Heath. Fix it. Click.

Now, I am sure that's not what he said.

But the good news is when I called on Heath, I opened my phone call by saying, "You're trying to get me fired."

That led to a public meeting in Washington, D.C., at a trade association. And the authors of this idea presented their idea, and they presented a transparency -- you can tell how long ago that was -- that had an image of the ITU tower. And that led to an invitation to have a Hill -- a congressional hearing. That is actually what led to the angst.

I came back from that Hill hearing and had a conversation with someone who said, "Call Ira Magaziner." And that was how industry first reached out to Ira Magaziner to say, "We need help because industry does not want more congressional hearings on this."

BRAD WHITE:

Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL:

So asking about expectations, when I first was introduced to ICANN, I never expected to continue.

[ Laughter ]

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So there were no expectations at all. It was all by mere chance. We were hosting ICANN5 in 2000 in Cairo. And this was the first time I heard about ICANN. And actually the ICANN meeting was a side event to the Internet annual event that we held in Egypt. So it was not even the main event at the time.

And my first -- there is always a first time. My first attempt to attend a GAC meeting, I was a newly graduate. I was part of -- and I'm saying "attempt" here because it was not successful. So I was part of the organizing committee. And I was asked by my boss at the time, Tarek Kamel. I'm sure most of you already know.

I was asked to attend the GAC meeting. Since we are the hosts, we were not members at the time.

I looked at the schedule, located the room. I arrived there. I tried to enter but I couldn't because the room was closed with a key.

And this is how GAC meetings were held at the beginning. They were closed in the sense of the room was closed with a key.

So I couldn't get in, and I was very nervous because, I mean, what would I say in the morning? I couldn't get into the meeting. So I went again to my boss. I told him I couldn't get in. So he talked to the chair. And next morning I went very, very early, before they lock the room again.

[ Laughter ]

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I got inside. And, I mean, I was very nervous. It was a very formal setup. And I was -- all my thinking was: When will this meeting end? Just fearing that someone would ask me something.

[ Laughter ]

I can't even remember what was the subject of discussion at the time.

And a couple of years later, again, I was in Ghana for some African event, not for the ICANN meeting, but then I was approached by the GAC secretariat at the time, and they asked me to become a member on behalf of Egypt. I double-checked with my government, of course; and ever since I have been with the GAC.

I represented my country for quite a few years. I became a vice chair a couple of times and now as a chairperson.

And I have to say, I'm very excited and so proud to see how the GAC evolved throughout the years.

I mean, from just -- and the GAC was there since ICANN1 with only 24 members and maybe seven observers, if I recall the figures correctly.

And now we're at 178 members and 36 observers. And, of course, this happened throughout the years under the leadership of five chairs, starting from Paul Twomey and Sharil Tarmizi, Janis Karklins, and then Heather Dryden. And it changed significantly from all closed meetings gradually to all open meetings. Even the drafting of the communique is now held in an open session.



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And also moved from, of course, meetings run only in English to now realtime interpretation which, I mean, brought more and more participation from the governments and, of course, like any other meeting, transcribed, recorded and everything.

And I became addicted.

[ Laughter ]

Basically. And the addiction has symptoms. I mean, when you're talking to someone and then you don't hear him so you try to look at the transcripts and then you recognize that you're not at an ICANN meeting --

[ Laughter ]

So I think that's it.

BRAD WHITE:

Thank you. Thank you very much. You know, it's interesting, I don't know if you remember the video, the sound bite from Twomey when he was saying, "I reached out to all the communications ministries around the world. I got 36 responses." To go from that to over 170 is pretty impressive.

Before Oliana reads us our next question, I'm just curious -- we're at ICANN63 now. How many people in the room have been to more than, let's say, 45 meetings? Just raise your hands.

How many have been to more than 20? Okay.

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Oliana, do you want to read the next question?

OLIANA SULA: So the next question comes from Jose Alberto Barrueto Rodriguez from Cuba. This is the first time that I participate in an ICANN meeting. I worked for almost ten years for the communications ministry. I started to learn how the multistakeholder engagement model works. In many countries, the government has the last word. At ICANN, governments are the only voice among many. How do they adjust to that role?

BRAD WHITE: Manal, that has your name written all over it, I think that question.

MANAL ISMAIL: I'm sorry. Can we repeat the last part?

BRAD WHITE: How do governments adjust to the idea that in most cases they are the last word. In the ICANN world, governments have "a" voice but they are not "the" voice.

MANAL ISMAIL: Yeah, so, first of all, governments, we work through consensus. So we try to come up with a consensus advice which has its weight. Of course, when 178 governments are of a certain view, then it has its weight. But also ICANN bylaws, they mandate that GAC consensus advice is duly taken into consideration and actually it triggers certain bylaws if ICANN

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Board decided not to follow a GAC advice and actually it puts a higher threshold for rejection if GAC advice is consensus.

