ICANN72 | Virtual Annual General Meeting - LAC Space
Tuesday, October 26, 2021 – 10:30 to 12:00 PDT

RODRIGO SAUCEDO: Wonderful. Thank you so much. Welcome to the LAC Space session. My name is Rodrigo Saucedo and I am the remote participation manager. This session is being recorded and follows the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior.

During this session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form as I am going to note right away in the chat. I am sharing that information in English and in Spanish so that you will know how to post your questions or comments. One moment, please. I'm doing that as I speak. I will read questions and comments aloud, as I said, during the time set by the chair or moderation of this session.

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And with that, I know hand over the floor over to Rodrigo De La Parra.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Hello, everyone. Welcome. It's a pleasure to welcome you all to this ICANN LAC Space during the ICANN72 meeting. I would have loved to see you all face-to-face, but I'm sure that will happen soon.

I would like to make the most of these first minutes to recognize Professor Flavio Wagner who, for many years, moderated our LAC Space. I truly want to thank him for his support, for his excellent moderation, for his great support to our regional initiatives. Thank you so much, Professor Flavio Wagner.

And I also want to welcome our new LAC Space moderator, our dear friend Laura Margolis from Uruguay who, from now on, will take over the moderation of this important session. This is a very important session for us in Latin America and the Caribbean. Of course, I do want to thank the presence of León, Lito, and Patricio, our Board members who are always so gracious to join us and share relevant information and updates on the Board's activities.

And I do want to thank our speakers. We have a very interesting agenda. Thank you so much for your suggestions, for your contributions to make this session possible.

So with that, I give the floor to Laura Margolis. Laura, thank you so much for joining us.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Hello, everyone. Thank you, Rodrigo, for this invitation. It's an honor, really, to take over after Flavio and coordinate this space in our region. We have a Board update as part of our agenda. I think that's the first item on our agenda. Then Rocío de la Fuente will present a LACTLD update, Oscar Robles will present another update, and then Sergio Salinas Porto will also share a LACRALO update.

Jason Hynds from Barbados will let us know about public services during the pandemic. Our next presentation is about the Latin script Root Zone Label Generation Rules, and our speaker will be Pitinan from ICANN Org.

The Secretary General of the CTU, Rodney Taylor, will share a strategy for the Caribbean engagement within ICANN.

So with that, the floor is open to the Board members. I don't know who would like to start. Oh, Patricio. You have your hand up. Go ahead. You have the floor. Welcome.

PATRICIO POBLETE: Hello, everyone. Welcome. Thank you so much for this invitation. It's always a pleasure to join you and let us know about what the Board is doing, our latest developments and initiatives within the ICANN Board.

We recently held our workshop, so I'm going to let you know about that. And then my Board colleagues will touch upon other topics.

This past weekend we held a Board Workshop. It was initially planned for Saturday and Sunday, but we actually kicked it off on Thursday. We had a presentation by the ICANN Risk Committee, and this committee is in charge of a very important function. It is actually a mandatory function within the Board. They're in charge of evaluation, assisting possible risks within the organization.

This committee is chair by Lito and it has been working more and more professionally with ICANN Org's support. And they have developed a methodology which they showcased during the workshop, and the deliverable is a risk register. That was the focus of our session on Thursday.

On Friday the Board invited high-level experts. This was an open session and the recording is now available, so I do invite you all to watch it. We focused on DNS abuse. As you all know, this topic is the focus of debate in many constituencies in our community. And of course the Board really wants to address to what extent ICANN Org can implement actions in terms of DNS abuse.

And also, it is our interest that the community can reach the necessary agreements in terms of DNS abuse mitigation measures. So once again, I encourage you to watch the recording.

On Saturday our workshop, per se, began. We had a session with ICANN's President and CEO, and we touched upon several topics. We

analyzed our possible return to face-to-face meetings, and León will dive deeper into that so I'm not going to go into any further details at this point.

And after that, we reviewed different policy topics currently debated in different community constituencies. As you know, we are a very diverse community. The supporting organizations and advisory committees are focusing on different policy topics with staff support. And we are up to date on those topics to check whether any Board action is possible.

