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ICANN67 | Virtual Community Forum – Q&A with ICANN Org Executive Team  
Thursday, March 12, 2020 – 15:45 to 16:45 CUN

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: This meeting is being recorded.

BRAD WHITE: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm pleased to welcome you all to the ICANN67 Q&A with the ICANN organization executive team. My name is Brad White. I'm a director of communications for ICANN Org. Before we begin, I would like to explain how this session will work. Since this is the last day of ICANN67, we assume that most are now familiar with the Zoom platform that we've been using all week. But there are probably still some who would benefit from a very quick overview.

First, there two ways to ask a question or make a comment. You can submit a written question or comment into the Zoom chat. If you do that, please be sure to put it between <question> or <comment> brackets so the remote participation manager, James Cole, doesn't miss it.

Now, to voice a question, click on the "raise hand" icon at the bottom of your screen. You will automatically go into the speaker's queue.

I should note at this point that everyone's mic will be muted to avoid extraneous noise.

Now, when we see it is your turn to speak, we will unmute on our end which will trigger a note to you and it will appear on your screen

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requesting you to also unmute your microphone. This lets you know that you are ready to speak.

When your name is called, that's your cue to make your comment or ask your question. Again, please make certain that your mic is unmuted.

With that, I'm going to hand it over to ICANN President and CEO, Goran.

Goran.

GORAN MARBY:

Thank you. Yeah, and I just realized for some reasons that you will see pictures of me and my executive team during this session. I'm very sorry for that, speaking for myself.

Anyway, thank you and welcome to this session. This is now a tradition that we do, that you have the ability to ask me and my team questions about what we're doing or our priorities. I am going to keep my introduction very short.

I also -- we're having so many attending this call, I just want again say thank you from me and my team for all the support we have received from the community during this week.

We get a lot of -- my team has done a fantastic job, and I'm really happy about the commitment. We wouldn't be able to have done this without you. It shows that when we cooperate, we can really do something that no one has done before.

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So we're going to start off having the different -- my different team to talk very shortly about their priorities for the next year, what is on their minds, and what are the operational things that we're trying to achieve for a period.

So we're going to do that very shortly so we give the opportunity for you to ask questions in the end as well.

So with no further ado, I would like to hand over to Ash.

ASHWIN RANGAN:

Thank you, Goran. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, wherever you are.

To Goran's comment about providing a little bit of a perspective on things that are top of mind from an engineering and I.T. perspective, first and foremost, is the continuing situation that warrants us to make decisions about where people work from and providing them the information technology infrastructure so that they can work from wherever they are likely to be most safe and healthy. That's very much top of mind as we look at the year ahead.

As you know, we've been working on the information transparency initiative, which is to redo the infrastructure on which we host not only icann.org as a website but a constellation of almost 30 other websites that ICANN operates with content on them. The first of those is going to transition across to the ITI infrastructure, which will be then treated as a platform on which more and more websites will start to transition.

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The first soft launch of that is currently planned for April. And toward the end of the year, we'll be doing a hard launch with everything that we envisage going onto the platform with the first example of icann.org. That's very much top of mind for a section of our engineering team.

Another section of our engineering team is busy continuing work with the naming services portal where functionality, particularly to address registrar requirements, are going to get completed immediately on the heels of which we'll be undertaking work with the compliance, the ticketing system for compliance, transitioning across to the NSB platform so that from a contracted party perspective, there is a single place to go to get a 360 view of all the interactions that they have with ICANN. That is going to take us well into the calendar year.

In addition to that, as my colleagues here certainly know, we're automating some of our internal processes like tracking our working groups and making sure that we're providing them with the right kind of support at the right time. And to do that, we are coming up with a structure for a comprehensive -- what we think of as a community relationship management system. So those are the things that are top of mind for E&IT. Thank you.

Now I toss it over to David Conrad.

DAVID CONRAD:

Thank you, Ash. This is David Conrad, for the record.

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So my team is focusing on continued data collections, specifically related to identifier health and DNS abuse and analysis of that data as we're able to collect it.

We're rapidly expanding our capacity development capability-building resources. We've just brought in some additional resources in Africa. And we intend on enhancing our capacity-development work, trying to sort of raise the level of knowledge about the identifier systems and how they work and how they can be abused throughout the world.

