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ICANN70 | Virtual Community Forum – GNSO - NPOC Open Meeting  
Monday, March 22, 2021 – 09:00 to 10:00 EST

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Thank you. Hello, and welcome to the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency (NPOC) Meeting. My name is Maryam Bakoshi, and I am the remote participation manager for this session.

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With that, I'll hand over the floor to the chair of the NPOC chair, Raoul Plommer. Raoul, please.

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RAOUL PLOMMER: Thanks, Maryam. I can't seem to start the video. But while we wait for that, hello everybody. Welcome to NPOC's open session of the ICANN70 meeting. My name is Raoul Plommer, and I'm the chair of NPOC. I'm a digital rights activist, and I've been working with the Pirate Party since 2008 on freedom of speech, privacy, and open government. Maybe loana can introduce herself next.

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Raoul, I don't see loana on the call yet.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Oh, okay. Well, we can move on to ... Hang on. Perhaps Joan can introduce herself. She was the past chair. Joan, do you want to introduce yourself?

JOAN KERR: Can you hear me now?

RAOUL PLOMMER: Yes, we can.

JOAN KERR: Oh, great. Oh, thank you, Raoul. This was unexpected. I thought I would join. This is wonderful that we're having this meeting, and I see that there are 25 participants. It is daylight savings time in Canada, so it might be impacted on, on the people joining as well. But I see that you guys are doing a really great job, and I think that NPOC is in good hands.

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So, one of the things that I that I see that's happening is all the actions that we've discussed are being implemented, and I think that's a really good thing. So, congratulations to all of you. And the communication is increased, so I think that's a really good thing. So, congratulations to everyone. And thank you for including me.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Thanks, Joan. Maybe Caleb next. Or Ore.

OREOLUWA LESI: Okay, hi. Hello, everyone. My name is Oreoluwa Lesi. I'm the Communications chair. I'm from Nigeria. I'm not sure what else I'm supposed to say, but I've been part of NPOC for a few years now and, yes, I'm really enjoying it. In my day job, I run a nonprofit that works to close the gender gap in technology. Hello, everyone. Thanks for coming.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Okay. Maybe Ioana can go next. She's our vice-chair.

IOANA STUPARIU: Hi, everyone. Nice to see so many people here. I'm running two NGOs back home in Romania. I've been a member of NPOC for, I think, a year and a half or so. And right now, I'm the vice-chair of NPOC and I'm trying to make our activities more accessible to NGOs, and to better represent not-for-profit interests in ICANN. So, as you will see today, we're going to have a session on how to get by this rather difficult time in which

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everything happens online, and what are the particular problems for not-for-profits. I'm here to help you as the vice-chair and to answer any of your questions. And, yeah, I'm happy to see you here, and I wish you all a productive meeting. I hope that you will enjoy it.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Thanks, Ioana. Maybe Caleb next.

CALEB OGUNDELE: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Caleb Ogundele from Nigeria. I am the Membership chair. I'm excited to be part of the meeting today. In my day job, I work as a techie, and I also work with a not-for-profit that is specifically focused on Internet policy in Africa. And I'm glad to be part of this meeting and look forward to more engagement to see how some of our members can actively engage. We'd like to hear feedback. We'd like to hear some of the things we're doing wrong that we can do better. And we'd like to improve on them. Thank you very much.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Thanks, Caleb. I guess that was our ... Did we have Emmanuel? I guess not. So, I guess we can move to the next agenda item which is how we are continuing to operate online. And we've had a dramatic drop in activity in the civil society of ICANN, as far as I can see. And so, we would like to take this opportunity to maybe discuss a little [about] what would improve the situation, how people would be more active working for the NCSG, and especially NPOC. Ioana.

IOANA STUPARIU:

Hi, there. So, this part of the agenda is supposed to be sort of an open discussion with our colleagues, with our membership, with the rest of the community and see whether there are any ideas that you have to make it easier to function in the next months or so. We've already been working, all of us online, for a year already. We just celebrated the one year, recently, since the pandemic has been declared a pandemic. And it seems that it's going to take a couple more months, who knows, maybe a year so or even more until we are going to go back to normal life meetings.

