Q&A Pod Transcript
Plenary Session: ICANN and COVID-19 Advancing Policy Work in the Current Environment
Thursday, 25 June 2020 13:00-14:30 (UTC+8)

1, Comment: a Policy Forum should be more about advancing policy development than a series of webinars. Policy development activity was very limited, despite requests from community leadership. Rubens Kuhl
Live answered

2, Question: There were numerous sessions covering various aspects of "DNS Abuse". Were all of these separate sessions necessary? Did we miss an opporunity to consolidate them in to a single session and simplify the agenda? James Bladel
Live answered

3, During COVID, as meetings take place online, and also in general for all ICANN regular '"calls", is there a Device Policy? For e.g. When Google came up with GSuite services, at least during inception, the applications such as email and chat, were to be set up only on Devices that followed a Device Policy, made easier by a "Device Policy" software that the user had to install. ICANN meetings would be safer if there is a Device Policy, and an easier way for participants to install software, with some form of provision for some form of layered anonymity. Sivasubramanian M
Live answered

4, whether ICANN has started developing policies related to this kind of Pandemic situations for future aspect? Avinash Kaur

5, ...clarification... GSuite was mentioned as an example, not to suggest any specific platform or O/S or any specific type of device ... Sivasubramanian M

6, Comment: The meetings app (on Android) was a terrible experience this time. What is usually seamless and smooth was extremely glitchy and lagged often. This was probably more after the changes introduced in the zoom links from day 2 onwards. I hope this can be looked into and fixed. it becomes more important and useful since we've moved to fully virtual meeting. Gangesh Varma

Hi Gangesh, thanks for your feedback. We will take it back to our technical team. In the meantime, please feel free to comment via our survey if you have a moment. The link will be provided at the end of this session. Thank you!

7, There will probably be a period when some countries are fairly open within the county/region. Hopefully there is some thinking happening around facilitating regional meetings in the meantime. Marita Moll

Hi Marita - you may be pleased to know that this is also part of the discussion paper. We look forward to your and the community's feedback!

8, for the virtual meetings ,can we use a standardized time zone that can accommodate majority of the community members ? Kamara Lilian

Hi Kamara, the question of time zone is one that ICANN org discusses regularly with our community leaders. We did this for ICANN67 and now ICANN68. It was the community's decision to follow the time zone for each of these two meetings but this is a question that we will always raise for each virtual meeting. It is certainly possible that it will not always be in the time zone of the original physical location.

9, Would it be possible to have more intersessional mini ICANN meetings of sorts - similar to the prep meetings updating the community, but much before the schedule main ICANN meetings and more to scope what sessions must be included in the main ICANN meetings that happen thrice a year. This would mean lot more work for SO/AC leadership and staff but may create more learning for newcomers and also provide more informed discussions and lot less catching up for participants. Apologies if this is already been discussed but would be great to hear thoughts on this. Gangesh Varma

Hello Gangesh, thanks for the suggestion. We hope you'll take the time to provide details in our meeting survey as well as to the discussion paper that Goran mentioned. To your question, the Prep Sessions are indeed intended to inform the community's preparations for the main meeting. In addition, our regional GSE teams conduct pre-meeting briefings and post-meeting readout events. As to which sessions are included at an ICANN meeting, that is normally driven by the SOACs themselves, including a planning group that works with ICANN Org on scheduling. I hope this helps.

10, Question: Will the evaluation of this meeting include an assessment of the impact on first-timers? While the ability to participate remotely should open up opportunites for more to participate, many of the sessions for this week would have been pretty daunting and not helped by the webinar format. Tom Dale (GNSO Council)

Hi Tom, thank you for that suggestion. We'll work with our GSE colleagues and others to try to get feedback from first-time attendees. We also hope that first-time attendees will take the time to provide us with their feedback, including via any community group they may have joined or have contacts with. We understand about the webinar format and welcome suggestions on how we can best utilize the remote tools available to us.

11, I have 2 questions:
1. Are there any studies underway on the impacts and negatives of exclusively online meetings and the gains with this format?
2. It is possible that in the "new normal" we will have a mixed model. with more frequent online meetings, even replacing some of the meetings traditionally held face to face? Percival Henriques

Hello Percival - We are definitely looking at other models, studies and so on to see if there can be valuable and useful examples for ICANN. To your second question, this is

something that the community may wish to discuss, including as part of your feedback to the discussion paper that outlines a phased return to face to face meetings (mentioned by Goran in his remarks and downloadable from the webpage for this session).