We have an initiative known as the DNS security facilitation initiative that we're going to be working with the community to identify the actual activities that that initiative should undertake. We have our own ideas, but we're very interested in understanding what the community believes we should do in terms of enhancing DNS ecosystem security.

On the IANA side of the house, IANA is going to be focused on releasing the first phase of its next-generation tools to make it easier for their customers to make requests and track their requests.

And as always, we're going to continue to focus on the stable operations to continue to match the level of excellence -- or exceed the level of excellence that the community has come to expect, particularly in this time of some uncertainty about what's going to be happening with the Internet.

So with that, I will hand it over to David Olive.

DAVID OLIVE:

Thank you very much, David. The policy team is focusing on a number of areas, three in particular: The continuing work of supporting the policy and advice development work of the community; helping the community in the implementation of various organizational reviews which are internal changes to their operations and improvements in their procedures. And then the third part, of course, would be other community leadership and activities.

We know, of course, for example, that in terms of the policy and advice work, the ccNSO, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, has been working on major -- two major PDPs that work on the review mechanisms as well as their IDN top-level overall policy recommendations. We find that work will continue.

Obviously, the Generic Names Supporting Organization have major policy work in the areas of rights protection mechanisms, new gTLD subsequent procedures, implementation of the EPDP 1 that was a part of that registration data work, and the continuation of that as part 2.

Also, of course, the Governmental Advisory Committee continues to do its communicate after each ICANN work.

And various other advice are in the works for the Root Server System Advisory Committee as well as the Security and Stability Advisory Committee as they proceed to work on their work plans for the coming year.

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Obviously in the area of review implementations, both the RSSAC, SSAC, ccNSO, and ALAC are in the process of working on those as they go to make improvements to their procedures.

In other areas, of course, we still continue to support the CEO's consultation calls with the leadership that happen throughout the year.

The leadership as well is getting information through their digest, kind of a short form that comes twice a week that gives them updates on public comments, developments, and other activities across the supporting organizations and advisory committees.

And, finally, we will be working on the community excellence award and to remind people, again, that the deadlines for those submissions are the 27th of March. So please get those in for work in that recognition award as well as a public comment process improvements and working on the various policy and advice documents to be part of the ITI, the information technology -- the information transparency and websites that we're working on. And that's what we'll be looking at in the next year.

I now turn it over to my colleague Gina.

GINA VILLAVICENCIO:

Thank you, David. Gina Villavicencio for the record.

I hold responsibility for both the global human resources and the administrative services, or facilities functions.

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The global HR function is primarily responsible for the employee experience from beginning to end. To support the activities my colleagues have shared on this colleague, this includes talent acquisition, compensation and benefits, performance management of our staff, training and development, employment policies, and workplace compliance amongst other ongoing responsibilities.

As we work to support the organization's FY21 priorities, administrative services will ensure our facilities are properly maintained and operating smoothly for our staff and our operational needs.

Global human resources will work to ensure that we are attracting and retaining the appropriate talent to support both the strategic and operating plans.

With this, I turn it over to Jamie Hedlund.

JAMIE HEDLUND:

Thanks, Gina. This is Jamie Hedlund. I head up contractual compliance and consumer safeguards.

Two priorities for the next several months. One is our migration to a new ticketing system that Ash mentioned earlier, moving to the Salesforce-based platform, which for us is very exciting for a number of reasons.



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One, it will allow us to create more intuitive and easier-to-use complaint forms. It will also allow us to collect even more granular data on complaints and how we handle them than we do currently.

And, third, it should allow us to approach our work more efficiently and make better decisions in terms of resource allocation based, you know, for the 25,000 or so complaints that we address every year.

Second major area for us continue to be DNS security threats, DNS abuse. We are -- will imminently launch an audit of the registrars for their obligations related to DNS abuse.

We are continuing to work closely with OCTO in identifying instances of DNS security threats and figuring out ways to address it.

So those are the two main areas for us to consider along with our day-to-day work.

With that, I will turn it over to general counsel John Jeffrey.

JOHN JEFFREY:

Hi, everyone. It's John Jeffrey. I'm the general counsel and ICANN Board secretary. I manage the global -- or the governance function for ICANN which includes the legal services group, the secretary for the Board function, as well as the complaints office and the -- and the related work that goes on for supporting the Nominating Committee.

We currently have functions that contain -- inside the legal department contract management, legal support for the other functions, including GDD and the policy team, legal support for labor --

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global stakeholder engagement, strategic initiatives, and implementation of different transition phases and review teams. And we work closely with ICANN's risk department on mitigation.