We then received a very thorough progress report on the ODP, the Operational Design Phase. This is the very first ODP that ICANN is implementing, the SSAD ODP. That this, the standardized system to access non-public registration data.

And great progress has been made in that initiative. In particular, there is a focus on how to authenticate and identify those stakeholders that do want to access this non-public information. This is a very challenging task because information requestors may be spread all over the world and may be using different authentication mechanisms. So this is really complex, and work is ongoing and maybe we will need a timeline extension.

We debated the current state of the current protection of IGO acronyms, the intergovernmental organizations IGOs. This is a long-standing issue and there's still a lot to be done before we can reach a conclusion. We're working with all of the interesting parties, especially with the GAC.

After that we held a very important session for those of you who are members of the ccNSO. The ccNSO reported to the Board in terms of the PDP on the Retirement of ccTLDs. Eventually, this takes place when a country code is deleted from the ISO code list because a country is no longer existing or changed its name or it was divided into more countries.

There needs to be a reasonable timeline for the community to be brought up to speed for the migration of that CC, etc. So the ccNSO Council reported to the Board, and now the Board is going to start working on this topics.

And finally, we held a session on the audited financial statements. This is part of the oversight function of the Board.

And I think this is the last topic on my report.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Thank you, Patricio. I don't know if Lito or León would like to take the floor now. The floor is open.

LITO IBARRA: It's my turn, Laura. Thank you so much. So after the Board Workshop we kicked off the ICANN meeting week starting yesterday, the ICANN72 meeting week.

Because this is the AGM, the Annual General Meeting, this is perhaps the most demanding session on the Board in terms of engagement with the constituencies. Therefore, we will be holding nine bilateral meetings

throughout this week to engage with supporting organizations, advisory committees, and constituencies. The GNSO has several constituencies, so we need to hold several meetings. And as I said, all in all we will be holding nine bilateral sessions throughout the week.

The objective of these sessions is to engage in a dialogue on previously-agreed topics. The topics may be suggested by the AC and the Board, in turn, poses some questions to kick off the discussion. They generally last 60-90 minutes at the most. And during ICANN72, the Board will be mainly focusing on these bilateral meetings.

We will be holding a meeting with the senior executives leading the different ICANN Org functions so that the community can participate in a Q&A with the Executive Team touching on legal topics, financial topics, etc. And in fact, this will be our next session today.

We will also be attending a high-interest plenary session on how to hold hybrid meetings or how to resume face-to-face meetings, given the current global scenarios. And as Patricio said, León will dive deeper into this topic.

And finally, on Thursday the Board will be attending an open webinar on one of the topics introduced by Patricio. This is the SSAD ODP. That is this system to access registration data that, in turn, is related to the GDPR to WHOIS, etc. As you may recall, the Board and the Org requested this ODP as a tool to break down the different topics and issues that we need to face prior to making a decision. We have two ODPs—the SSAD ODP and the SubPro ODP. We are not going to hold a session on the SubPro ODP during this meeting, though.

And finally, the Board will be attending the Public Forum and, as you know, this is an open session. It's an open mic session. Anyone can make a comment, read a statement, pose a question. Of course there are certain engagement or participation rules.

And to wrap up the ICANN72 meeting, the Board will be holding the Board Public Meeting. And during the meeting, the Board will be making several decisions and new Board members will be stepping in. This year we have four new members. Merike Kaeo in her capacity as the SSAC liaison, Nigel Roberts from the ccNSO, Ron da Silva from the ASO, and myself from the NomCom will be stepping down and welcoming our new Board members.

And then the new Board will be seated and will start working. And that is the point during the meeting where the decisions will be made. And this will bring the Board meeting to a close.

And I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during all these years.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Thank you, Lito. It's always a pleasure to have you with us. And with that, I give the floor to León.

LEÓN SÁNCHEZ: Thank you. Thank you Rodrigo De La Parra. Rodrigo [inaudible] for the invitation and all of our friends in Latin America and the Caribbean.

And let me start by saying happy birthday, Laura. I know it was your birthday and I hope you had a good time.

And let me also thank Lito for all these years where he has provided services for our region as part of the Board. Lito has been an essential part of the Board, a good friend, and a good teacher for all of us. So thank you very much, Lito, for your contributions. And of course, I hope to be able to continue collaborating with you more closely now from different roles. But I always appreciate your advice.