What we've noticed in this last year. We've noticed that there's been not only decrease in involvement and in participation and interest from our current members, but also we noticed that it has become harder and harder to recruit and to bring new members into NPOC. And generally, I know this is not the problem that only NPOC has. It's a problem of civil society in general, and it's a problem that many organizations face worldwide. But it's something that we still have to discuss.

And I know that some organizations have taken steps to make it easier for new members to get to know the organizations—organizing social events online, virtual social events, or different other methods to keep everyone in the loop on what's happening and to keep everyone involved. But to be honest, there's this general fatigue of online environment, this Zoom fatigue—a phenomenon that's a recurring one recently that's researched already.

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So, the question is A) how do we make our virtual meetings and our virtual sessions, and generally our online activities, more inclusive and more appealing to our members so that we can actually involve more members into what we do? What type of activities can we bring in? I don't know. What can we do generally to make people more involved?

And second, and point number two, how can we convince not-for-profits that maybe don't know about NPOC—or know about NPOC but just decided not to join until now—how to bring them on board and to actually increase our membership? Because it's important. The more organizations we would present, the stronger our voice into the ICANN environment is going to be.

So, this increases our legitimacy, our credibility. And it makes us more aware of what's happening out there in terms of struggles that not-for-profits deal with when it comes to domain names issues and the DNS abuse generally, or cybersquatting, or privacy rights online, and so on and so forth. All the problems that come with having a domain name online.

So, that's something that we wanted to ask you, whether you think there's something that we can do better, something that we are not doing enough, or something that—I don't know—you've seen in other environments that could be translated here. So, so this is an open call for suggestions or questions if you have any.

We can start, maybe, with our colleagues from the Executive Committee. I know that we've been having similar discussions amongst ourselves [on] how to make these online meetings easier on everyone.

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Maybe they have ideas or ... Feel free to write on the chat or to raise a hand if you have anything that could be potentially constructive.

Yes, Juan. I see Juan has raised his hand. Thank you, Juan. We cannot hear you if you're talking. Yes, we can see you, but we cannot hear you. One second, of course.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Hello. Can you hear me now?

RAOUL PLOMMER: There we go.

IOANA STUPARIU: [We] can hear you, yes. Hi, Juan.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS: Thank you. I'm sorry. So, I think it's the hands-free.

So, first of all, I think that we can do more, as you said, social events, maybe. I know that in this meeting [of] At-Large, it's doing a social event from the region. And this could be helped to do other things than just discussing ICANN policy on [inaudible].

Maybe we also can turn on the cameras to see that we are talking personal, not just the screen. That's one. Another thing, I think that may be NPOC needs to be more noisy. I mean inside ICANN meetings, inside ICANN working groups. Because I have seen a few of us in that kind of

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working group, and members, and the presence of NPOC in that space is not too much. Maybe it's not enough of members or enough noise. We are not doing ... Maybe we are just busy with our daily jobs, but inside ICANN maybe we should make more presence because we have some very different points of view in almost each [meeting] item that we are discussing inside the whole ICANN—EPDP, Transfer Policy, IGO. Well, that's all the working groups that are over there, and I think that's important.

I think that these meetings could be good, and also that kind of social, too. Because maybe the members don't know how to participate actively. Or maybe they are just hearing about NCUC or NCSG, but none about NPOC. I think that could be important to have in mind. Thank you. That's all.

IOANA STUPARIU:

Thank you, Juan. This was very constructive, and I wrote down some ideas as well. For instance, the idea of having a social event. The idea of having regular virtual social events in which we don't talk about policy or working groups or ICANN, but we just get to know each other just to actually be able to get to know each other, to put a person behind the name. Because more often than not, that was the purpose of the live meetings. Right? To actually be able to know each other, to forge a relationship so that you're stronger as a group, if there is a strong group of people in that group. So, that could be an idea. Just try to organize some virtual social events.



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On the other hand, we've tried this past year to be closer to our membership. We tried to organize regular membership meetings in which ... Opening our session to the membership, letting the membership know what they were talking about. This is something that we tried to do and we are still doing on a regular basis. Not to overburden our members' agenda too much, but every three months, a membership meeting is on the agenda.

And then we also tried to organize that NPOC series of webinars, which is point #4 on the agenda. We are going to discuss more about it later, but, yeah, I think we can do more on the social side of things to sort of replace the live interaction.