Our key element to work with on the strategic plan is the ethics plan. The ethics plan is being developed for ICANN's internal function, and we're looking forward to developing that over the coming months.

And with that, I will pass over to Karen Lentz.

KAREN LENTZ:

Thank you, John. This is Karen Lentz for the record speaking about some of the upcoming work for the Global Domains Division. A large part of it has to do with planning and execution for implementing many of the policy development efforts that David Olive spoke about. That includes a number of activities relating to registration data, both the EPDP phases 1 and 2 that we're engaged in that includes supporting the subsequent procedures policy development discussions in terms of engagement, implementation considerations, ramping up for that.

Also, rights protection mechanisms, another policy development process that's going on that we're anticipating doing some implementation work when that completes.

We're also supporting some work both in the GNSO and ccNSO regarding internationalized domain names, particularly around variant TLDs.

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Also, on the implementation side, we are working on or planning for implementation of many of the review team recommendations that came out of the competition consumer trust and consumer choice review team as well as some of the RDS review recommendations that will be coming to us for implementation.

And the last piece that I'll mention, that, as you've seen in the operating plan, universal acceptance continues to be a key area of activity for us in terms of outreach and education and providing tools for organizations to become UA ready.

With that, I will toss it over to Mandy Carver.

MANDY CARVER:

Thank you, Karen. My name is Mandy Carver. I'm the SVP for Government and IGO Engagement at ICANN.

I'd like to briefly go over the priorities for our function, which manages outreach and engagement strategy for ICANN in relation to governments and IGOs globally.

Our first short-term priority is to complete the refocus of the GE team's work toward the evaluation and analysis work, or the think tank function, as Goran has outlined in other settings, and also to add additional staffing to address increased needs and activity at the United Nations and in Europe.

The focus of our work is to position ICANN as a neutral, trusted source of technical information for governments and IGOs.

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GE will continue to support the organization goals and board priorities for addressing the potential challenges raised by the legislative and regulatory changes taking place that may impact ICANN's remit and to communicate these analyses to the community. This will be demonstrated through a continuing series of papers that will be announced and then posted to our publications page as well as specific communications with governments reflected in the correspondence page and updates, as appropriate, to the board working group and to the community.

Some examples of this recent work was the recently posted overview of U.N. activities in cyber. There will be an upcoming paper that will be released shortly that addresses European Commission activities, as well as a summary of recent engagement with the government and stakeholders in India, about the potential impact on the DNS of proposed national legislation there.

GE also conducts target and engagement with the permanent missions to the United Nations and other IGOs to provide technical information on topics of interest to members. A recent example of this work was a briefing in January hosted at the U.N. by the Estonian and Bulgarian missions to provide information on the technical underpinnings of the Internet.

In addition, GE provides capacity-building support to the GAC through the initiatives of the Underserved Regions Working Group to create and deliver targeted engagement addressing issues of interest to the GAC. The most recent of these were the online sessions regarding

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subsequent procedures that were incorporated into virtual ICANN67. We also have planned workshops to be held in conjunction with ICANN68 and with PETA, when that meeting is convened sometime in the summer.

Outside of ICANN Org, we are working in a similar capacity with the ITU-D to develop collaborative capacity-building initiatives for governments.

I will now hand over to Russ.

RUSS WEINSTEIN:

Thanks, Mandy.

In addition to the work that Karen Lentz outlined for GDD, we have a few other projects and high interest areas.

We've been working to improve our understanding of the domain name market and industry and using that knowledge to improve our financial forecasting model. You see this in documents available in the operating plan and budget.

We're also providing account management and contract administration to our contracted parties, helping them fulfill their obligations with their contracts and building new tools that can enable both ICANN and the contracted parties to identify potential nonconformances and get them remediated quickly.

In addition to that, we've been working with both the registry and registrars to amend the respective base agreements to incorporate

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requirements for the RDAP technology as the new technology for registration data directory services to eventually replace WHOIS with RDAP technology.

With that, I'll pass it over to Sally Costerton.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Hello. I'm Sally Costerton. And I lead engagement at ICANN, specifically in the areas of taking care of the meetings team, the public responsibility support services team, and also the global stakeholder engagement team.