12, How do you plan to get people more involved/bring in newcomers' for the next few years as remote working makes it even more difficult? e27

Hello - this is an important topic and something that our Executive Team and Global Stakeholder Engagement teams, including regional managers and staff who run our newcomers' program, is prioritizing. The community groups are also considering how they can best conduct outreach in the current environment. ICANN org has a number of programs that cover regional outreach and remote learning (e.g. the ICANN Learn platform). Our regional engagement teams remain very focused on working with participants, including newcomers. Please feel free to contact us if you have any specific ideas, thank you!

13, Comment: as seen in the chat there is appetite for re-considering the number of f2f meetings in a post-covid time, considering carbon footprint and other circumstances. Maybe a combination of 1 or 2 f2f meetings (needed for informal and spontaneous interaction) and virtual meetings may be sensible. Jorge Cancio

Thank you, Jorge - we hope you can provide this feedback when the SOAC leaders reconvene with Goran after ICANN68, as part of the continuing discussion over a possible phased return to ICANN meetings!

14, Could Maureen clarify her comments regarding per diem payments for remote participation - Is this for connectivity reimbursement, or volunteer time commitment, or something else unreleatd to travel? James Bladel

Hi James - the suggestion came from within At-Large that the per diem could be offered to those who would normally be funded to attend a meeting, would get a per diem for the meeting time, to pay for incidental expenses incurred in their work on behalf of At-Large. Leaders within At-Large like other communities work really hard intersessionally as well as in the runup to ICANN meetings. The perdiem would cover some of their costs, to compensate for their volunteer time.

15, Dear chair and distinguished members.
I would like to share with you one key concern in the area of DNS policy.
depriving individuals and institutions from their digital resources and Domain Names(like what has happeneded to domain names of many Iranian citizens and cultural and media organizations .com .net .org) and unilaterally removing them from global digital landscape can highly compromise the stability and social capital of their businesses and also could be an example of violating the International human rights. In addition, such an actions can extremely undermine the pillars of internet governance system and digital trust. I would like to suggest that the issue of the digital unilateral coersive

measure (UCM) in area of digital resources and its impacts specially during covid 19 pandemic be considered as an issues of importance to the GAC. This case can happen to all countries and may expand to CCTLDs domain in the future.what is the ICANN position on that? Amir Mokabberi(Iran, Academic Community)

Hello Amir - we understand that the topic you bring up is being discussed in the GAC. We look forward to receiving the GAC's views on this and other topics of importance to the GAC. Thank you.

16, sure... but would be great to have some feedback today :-) Jorge Cancio

17, Thanks, Maureen. For the record, I find that request extremely offensive, and insenstivie to the sacrifices, challenges and time committements made by volunteers who do not take a per diem. Let's try to keep in mind that these funds ultimately come from gTLD Registrants, many of whom are dealing with struggles of their own right now. James Bladel

18, '@Rod - the SSAC is now the only part of ICANN that operates in a closed environment. What steps, if any, are being taken to open up all mailing lists, meetings, and technical discussions? Jeffrey Neuman

Jeff, as per the latest SSAC review, the level of privacy the SSAC has established, in order to deal with sensitive security issues, was found to be appropriate and there are no plans to change it. That said, we do have two current work parties where we have non-members participating, one as a semi-open discussion group (NCAP) and one with invited guests (DNS Abuse). We will look to more opportunities in future work where it makes sense to have further community member involvement. However, there are no plans to change anything about our private mailing lists or discussions as an AC given the nature of our work, and as I said, the results of our review.

19, '@Göran: thanks for taking that up and looking forward to discussing :-) Jorge Cancio

Thanks for your comments, Jorge.

20, this is my first meeting so far. I got one valuable inputs and get some idea about Icann. Dr. Gnanajeyaraman Rajaram

Thank you for the feedback!

21, I would like to know ICANN position on that! Amir Mokabberi(Iran, Academic Community)

22, please ask my question, I wanted to know the position on organization on that? Amir Mokabberi(Iran, Academic Community)

Amir, as mentioned, the Board and org looks forward to the GAC's comments.