I see there are some hands raised. I see Joan, also with her camera on. I'm very happy to see you, Joan, after such a long time.

JOAN KERR:

Great. Thank you, and I agree with Juan. But this is a perennial problem for NPOC as well. It's always the issue of trying to do that. So, I just want to say that. And that everything that you said earlier—I'm not going to repeat them— that other organizations are dealing with it as well.

So, one of the things that I've found in participating in other organizations is that it's a knowledge base. So, I'm more of a social person than a policy person. as everybody knows. And what I found was when I was asked to do something for other organizations, because I had the knowledge, it was easier to participate than in NPOC because

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it was all about policy, all about the organization ICANN as opposed to the constituency. And so, that was an issue for me.

One of the things I wanted to recommend is maybe have ... A social event is fantastic—get to know each other, non-policy driven. But maybe a call out to a not-for-profits on how they are actually managing the pandemic and what issues they're dealing with. And maybe start the conversation in that vein and get to know their organizations. How are they managing it? And how can you collaborate to help each other? So, that's my suggestion. Thanks.

IOANA STUPARIU:

That's a great idea, Joan. I think it's a great idea, and we can actually discuss how to make an event that ... We can have something like a survey on the list, but that may be something more passive. Or we can have something more stronger in terms of involvement and have a webinar or have an open house, a type of town hall type of virtual meeting in which ...

It can even be coupled with a social-type of event in which we actually discussed, with a clear agenda, some of the struggles that the NGOs are going through. Even if this is not strongly connected to our mission as a group, as a constituency, I think it's important that we don't forget who we are as membership.

And, hopefully, it will pass us through this difficult time, and then it will motivate us to continue working on the other policy issues, working groups, following the call for comments and what's happening in

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ICANN. I think that could be something to do. So, thanks for the suggestion, Joan. It's a good idea.

Is there anyone—

JOAN KERR:

One other suggestion I want to make, just on the same thing, is maybe that NPOC have regional members, an organization that represents—not represents, but is in the regions—talk about that they're the ones that are presenting, not NPOC. So, NPOC talked about what NPOC is and then have the regional members invite their members to the call.

IOANA STUPARIU:

Noted this idea as well. Great. Thanks, Joan. Very good ideas. Let's see if we have other input from our community or from the guests in today's meeting.

Hello, Herb. Nice to see you here as well. Herb is our Ombudsman at ICANN. There is no other input? Ideas?

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Olévié wrote in the chat. He says, “The problem is which kinds of policies are related to NPOC only and doesn't interfere with NCUC mission? This is my question.”

IOANA STUPARIU:

Thanks, Olévié. Yes, this was the general question. It was for later, not related to this topic. That's why I didn't answer right away. This can be

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tackled a bit later, I think, when we go to the next point which is closer to the policy part.

How do you guys think about having a social virtual meeting? Would you be up for it? Would you participate in it? I know everyone's very busy and a lot of online fatigue, but it could be useful.

JOAN KERR:

I'm taking a course right now, and it's very—about sustainable development. And one of the things that I really liked that came up during the course ... The professors all invited people to have virtual coffee, and it was based on the social that, as Juan suggested, but it was really, really great because we ended up getting to know the people, not the actual subject because we were already taking the course. And so it was a really, really nice ...

Actually, going back to the next chapter made it sort of easier because we kind of knew, "Oh, the professor thinks this ..." while they were talking about the curriculum. So, just something, maybe even half an hour, just a coffee thing for people to just—chairs—just fun rather than ... Not even an item, just a fun sort of thing. Thanks.

IOANA STUPARIU:

I agree, as well. Ore, you have the mic now.

OREOLUWA LESI:

Thank you. I can't seem to raise my hand. So, I think the idea of the socials is really great. I think that if we're able to do that, we can really

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foster a sense of community, and that can encourage our members to be more involved in the policy.

I was thinking, actually, we have we have our blog. We have our website. And it would be great to invite contributions from our members—that's something that we could think about— to write on different topics of the day as it relates to the mission of NPOC. So, so that was one thing I was thinking about.