Brief highlights for this forthcoming period. As was said by Ash, my colleague, earlier, we are very focused, particularly in the meetings area, on how do we ensure is that we can provide for the community and for staff, board, and community members the right kind of meeting facilities in this difficult time that we face. And we will be spending significant time after this meeting talking to you and discussing feedback and thoughts about how we move forward and what learnings do we have from ICANN67 that may be useful to us in the future.

On the newcomer side, the team PRS looks after the newcomer programs. We're focusing heavily on expanding ICANN Learn online program. I'm moving more and more of our learners to an online capacity-building experience to complement many of the face-to-face activities that we do around the world. Partly in partnership with our

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OCTO team, which David has already referred to, and also with our regionally distributed engagement team.

We have had a lot of interest in the program. It's expanding, and it's an extremely good way for us to be able to offer more training to more people cost effectively over time.

In terms of the fellowship and Next Gen programs, the Next Gen Program is out for review at the moment with the community consultation in very much the same way as we have done with the fellowship program. And this is likely to involve much more input from the community and mentorship as we know that this is very effective in terms of bringing our newcomers on board for more participation, which is a key goal of this group.

And then, finally, from the Regional Stakeholder Engagement Team, we will be taking over some of the projects previously held by the government engagement team, particularly in the area of national and regional IGF support and Internet governance schools. And in addition, we're working very closely with all our regional stakeholders in terms of how the five-year strategic plan is rolled out into the regions in ways that can be implemented to suit the priorities of the community as a whole.

And with that, I'll hand over to Sally Newell Cohen.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN:

Thank you, Sally. This is Sally Newell Cohen, and I head up the global communications and language services team.

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So we're effectively a service provider to the community, to the board, and to org. And our primary purpose is to ensure that ICANN is represented accurately and consistently in all forms of communication. In any given year, we have many important objectives, particularly to protect and enhance ICANN's reputation and identity.

And also this year particularly we are working to create compelling and easy-to-understand narratives that explain ICANN's technical role and remit and our policy-making roles in a way that's accessible and is easier to understand to a broader audience. So that's a focus for us.

We also work to demonstrate successes and knowledge and thought leadership through consistent positioning and clarity.

We also continually work to expand and diversify our communications efforts and the channels that we use for geographic and target audience reach.

We also -- media relations is a big part of what we do and will continue to do by leveraging our media and industry contacts to amplify some of our key messages.

We also are working to educate internal and external audiences and to support our personnel activities. And we facilitate access to ICANN by providing translations, interpretation, and transcription services in the six U.N. languages for all public meetings and other events.

So for fiscal year '21 in particular, our team will be focused on several additional objectives, one of which is to work with engineering and I.T.



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on the transition from ITI to ITP. And that will be something that we'll work on for several years. But it's a big push for us this year.

And also a project that we're working on is inventorying all of our external-facing communications that we develop to evaluate their reach, their effectiveness, ensure that there's no duplication. And our objective is to redundancy, improve our reach, and streamline our content.

And then, finally, our support will continue for the strategic and operational initiatives conducted by all of the other functions in ICANN Org, including some of the objectives you're hearing about today. So that's really the focus for our team.

And I will hand it over to Susanna Bennett.

SUSANNA BENNETT:

Thank you, Sally.

The operations team consists of board operations, security operations, risk management, operations planning, and managing the Open Data Program.

The board operations team will firstly to continue managing the day-to-day operations of the board and secondly to continue the collaboration cross functionally on tools and process improvements.

The focus of the securities operations team is on the health, safety, and security of ICANN Org, ICANN board, and the community in the

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areas of physical event and travel security, intelligence, training, response planning, and threat management.

During the next few months, the Security Operations Team's key focus will be related to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The key focus of risk management over the next few months will be on the continuity plan, also with a focus relating to the current pandemic. In addition, the risk appetite statement has been presented to the Board Risk Committee and will be further developed for formal proposal to the Board Risk Committee and the full board for adoption.

Risk management is also supporting the Board Risk Committee on the board priority deliverable of monitoring existential threats.

Part of the operations team is collaborating organization-wide to complete the updates to the draft five-year operating and financial plan for board adoption in May, taking in all the comments that we have received.

Then we'll begin planning for the rollout of the five-year plan to the FY22 through '26 plan.

Another important priority is to develop and implement the reporting to the community on the progress towards the FY21 operating and financial plan.

Yesterday, we had an exciting launch of the Open Data Program. After ICANN67, the operations team will continue to collaborate

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organization-wide and with the community on the future data releases to the platform and improvements of the platform.