So it's -- it's really an integral part of the process and it has been rarely rejected, if ever, I would say. So I think it's -- it's being now more and more accepted, I would say, because, I mean, we started with 24 governments. Now we're 178. So it means that there is more progress in this.

BRAD WHITE: Thank you. Tola, you want to read us the next one?

ADETOLA SOGBESAN: Okay. Lillian Ivette DeLuque Bruges from Colombia would like to know: If you could change the outcome of PDP piece of work, what would it be?

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Oh boy.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: None of us want to take that one.

[ Laughter ]

MARILYN CADE: I will. I would change the outcome of the -- of the PDP on new gTLDs. And here's how I would change it. I would change it so that we had a

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significant prioritization on IDNs and community-facing gTLDs and on an environment where we had thought through a little bit more how the end users could be -- in developing countries in particular, could become more aware of the benefits of having a website. Not just having a domain name but having a website. So that would be the change I would make.

BRAD WHITE:

Sir.

DAVE KISSOONDOYAL:

My name is Dave Kissoondoyal. I'm from Mauritius. I'm talking in my personal capacity.

20 years -- and 20 years is long in the life of an organization. So during the 20 years, any organization come across ups and downs. So my question is: What has been the difficult -- the most difficult period for ICANN? And what has been the glorious period for the organization? Thank you.

CHRIS DISSPAIN:

I think it depends on which way you look at it. From the point of view of difficulty, the actual work, I think Bruce has already told us what that is. I mean, the WHOIS stuff has been probably the most difficult problem from a policy point of view for ICANN.

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But in the early days, I think the most difficult thing was legitimacy, actually having -- getting the acceptance as being the organization to do this stuff.

Part of the reason why we push so hard -- some of us push so hard to get the ccTLDs involved and the ccNSO involved is because they're not here because they have a contract. They're not here because ICANN decides what -- you know, what needs to happen with the way they run their ccTLD. The way they run their ccTLD is entirely up to them. And they're here voluntarily, and they provide -- they provide legitimacy.

So do the root server operators who don't -- you know, they're not governed in any way by ICANN. So do the numbers people, the RIRs who are not governed in any way by ICANN.

The bringing together of all of those bits and pieces that come purely on a voluntarily basis that do two things. One, they prevent ICANN from simply being a trade association; and, secondly, they provide it with a level of legitimacy that makes it pretty hard for people to say that it shouldn't be doing what it's doing.

MANAL ISMAIL:

So one of the most challenging moments at the GAC was the night we were discussing the new gTLDs. And this went as long as 1:00 a.m. in the morning. So this is one meeting I would never forget.

[ Laughter ]

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And exciting moments? I would say for governments, the IANA transition is definitely one of those exciting moments. And, I mean, at least for a few countries, the introduction of IDNs as well.

MARILYN CADE:

And I think one of the scariest moments that I had after we created ICANN -- and I talked about the fact we had no money -- we were in Ghana and there was a situation where payments were being received late.

The payment at that time for registration fees to ICANN was 8 cents. We were in a real financial crisis. And someone here in the community -- I don't even know if he's still in the room -- Ron Andruff who was a part of the business community went to the microphone and said that he had looked at his telephone bill and he saw all these taxes and fees and that he was shocked to learn that he was only paying 8 cents passed through, collected by the registrar and passed through.

So he proposed that -- he was willing to pay a quarter, and he wanted to know if anybody else agreed. And a lot of people applauded.

And someone went to the microphone from the contracted parties side and said: Do remember that we bear this cost. And Ron went back to the microphone and said: I tell you what? It's still a quarter. You keep a nickel. ICANN gets 20 cents. And by the end of the Ghana meeting, we had come to a better approach to realizing that we, the entire community, had to stabilize the funding for ICANN. But that was a scary moment to me.

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BRAD WHITE: Cheryl, let me ask you a question. I'm going to take moderator's prerogative. It's well-known that in the early days ICANN was called an experiment. At what point was ICANN accepted and it ceased to become an experiment?

CHERYL LANGDON ORR: And I'm sure that it actually has ceased to be an experiment, and I don't think that's a bad thing because I think part of the continuous improvement of what we do in the multistakeholder model means that we do keep experimenting. We do keep learning from experiences, and we're not fearful of going back and looking at what has worked and what may, indeed, work even if we do it again and it didn't last time.