And AFRALO has a quarterly, I think, newsletter where the invite contributions from the different organizations to write a bit about what they've been up to. So, kind of like updates, but related to AFRALO's mission. So, maybe that's something we could think about. We can really think about how that would work. Just ways to get members engaged as a step to the next big step of getting involved in policy.

So, those were some ideas that I had. Maybe also running some calls on social media as well—on Twitter, Facebook. Just like one question: what do you think about this? What would you like? Things like that, yeah.

IOANA STUPARIU:

Yeah. These are all great ideas coming from the Communications chair. So, yeah, I think we should do them one by one.

And adding to what you said, another idea that came to my mind—and this is an older idea that we had, but because of the pandemic our plans got derailed, of course—was to start a series of membership portraits in which we actually introduce our members to the rest of the

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membership via e-mail because we can't really do them right now live as we wanted to. But we can at least, every now and then, introduce the organizations that are part of NPOC to the rest of the membership. That could be an idea just to show them, to put a face on the name and to keep everyone involved.

Everything was written down. Are there any other ideas or comments on this particular topic? Because if not—and I don't seem to see any hands, but feel free to raise a hand or to write in the chat—I suggest we move to point #3. And this is where Raoul is going to take the mic again.

Last call. Nothing? Raoul, you have the floor. Thank you for all your contributions. I wrote down and we are going to try to implement some of them in the year to come because we are going to be online for quite some time, sadly.

RAOUL PLOMMER:

Okay. Thanks, Ioana. So, our next agenda item is about current policy issues for NPOC. But we could start that off with perhaps Juan telling us about the current policies in the GNSO. Juan is our GNSO councilor, and he knows what's going on there.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much, again. Well, in the Council we have [been] discussing a lot of things right now, but I think I can be brief.

Okay, the last meeting from the Council was in February. We had the vote for some things. We approved the two phases, PDP, on the Transfer

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Policy. We are going to review the Transfer Policy charter. In the meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, we are going to review that.

We also have the final report of a New gTLD Subsequent Procedures in February. And we have a regular update from IDNs (Internationalized Domain Names) EPDP. That's the meeting of February.

For this meeting, the next, March 24<sup>th</sup>, we have several issues to discuss. We are going to vote about the IANA Naming Functions contract. This is some that ... We need a review, so we have a review for IANA co-chairs, and we need to approve and review the recommendation for these IANA Naming Functions. So, it's almost an administrative issue.

As I said before, we are going to check and review the charter to approve the charter for the Transfer Policy PDP because, as we know, we have a vote to initiate this Transfer Policy PDP. And now we're going to approve the Charter. So, this is the next [step]. So, this is just administrative procedure.

Also, we have the NomCom Outreach sub-committee because you know that a NomCom has two positions for GNSO Council open. So, we have this presentation and there is no, maybe ...

I'm sorry. I forgot to say [that] in the Transfer Policy PDP, the Council redefined this Charter because of the membership structure. So, now we are going to ... [Milton] proposed a representative structure because maybe it's more a representative for each house inside the ICANN ecosystem. So, sorry. I go, again.

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In this next meeting, we have an EPDP Phase 2 update. We will have this. Phase 2 is still discussing about the topic of legal or natural. This is unique [content], and this is a discussion that we have been [in] since from the top of the year. So, we have an update [on] how is this development.

And also, we have a discussion about Recommendation 27 of EPDP Phase 1 because we need to consider what are the next steps in this Phase 1 of Recommendation 7. Maybe we can approve for some issues, but not other ones. Another one can be discussed as we did for legal vs. natural. We can approve and maybe go on. And that's my point of view of this.

And we have a brief consultation of the ICANN Board about the financial sustainability of the SSAD. This is a further discussion because it's just starting. It's just discussing with the Board about this. We had several letters coming and going from the Council to the Board, back and forth. So, this is a very active topic. For this, a small team of counselors is preparing a letter to be sent to the Board. And it's expected that in the April 1<sup>st</sup>, there can be shared this meeting to be released on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

And we have the introduction of the briefing paper of Accuracy Requirements and [Programs] for ICANN Global Domain Strategy (GDS). So, we are both discussing this and also discussing the GNSO Council consideration of SAC114, and about the GNSO framework for continuous improvement.