Over to you, Theresa.

THERESA SWINEHART:

Hi, Susanna. Thank you.

This is Theresa Swinehart. I oversee the function around strategy and strategic initiatives. And this includes a few buckets of work, which I'll go through quickly with regards to our priorities for the coming year.

The first is around reviews, which was quite a discussion also during this ICANN meeting. We're focused in on the conclusion and recommendations coming out of some reviews that are still underway, namely, SSR2 is completing its work, ATRT3, RDS is as well. And then the implementation around the CCT.

In the context of reviews, there's also two themes that are being addressed which we're working on with the community and the board.

The first is around prioritization and resourcing of review-issued recommendations.

There's quite a few recommendations coming out of all of these reviews and how do we ensure that they're prioritized, appropriately resourced, and built into our operational planning process.

The second area of work around reviews is really the streamlining of reviews. As the community is aware, we've had, over the past year or

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two, situations where we have 11 or more review-related aspects running in parallel. And how to look at this in a more effective and more streamlined approach.

The board held a session during ICANN66 and ATRT3 is also addressing this. And we'll look forward to that further conversation about how to leverage some efficiencies there.

Another area of work that we're focused in on is the implementation of the recommendations around the Cross-Community Working Group accountability Work Stream 2 and taking a look at what areas of work are immediately underway, aligning that work, and also planning and resourcing for the future with regards to those implementations.

Around strategic initiatives, there is the discussion around the evolution of the multistakeholder model and the next steps based on the feedback from the work plan recently in the public comment process for the operating planning process, preparing next iteration of that discussion to bring forward to the community and look at how to implement various aspects of that.

Finally, the strategic planning process, as the community's aware, we have a strategic plan that goes into effect in looking at, with the board, how to develop a process to systematically and periodically review this and adapt it as needed. And with that, in forming some of those discussions through the strategic outlook and trends-related work.

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And then, finally, we are looking at the GDPR coordination and helping to coordinate with the community and cross functionally different areas around that.

So with that, I would like to hand it over to Xavier. Thanks.

XAVIER CALVEZ:

Thank you, Theresa.

Hello, everyone. My team oversees the finance and procurement activities which include a number of different types of services to the community, the Board, and the organization around payroll, financial planning, and a number of accounting and statutory reporting requirements.

This team continues on a daily basis to improve its effectiveness and efficiency in providing those services to all stakeholders. Over the next few months, we will be focusing on one of the operating initiatives that has been displayed in our current five-year plan, which is called Planning at ICANN.

And the purpose of this initiative is simply to help the entire ecosystem to be more effective and efficient through planning, leading to a number of activities that we want to help the various stakeholders do better for their own effectiveness and efficiency. So we want to improve the quantification of resources. We want to improve how we evaluate the needs of the various participants to our activities, whether in terms of financial aspects or nonfinancial aspects.

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Through these elements, we want to support and improve our ability to prioritize, again, across the entire community.

We want to increase the flexibility with which we use our resources. And with all that, we also obviously want to improve the transparency by which we manage our resources and we plan for our work so that it's more visible to the -- their stakeholders and increase our accountability to deliver on the public mission of ICANN.

With that, I'll pass it back to Brad for the questions and comments.

BRAD WHITE:

Thank you, Xavier. I'd like to remind everyone that if you would like to voice your question, please click on the "raise hand" icon at the bottom of your screen. So far we just have one online -- excuse me, one person waiting to voice a question. We have about nine submitted questions in writing.

So we're going to temporarily hold the questions -- the voice questions so we can work our way through some of those that have already been submitted.

I'm going to start with a written submission from Rubens Kuhl to Ashwin: Has any ICANN IT vendor said that a device, part, or service couldn't be delivered due to lack of supplies caused by the COVID-19 crisis?

ASHWIN RANGAN:

Thank you, Brad. Thank you, Rubens, for the question.

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So far we have not seen any supply side disruptions from any of our vendors. We have been made aware that some of them have decided to have their -- their staff members work from home and have made available contact numbers through which we have access to them on an ongoing basis. But we haven't seen any supply disruptions related to COVID-19 so far. Thank you.

BRAD WHITE: Thank you, Ash.

Gunela Astbrink wants to voice a question. Gunela. Gunela? Try it once more. Gunela, try it once more.