But I think in terms of the legitimacy, and now I'm going to be very narrow because of course, you know, Chris is going to talk about the CC point of view and I don't want to go there, and you're going to talk about the GNSO point of view, and I don't want to go there. So I'm going to go to the ALAC point of view, the At Large. I know, shock, horror, surprise. And I believe when we moved from what was a very interim model where we had an At-Large Advisory Committee that was appointed by the Board, and then they -- they were turned out and replaced by community-selected individuals, I think when we changed totally to that community-appointed two-thirds of the At-Large Advisory Committee and one-third appointed by the Nominating Committee, that gave a significant point of legitimacy there. And I think the other thing was when we had genuinely effective regional At Large

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organizations. And why I say that is, for those of you who weren't there from the year dot, we actually started with just the At Large structures. And so that was the large structures sort of wiggly-piggly all over the globe that was supposed to somehow feed up. And until we sort of regionalized and got local legitimacy, that's a pivotal point from my point of view.

BRAD WHITE: Oliana.

OLIANA SULA: Yes. So we got another question from Varsha Sewlal from Pretoria, South Africa. She would like to know why did the Domain Name Supporting Organization, DNSO, become the generic Names Supporting Organization, GNSO? Is there any difference between the two?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Divorce.

[ Laughter ]

BRUCE TONKIN: First a little history, and I think Marilyn talked a little bit about the financial side of it. The Domain Name Supporting Organization was actually entirely self-funded, and so it paid for its own phone calls, it



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actually had its own staff that it paid for from the members of that Domain Supporting Organization.

So there was no ICANN staff support. There was no meeting room support. There was no microphones. It literally was the loudest voice in the room because they didn't have microphones. So the DNSO was an entirely separate, self-funded organization. And the concept of the DNSO was it should be doing policy development for, you know, top-level domains, I guess.

But on the country code side, each country code actually does its own policy development within its national boundary. And so from their perspective it was thought it really doesn't make sense we're in a policy body for top-level domains when none of the rules you make up will apply to us because we make up our own rules within each country.

And so I guess it's a little bit of a self-determination thing there that they wanted a degree of self-determination that they'd create their own organization. And at the time I guess the early version of it would have been -- closest is probably CENTR in Europe, that's C-E-N-T, that's basically a group of European country codes that got together and really just exchanged information. And then that group -- you know, that model was working very well for them. And they've almost replicated this model in a bigger scale in the ccNSO because from my -- this is just from outside looking at the ccNSO, it's really developed into a very collegial environment where you have a group of country code managers that are not competitors with each other generally, and they share information on the basis that they take that information back and

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they improve their country codes. But there's no contractual relationship that says that they must take what they learn here back to their local. They do it because they want to.

So I guess that's really the shift, that the ccNSO to me has really evolved into more of a conference format. It's a sharing of ideas between country managers. And the GNSO is a core policy body of ICANN, really the only body where policy is predominantly done in ICANN because, again, the address service organizations do their policy development on a regional level APNIC does policy in Asia-Pacific, RIPE does policy in Europe.

So the GNSO is now really the main policy body within ICANN that actually develops policies that have to work globally. So it's the most challenging place at ICANN, and it's very passionate. People have very passionate views, often diametrically opposed. So it's a totally different culture now between the GNSO and the ccNSO.

BRAD WHITE:

Chris, I'm curious -- I'm sorry. Did I wake you up (Laughing)?

I'm curious, as the first ccNSO chair, was there -- was it like a ground swell to get involved in ICANN? Was it -- was it an effort to get people involved?

CHRIS DISSPAIN:

Yeah. It was a real effort. We -- the deal was that -- I'm going to apologize in the advance for the fact that I am completely useless at

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these things and I cannot remember all of the countries but the deal was that in order -- once we had agreed to do it, we had a period of time in which we had to get four members from each of the ICANN regions. And once we had four members from each of the ICANN regions then we were allowed to launch the ccNSO. And the U.S. region wasn't that much of a challenge because there actually aren't that many countries in the U.S. region, or the North -- sorry, the North American region. So Canada and the U.S. and Dotty Sparks De Blanc from the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico were the four founding members. And this is where I lose it because I can't remember many of the others.

Asia-Pacific wasn't a problem because you had Australia and you had New Zealand and you had Korea and you had Japan. And Latin America wasn't a problem because eventually you would Chile and you had Brazil and you had I think -- anyway, I forget.

And then in Africa filled up pretty quickly. South Africa joined immediately.

And then we had Europe. And Europe was a real challenge because almost -- the bulk of the resistance came from the CENTR guys in Europe. And so in the end, the European -- the four European ccTLDs were -- were the Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Gibraltar, which is a small rock not very far from here, and the Cayman Islands because as we all know, the Cayman Islands are in Europe.

[ Laughter ]

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There is a slightly bizarre rule in the ICANN regional setup that says if you are a protector at all, you belong to the region, which is why there are European Polynesian islands, because they're French, and European Caribbean islands, because they're Spanish, and what have you. Anyway, the Cayman Islands was the fourth. So it was pretty hard work.