This is new for [improving] the administrative matters how [inaudible] address it in the Council because you know that we have [eight]



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actions—decisions, rather— and we have a project list and we have a tasks board. So, this is a proposal maybe to gather just all [those things] in one thing to improve our discussion.

I think that's it for the next GNSO Council. This is the GNSO Council agenda. I think that another thing that is not discussed in there is the IGO Work Track that we are part of with Ioana. And we are there, and there is where NPOC is involved, actively, right now. And now we are discussing inside the IGO Work Track about what are the agreements and what are the options about the topic, about what international organization can go and talking about these—I forgot the name—the brands. Sorry. This is a law word. I forgot. I'm sorry.

[IOANA STUPARIU]:

Trademark?

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS:

Trademark, right. Trademark. That's it. I'm sorry. Yeah. We are discussing what are the IGOs [that] have a trademark or have not. We are discussing that. Just starting the discussion. And that's it.

We have a [complaint of] UDRP and URS. And we are analyzing some topics [of] jurisdiction and then other things that maybe could be more detailed in a further discussion. That's it.

I think that's all for now. I don't know if you have any question or something like that. Thank you very much.

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RAOUL PLOMMER:

Thanks, Juan. That was a very good lay of the land of what's going on the GNSO. Now, we had our recent policy chair leave us due to personal reasons, and we are actually looking for a new policy chair. So, if you or anyone you know is passionate about DNS in the non-commercial organization area, you're more than welcome to pass your application to us.

We've had a little bit of difficulty in making NPOC-specific policy in the past, but I do think there is a distinction. And I think in the last six months or so, we've been sort of going more towards the old operational concerns way of doing it. So, more practical hands-on attitudes with that, I guess.

And with that, it's a good segue to our webinar which is all about operational concerns in the DNS. And Ioana is presenting this to us. And it's been going on for, I think, four times already—at least three times. And after the ICANN70 is over, we'll continue it for another three webinars, I think.

So, the floor is yours, Ioana.

IOANA STUPARIU:

We had a question from Joan. Joan, if you still have the question. She had her hand raised. I don't want to start another subject before we answer any questions.

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JOAN KERR: Yeah. It's not a question and I'm not volunteering for the policy chair— just for the record. It's not my thing.

IOANA STUPARIU: Too bad.

JOAN KERR: But I just wanted to ask Juan how he was enjoying being on the Council, and what advice would he give for future NPOC representatives to be prepare. If he's still on the line.

IOANA STUPARIU: I don't see him. I think he might have dropped. Sorry.

JOAN KERR: That's okay.

IOANA STUPARIU: I don't see Juan. Sorry, Joan. If I see him coming back, I'm going to write him on the chat. Maybe he can answer the question. That could have been useful experience to share, but we will remember the question for next time we catch him in with us.

If there are no other questions, I'm just going to talk briefly, very briefly, about point #4, tell you a bit what this is about.

A few months back, we wanted to have a series of webinars dedicated to our membership in which we basically offer them the chance to get,

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in a structural way, the fundamentals of DNS, of the DNS system, of what ICANN is. And all of this tailored to what NPOC does.

So, together with ICANN staff, we've worked on an agenda. We worked on a curriculum and on a series of webinars delivered by Adam Peake, by Brian Gutterman, and by their colleagues. Also offering the chance to our membership to ask questions because more often than not ... Yeah, we have online courses. We have ICANN Learn. But because it's an online environment with a direct presence and direct involvement, people can actually ask questions.

And so far, we've had for such sessions. The topics of which varied from: What is ICANN; What We Do; How Does the DNS Work; The ICANN Multistakeholder Model; Where does NPOC fit into all of these; Introduction to PDPs, to consensus policies, to contracts; Registrants' Rights and Responsibilities; How to Register a Domain Name. All these topics that are essential to get to know ICANN and to better understand NPOC.

All of these were split into seven sessions, and so far we've had four sessions. And we've been very happy to see that there are people that were actually asking questions, very concrete questions, coming also from NGOs, also from our membership—but also newcomers. People that are from the NextGen Program or from the Fellowship Program.

So, we think that this was a success, and we are going to have, after ICANN70 resumes, three more meetings to complete this first series of webinars. So, a total of seven meetings, one hour long, which takes all

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participants through the entire train of what ICANN is and what NPOC is.