GUNELA ASTBRINK: Yes. Can you hear me?

BRAD WHITE: We can now. Go ahead.

GUNELA ASTBRINK: Okay. Thank you. My name is Gunela Astbrink, and I'm a returning fellow and an At-Large ambassador. And I'm speaking in my own personal capacity.

First of all, thank you very much to staff for the great work in transforming ICANN67 into a virtual meeting in a very short time frame. Special thanks to (saying name) for supporting fellows and understanding our needs.

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I know that ICANN Org has included IDN UA in software procurement requirements. This is an excellent example of being a role model. I suggest that ICANN Org also adopt accessibility criteria in ICT procurement based on established guidelines used by U.S., European, and Australian governments. It is a positive way of encouraging vendors to supply more accessible products and services.

And this goes beyond Web accessibility. The software sector is familiar with the Section 508 guidelines and procedures in the U.S. and the European standard EN 301 549.

And we know that there are over 1 billion persons with disabilities globally.

Adopting these guidelines for procurement is a proactive way for software to be more accessible by persons with disability, encouraging more participation and reflecting ICANN's goal of increased diversity in the multistakeholder process.

Will ICANN Org be able to do this?

Thank you.

BRAD WHITE: Thank you, Gunela, for your comment.

GORAN MARBY: This is --



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BRAD WHITE: We have a question from Volker Greimann.

GORAN MARBY: Brad, this is your President and CEO.

[ Laughter ]

Thank you, Gunela. Nice to meet you.

So, first of all, this is something that is very dear to heart to many of us who work for ICANN. You can see what we're doing, especially in the ITI project which we are launching very soon, you will see we are trying to the best we can when it comes to the accessibility of our Web pages and all the resources we do.

I will, rather, turn this around, and I think this is something important that we should spend more time on in the community to think about. That's where many of the things come from when it comes to provisions in the contracts and things.

But I think -- I'm hearing -- maybe thanks to your good work, I'm hearing more and more discussions about this within the community. So thank you very much for bringing this to everybody's attention.

BRAD WHITE: Thanks, Goran.

We're going to basically cut the queue on the voiced questions at this point because we have so many submitted questions already.

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We have -- the next question is from Volker Greimann: What are the plans for the GDD 2020? And how high is the current likelihood for it to take place as planned?

GORAN MARBY:

This is Goran again. So it is a very good and very fair question. We actually invited the contracted parties to have a discussion with them, I think, on Tuesday to discuss that issue. And then the Board will assemble later the same day to discuss that issue.

I don't want to give any probabilities right now.

I just learned in Paris they closed down all schools now. So I think you can imagine the probability by yourself.

But we want to go through a process where we talk to the contracted parties house and their stakeholders before we make any decision about it.

BRAD WHITE:

Thank you, Goran.

Our next question is from Raymond Mamattah, addressed to Gina: I have not seen any blacks/African in the top people that have spoken so far. Are there some limitations in recruiting for these positions which does not favor people from Africa?

GINA VILLAVICENCIO:

Thank you for the question, Raymond. Gina for the record.

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Diversity is extremely important to ICANN as an organization just based on our mission and the community that we serve. So it's not limited to skin color.

We value diversity that covers gender, age, ethnicity, experience. We speak over 50 languages as an organization. But specifically to our executive team, we come from all continents: Europe, North America, Africa, Asia, including South America.

So I -- I appreciate your question. It is something that we pride ourselves on and ensure that there are no limitations in recruiting when it comes to diversity for all of our positions, including our executive team.

ASHWIN RANGAN:

Raymond, (speaking in non-English language).

For the benefit of the listeners, I just said: Hello to Raymond and said that my name is Ashwin Rangan. I know Swahili, and I come from Tanzania. Thank you.

BRAD WHITE:

Thank you, Ash.

Next question from Fabricio Vayra: We heard this week from EPDP team that privacy/proxy policy will not be addressed by the EPDP. ICANN previously stated it would defer to EPDP, the reason for ICANN not moving forward with privacy/proxy policy implementation. What

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now? Can we move forward as the community recommended on privacy/proxy implementation?

KAREN LENTZ:

Hi there. This is Karen Lentz. I'll speak to that. And hello, Fabricio. Thanks for the question.

So the proxy/privacy policy recommendations and implementation work kind of is an intersection at this moment between previous policy work, new policy work, and policy that was in the middle of being implemented.