BRAD WHITE: We've got time for about two more questions. Tola, why don't you ask the next one which was submitted and we'll take this gentleman and we would we'll stop after that.

ADETOLA SOGBESAN: Okay. Thank you, Brad. Mohammed Abuabed from Palestine is worried, and they would like to know, one of the key elements of the DNS ecosystem is the revolvers. However, I can't see any working group or advisory committee for the DNS resolvers.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Resolvers. Not revolvers. Trust me. We don't do revolvers.

ADETOLA SOGBESAN: Resolvers. Okay.

BRAD WHITE: We perhaps should do revolvers but we're sticking with resolvers.

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ADETOLA SOGBESAN: Resolvers, yeah.

Do you think having one will help ICANN? Now, I don't know if you're going to take it as revolvers or resolvers now.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Wow. So there's no representation for resolvers.

MARILYN CADE: Let me see if I can ask a clarifying question. Is he referring to the function that's performed by ISPs when they're resolving traffic?

ADETOLA SOGBESAN: Unfortunately, he's not here to answer.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: I think that's right. So the answer is there is.

MARILYN CADE: Okay. So then I would say in fact there is a place where those parties do come together. There's an ISP -- there's an ISP constituency, ISP and connectivity constituency, but also many of the SSAC organizations are focused on that, and many of the CCs are also operating those kinds of resolvers.

So there's a -- actually a lot of focus on it. It's kind of distributed, would be what I would say.

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BRUCE TONKIN: I suppose one point I'd say is on the raw technical side, a lot of that is discussed within working groups such as the Internet Engineering Task Force. So the Internet Engineering Task Force has a DNS ops group which is very technical. There's another organization called DNS-OARC which is often where DNS operators will share information and the operation of the DNS is discussed.

So they tend to be in the more technical area, so the IETF, DNS-OARC, SSAC, and then, you know, most --

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Off microphone).

BRUCE TONKIN: Yeah, and tech day. Yes, tech day in the ccNSO.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Yeah, that he is true, too. And CCs.

BRAD WHITE: Sir, you have the last question.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Amadeu, you're on.

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AMADEU ABRIL i ABRIL:

Thanks a lot. Thanks to you all for making me feel so old.

[ Laughter ]

I think I'm not the only one in the room.

I just want to add some few things to what I think it was missing there. On the chronology, I completely agree with Bruce, but I think it's an important thing that was not been mentioned and the day when we really won our legitimacy is when ICANN signed an agreement with VeriSign for .COM, .ORG and .NET in 2001 in Melbourne, I think it was, because up to then, it was like we are doing things, but in order to talk to VeriSign we need to have consensus and then go to the U.S. government. The U.S. government talking to VeriSign. And it looked not that much like we were the real thing. That day was clear.

Regarding the most important days for the meetings, the ICANN meetings, were first Cairo 2000 where we discovered that Wi-Fi could exist in an ICANN meeting so we didn't need to crawl and physically fight for the last remaining Ethernet cables of the 20 that were available in the previous ICANN meetings.

And then the appearance of the scribes that changes the life of anybody who is not a native English speaker or anybody who cannot understand my accent, whatever you want; right?

So then on the personal highs and lows. I would say that where ICANN has completely exceeded my expectation was the IANA transition. Personally, I had lost complete faith on that. I thought that would never

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happen, and, you know, even the day before, I was doubting that this was going on. So I should admit I was completely wrong on that one.

But the history low was probably when in January-February '98, Jon Postel asked some root server operators to stop pointing to VeriSign and pointing to IANA to do some experiments. He got some very serious threats from the U.S. government.

And finally, my personal low here was when we were in Melbourne again and your mayor -- my first time in Australia, my English is not very good but I did not what the hell Australian dialect sounded and the mayor said I am very glad you came here to die. And it took a long time to understand it was your way of saying "today."

[ Laughter ]

[ Applause ]

CHRIS DISSPAIN:

I recommend if you want to learn how to speak Australian, you listen to Twomey.

BRAD WHITE:

Thank you very much. These folks are going to be at the ICANN@20 reception which is at the banquet hall. I might add, if you're interested in what they had to say, if you've gone to the History Project pages of the ICANN website, we have extended interviews with all these folks and many others. I realize not everyone is interested in the history, but if you are, you can tune in and out of some of those.



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When you go into the banquet hall there's going to be three TV monitors and you'll be able to see some short clips from some of those interviews.

In case you get stuck -- if you're stuck talking to Chris Disspain and you get bored really fast, you can go watch a television set.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Of me.

BRAD WHITE: Thank you very much for coming, and a round of applause for our panel.

[ Applause ]

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**