And what's going to happen now is that, after the three meetings that we have left, we're going to have a Certificate of Participation for members so that we recognize the time that all the participants invested in this. And we're going to have a survey to see what went wrong, what could have been improved, what could have been done better, what suggestions the members participating have. I think this is something that could be later replicated as a part of the onboarding program that we have, maybe even in other constituencies. This is something that is useful, and it's very much welcome in this virtual world in which we cannot see each other.

So, thank you once again with this. I take this opportunity to thank you again, to the ICANN representatives—Adam, Brian, and their colleagues—that took their time to work on this and to help us put together a nice series of webinars.

Even if you haven't attended the first four, you are still welcome to attend the next three. I'm going to put the link if it hasn't yet [been] put there. Yeah. Thank you. Maryam has already put the recordings. You can watch them. And there, you're going to have the dates for the next three.

The next one is going to be on March 31<sup>st</sup> which is next week on Wednesday. Do join that even if you missed the first four because they are actually very interesting discussions on different DNS-related topics.

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So with this point, if there are no other questions or suggestions. And thank you, Olévié. Raoul, the floor is back ...

Oh, I have a hand up from Adam. Hi, Adam. Nice to see you here. And thank you, again.

ADAM PEAKE:

Yeah. Hi, Ioana. Yeah. Thank you very much. Adam Peake speaking for the record, and I'm ICANN staff.

Thank you. It's been really, really good to see this series started. A couple of things. So, the next three topics, we'll get into security-related issues and around operations.

And there are really two things. One, just to add to what you've just heard. What we would like to do at the end of this—two things—one is to help the NPOC leadership and develop presentations that you can give to continue this work and share it and so on, which I hope will be useful.

And then about the survey. Of course, part of this will be “What else?” What are the next topics that you would like to cover? Would you like to have around two of the series, or one or two extra? Whatever it is that you think could be useful in the future, we'd be very, very happy to do that.

I also would like to mention Brenda and Maryam. [inaudible] both on the call, of course, and they've been supporting this and it wouldn't be happening without them. So, thank you very much.

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RAOUL PLOMMER: Thanks, Adam.

IOANA STUPARIU: Yes, I want, as Adam said, to thank, a lot, Brenda and Maryam for their continuous help on this.

Raoul, you have the floor again. Sorry for taking the mic away from you. I just wanted to emphasize this huge “thank you”.

RAOUL PLOMMER: That's okay. Can you see me now because I'm not sure? Okay, good. Right.

So, the next item on the agenda is about registering an NGO for NPOC. Now, this is something we've been talking about for I think at least three years now. One of the really, I guess, straightforward reasons to do so is that we would be getting a lot more support for our work if we had an NGO, like an official, registered, lawful entity which the NPOC ICANN is really not. It's not a registered organization in any country. It's only a sub part of the ICANN Organization.

So, I've now made like a draft of the charter. It is very minimal. And I sent this message to Maryam just now. I'm sorry that was so late. But it's got two pictures of the charter, and that's like less than [A4], really. And I guess the point of it would be to really have NPOC EC members control this organization in Estonia. And what it would also make possible is an international ... Well, really, a way that ...

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In Estonia, there's a novel way of administering a bank account within an international organization that changes its members. This is usually a problem because you have to go to that specific country to change the papers the signatories, and so on. But with the Estonian electronic identity, we can actually do that from abroad, and we can do it really by any of us. And we can swap new people to it. This is actually really quite a sticky problem with the NGOs in the world today who are working in international framework. So, we are actually thinking about making a solution for that and showing the way it's done.

It shouldn't be expensive. One of these electronic identities is 100 euros to buy from Estonia. I also have an Estonian friend who is going to use his name and address to open a bank account. And he would be like one of the members of the Board in establishing this NGO. And just one example of the financial support we're really missing is Google Ads, for example. If we were an NGO, we would be eligible for Google Ads to the tune of \$10,000 per month. And that's a huge benefit that I think we could really be using in communicating to the world about NPOC. And I'm sure there are lots of other places to do so.

So, I think it's become crucial for NPOC to have a ... lawful entity?  
What's the word, Ioana?

IOANA STUPARIU:

It's a legal entity.