And as was referenced, there is an EPDP team right now working on policy around access to nonpublic registration data. And so that has been identified as one interdependency for this.

Another one that I've mentioned this week is that we're also as part of the implementation of EPDP phase 1 looking at all of the existing consensus policies for how they're impacted by the phase 1 recommendations. And so that work is in progress on privacy/proxy specifically.

And we've identified a number of -- and are kind of looking at and finding some questions and things that I think will be helpful to raise for the community in considering what the best way is to move forward on proxy/privacy.

So I certainly understand this is of interest to a number of people, and we'll share that with you as soon as we can. Thanks.

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BRAD WHITE: Thanks, Karen.

Next question from Holly Raiche on RDAP: Will the required adoption include a requirement that the RDAP protocol include ability for gated access?

RUSS WEINSTEIN: This is Russ Weinstein. I will take this one.

Thank you for the question, Holly. Yes, one of the great benefits of the registration data access protocol, the RDAP protocol, has over WHOIS is that it enables authentication and essentially gated access, as you say. A number of other benefits to this protocol are standardization of data format, support for internationalized data, and increased security among other things.

All these are benefits baked into the protocol, which is why we're moving towards that becoming the standard protocol for registration data directory services. Thanks.

BRAD WHITE: Thanks, Russ.

Next question from Edmon, directed at David Conrad: First of all, I applaud the open data project at ICANN. I think it serves as a good example of a well-implemented open data platform. And thank you for the nice session on the topic this week.

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As I was looking at the data, it came to my attention that the data released included only domain statistics in data. I wonder if there are plans to also provide open data on ICANN policy development and participation. For example, regarding the gender, stakeholder group, geographical diversity, and perhaps the level of participation in various working groups, F2F and virtual meetings.

Of course, published data must take the consideration of privacy seriously. However, such data should be useful for the community at a governance level, especially with understanding the diversity of participation at ICANN. The question, therefore, is: Are there plans to work to release open data in policy in participation areas and what are those -- and what those plans may be? If not, would you consider them?

DAVID CONRAD:

Thank you, Edmon. As the open data platform is actually operated by Susanna, I will hand that question over to her.

SUSANNA BENNETT:

Thank you, David. Thank you, Edmon and Mark, for the kind words. Yes, we're very excited over the launch. The data builds trust within the community and the organization to allow both of us to enhance the organization's accountability and transparency. It's definitely very important.

The data released for the open data platform launch V1 was selected based on input from the community as collected via public comment.

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So we used that information to help us prioritize and to look at how we would roll out the releases. The meeting data on the policy development data, they were on the list, collected from on the public comment.

The prioritization, as you mentioned, we need to go through a few things, for example, as you said, the privacy regulations concerns for the data release. And, also, we need to assess the readiness and usefulness of the data for the community, the size and structure of the data to fit into the platform, among quite a few other things.

So for future release, we will follow the same prioritization as for launch V1, plus new feedback we will obtain from the community as you get a chance to use the platform.

We look forward to all of you trying out the platform and give us feedback. Look forward to that. Thank you.

David and Ash, would you like to add anything? Theresa would like to. Thanks.

THERESA SWINEHART:

Edmon, thank you. One of the things we just wanted to mention here in this context as well is that the Work Stream 2 report does include an element of diversity or recommendation specifically around that, as you know, including a focus on the diversity of the community groups.

So with that, we'll be relying upon the community to help us implement some of these recommendations as they require the

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participation and, of course, guidance from the various community groups.

So in addition to what my colleagues have responded, as we roll out the planning for the Work Stream 2 implementation, you'll see issues that you raise here in your question that will also be addressed in that context.

And, Susanna, I don't know if you or Ash...

ASHWIN RANGAN: Thank you.

BRAD WHITE: Thank you. Our next question, Mark Datysgeld. I congratulate the team on getting the data platform out to the public. It is looking good and will enable quality independent research. Please keep more data sets coming as they are all of high interest to different stakeholders.

Any comment on that before I go to the next?

ASHWIN RANGAN: Thank you, Brad. Yes, indeed, we are eager to hear feedback from you. We have already heard from you about interest in some other data sets. We requested feedback from you on two different fronts: One is to use the data sets that we now have published on the Open Data Platform. And the other is to engage your interest on future data



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sets. So please keep that information coming our way. And we'll respond as fast as our capacity permits us to do so.

Thank you.