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RAOUL PLOMMER: A legal entity, yes. That's the one I was looking for. Yes. So, yeah. This is really the short and sweet of the charter. I think it might become slightly lengthier. This is only the very first draft, but it's actually ...

I've taken it from a model that was an actual charter of an NGO in Estonia. So, it doesn't need to be more complex than that. And I think one of them, the only thing that you might think peculiar is that the majority of the directors elected have to be members of NPOC at ICANN. Yeah. So, I don't know. Do people have any ideas about this? Any questions?

JOAN KERR: I know we discussed this for a while. What are the liabilities to the members for having a legal organization in Estonia? I know we touched on it before, years ago. But every country has its limitations and rules and regulations. Are there any that we should be concerned about? We never did discuss them in detail, so I'm just asking it here.

RAOUL PLOMMER: That's a very good question. I think the Estonian rules are very similar to the Finnish ones. We're neighboring countries and we have a very similar culture in lots of ways. They tend to be a little more lean than us, though. And that goes for bureaucracy, apparently, as well, because this the example charter is shorter than what I've ever seen in Finland. And, also, they have a minimum of two board members.

Now, to answer your question, I think it is really that .... At least, let's say, financial responsibility is limited to the funds that the registered

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organization has. I don't think that's really extended to the members of the board in any way unless they've been, I don't know, negligent or [have] done something ill-willed, if you like. So, I don't think there could be really any repercussions to the NPOC organization because of this new registered entity.

I think the liability actually goes the other way around, that this registered organization would be liable for the people that are stipulated to be in the board of that registered organization. I hope that answers your question.

JOAN KERR:

Yeah, it does. Sorry. I just want to follow up on one question. So, is there something that addresses how much of the funds raised would be allocated to NPOC. For example, PIR. I'll just use that as an example. I probably shouldn't say the name. But a percentage of their funds raised goes to ISOC. Right? And then the rest is used to operate the entity. So, is that addressed in this as well?

RAOUL PLOMMER:

Yeah. Ken also asked a question about, "Where will funds for the NPOC NGO come from?" Also a very good question.

Basically, this would be, like Joan mentioned, like PIR which is like an organization within the Internet governance. For example, it could be these Google Ads or, I don't know, some national helping all the local meeting or something like that. So, yeah, most of these would want ...

For example, if there was any support from another organization in Finland and they would be giving money for something that NPOC

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wanted to do, we would need that registered organization to be allocating funds to us. So, it's really just like a structure for that.

And I think Maryam is saying that we are starting to run out of time. I think she's right. We will continue this topic later on. Anybody who is interested can join us for discussing that on an NPOC discuss list. If you're not a member yet, please make your application for us so you can join our interesting e-mail lists.

And I really saved the item #6 for the NPOC enthusiasts who want to stay after this meeting and finish our charter review. But I understand if you don't want to. It's nice and sunny here in Finland, and I would like to be doing some other things right now. But if there is anybody who wants to continue that and hopefully finish it with me, please raise your hand.

JOAN KERR: I'll help you.

RAOUL PLOMMER: All right. What do you mean, "How many pages are left"?

OREOLUWA LESI: How much more do we have to review? Are we starting from the beginning again?

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RAOUL PLOMMER: I think they now have just a very few things. We could just have a look, and if you get too busy ... Even if we give it half an hour, that might be enough to pass it back to them again. I think there were very few issues this time.

OREOLUWA LESI: Okay. Do we have the link? Okay.

IOANA STUPARIU: On point #5, I just want to say that even in the Executive Committee, we discussed about this topic and we agreed that we will open this for discussion on the NPOC list. So, if you have further questions or if you want to join the working group on this particular issue, registering an NGO for NPOC, you are more than welcome to do so. Just write to any of us and we will consider you and get you involved. Any help is appreciated, especially legal help.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Absolutely. I want to be as open and transparent about this registered organization as possible. And anybody [who's] got any issues about it, please ask them and we'll deal with it. Yeah. That great.

So, we can continue the charter review on our own, I think, through our Skype unless there's somebody on this channel that isn't on our Skype channel and wants to join. But otherwise, I think we're done with the session.

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MARYAM BAKOSHI: Thank you very much, Raoul. Thank you, everyone, for joining the meeting. The meeting is now adjourned. Bye-bye. You may stop the recording.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**