BRAD WHITE:

Thanks, Ash.

The next is a rather brief comment that I suspect Goran may want to address, from Sebastian Bachollet.

Long live the acronyms of ICANN.

GORAN MARBY:

I've been trying to replace acronyms and fruits and pizzas. I haven't been that successful, have I?

Thank you.

BRAD WHITE:

Thank you, Goran.

The next comment/question is from Jimson Olufuye. I hope I didn't mangle that name too much.

Many thanks, Goran and team for your quick turnaround that has delivered a robust virtual meeting for the community.

David Conrad, are there evolving identifier systems that could pose significant challenge to the DNS? And is the much-talked-about Russian intranet a pathway to fragmentation of the Internet?

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To Mandy Carver, I would like to thank you and the team, and in particular, Veni, for his report on government cyber Internet governance direction that showed a gradual movement of government from multistakeholderism to multilateralism.

What does the org plan to do to turn the tide in conjunction with the community?

DAVID CONRAD:

So this is David Conrad. With regards to the evolving identifier systems that could pose a significant challenge to the DNS, that's something that my team and I are constantly on the lookout for. We haven't identified anything as yet that we see as sort of feasible to replace the DNS in the near term. There are always new technologies being developed and technologies that evolve. One of the items that we're watching now are some efforts within the ITU on something called new I.P. that might have some impact on addressing. There's always questions about whether blockchain-based technologies will replace the DNS.

So far, we haven't seen anything concrete in that space that seems to address significant issues, but it's something that we continue to track.

With regards to the Russian intranet as a pathway to fragmentation of the Internet, my understanding of the efforts that were undertaken there was largely that it was an internal test to make sure that Russia's internal network would be able to continue to operate in the event of

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a disconnection from external connections. As such, I don't see it as a significant indicator towards fragmentation of the Internet, more as sort of a -- a response to perceived external threats that could impact the operation of the Internet within a particular country. And my understanding is that is the kind of exercise that a lot of countries go and do just to ensure that their own internal infrastructure is able to operate effectively.

The shift that's taking place -- two things. We need to make a distinction between cybersecurity, cybercrime, et cetera, those dialogues that are happening in the U.N. and IGO space.

First of all, those organizations are always multilateral. It's more a question of when the topics that touch on ICANN come around to be a topic of interest.

Thank you for the comment, and thanks to Veni on his paper. We will continue to brief the community and publish in this space.

We'd ask the broader community to reach out to their national governments and to keep them and us informed of any developments that are going on. It is important that the issues and concerns of the community are brought up through the national governments and into the IGO space.

And we will continue to work in the IGO space to provide neutral technical information so that participants are better able to understand the possible unintended consequences of their actions. Thank you.

BRAD WHITE:

Thank you very much, Mandy. I would like to note that we have more written questions than we can get to this in session. The board meeting is starting soon, so we don't want to run over.

Just want to note that everyone -- let everyone know if they submitted a question, we will respond to that at the end of this -- after this session has concluded.

So with that, the next question is from Rita Moll: On the subject of Internet governance schools and the very successful preICANN Internet Governance School before the Montreal meeting, a couple of members of the At-large committee prepared a proposal of how ICANN Org can use its buying power to support preICANN IG schools.

Can you give us any info on the progress of this proposal?

SALLY COSTERTON:

Brad, it's Sally Costerton. I'll take that.

I think that this is a NARALO event. And I'm just trying to work with my colleagues to make sure we can find the precise proposal. So I would be very grateful if someone would like to email me that proposal directly, and we can get back to you with a response. Thank you very much for asking the question.

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BRAD WHITE: Thank you very much, Sally. I'm being told that we're going to have to cut this down again.

Let me repeat, if you submitted questions, if you submitted them in writing (indiscernible)

I'd like to thank you all again for joining us today for this session.

(indiscernible)

GORAN MARBY: So could -- Brad, we cannot hear you anymore unfortunately, which is -- and I always love the sound of your voice. It seems like we have a capacity problem around him, which surprises me.

What I think -- what I think is happening is we're actually coming to a close of this session. What we will do is the remaining questions that you posted, we will write answers to them and post them as soon as we can.

And with that, I'd like to ask -- thank you all for attending this. We had -- the top number was 330 people attending, which is by far the most interest we've ever had in my executive team. So I thank you very much, and I look forward to speaking to you all soon again.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: The recording has stopped.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**