I'd also like to thank Flavio. He has had the job of moderating this LAC Space.

And just adding to what has been said before by Patricio and Lito, the Board members, one of the issues we have already discussed for a few months now in the Board, well, there's this possibility of transitioning to face-to-face meetings, to hybrid meetings. Some kind of meeting with an in-person attendance. Even though ICANN meetings have always been hybrid because they've always had the in-person component as well as the remote participation component, we actually have never given such a relevance to remote participation as now.

This pandemic has definitely brought us to experiment with new tools, with new ways to communicate and to work. And I think the ICANN community has done this extremely fine. All the volunteers who advanced ICANN's mission have done an extraordinary work, and we want to thank them from the Board for all their hours of work. This has implied a significant challenge at different levels for all the community. Not being able to see each other in person and also to commit probably

three weeks of our time at home to be able to prepare for the ICANN meeting and then being able to go to the meeting itself. And all the meetings this implies for three weeks. So thank you for this.

This has been an issue that we have discussed thoroughly at the Board. We do not want to run any risks facing any decision the Board may make. We know the pandemic has been addressed differently in different countries, and the vaccination level and the impact of the pandemic is equally different in each country and each region. The circumstances evolve in a very unequal and very fluid way.

Today we may see that there's a good situation in a certain part in the planet, and the situation could change completely. We have seen this in Singapore. This was an exemplary country in terms of managing the pandemic, and right now they are undergoing a lockdown phase because there has been a significant outbreak of transmission. And this has led them to lock down and to stop in-person activities.

So of course we at the Board find that it is more difficult to make a decision to transition to a hybrid meeting or an in-person meeting as we are used to, as we were used to before the pandemic. And so some of the issues we have discussed obviously include the risk level that travelling from one place to the other in the planet implies, the travel restrictions imposed by the different countries, and what this implies for travelers that are funded by ICANN. The staff safety and security. There is staff in different countries, and this would imply a risk for them that is moving from one place to the other in the planet. So we have a responsibility before them and before the community.

And then there are logistical challenges transporting all the equipment we use for a meeting from Los Angeles, which is where we store our equipment, to Puerto Rico in this case—or The Hague or Kuala Lumpur. These are the next locations for our meetings.

Well, the impact of the pandemic in maritime transportation and in air transportation has significant implications to plan ahead and to hold an in-person meeting.

So there are several variables and several factors that we are considering. Of course we are also considering health and safety of attendees. Whether we are going to demand a vaccination to attend. Are we going to demand the use of a mask when we are in spaces where the meeting is being held? Are we going to check the attendee's temperature in the beginning? Are we actually going to hold some kind of COVID detection test before attending the meeting? What happens [inaudible] an attendee is sick at that time? What are the implications for the meeting? Should we suspend the meeting? Do we need to isolate the participant?

As you can see, there are several circumstances that we need to assess. Unfortunately, all of them are very uncertain. They have a very high degree of uncertainty. And so the Board finds it very, very difficult to make this decision. It is a very complicated decision to make. But we give priority, definitely, to staff and the community and the Board itself in terms of health.

We would probably provide you with news in the middle term on what are the criteria and the parameters that we would probably use to

decide whether we are or we are not going to hold a virtual meeting and in what conditions.

The next meeting is the Puerto Rico meeting. The Board has not made a decision on whether to maintain the meeting with a face-to-face component or if it's going to be fully virtually. But we will soon make a decision on this.

In the next month we will probably need to make a decision on whether Puerto Rico will have a face-to-face component or if it will be fully virtual. And we will definitely update you on this.

And this definitely is part of the operation priorities the Board has. And this responsibility has been entrusted to me. This is because I am in contact with the community and the organization, and we need to see which could be a way to transition to these new hybrid meetings and then to transition to face-to-face meetings. I will report on this as we progress.

Again, thank you very much, Rodrigo, for being here with you today. Thank you, Lito, for all these years of service. And of course I will remain on the call. And I'm open to questions, if any.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Thank you very much, León, for your kind words. I would like to thank all the members of the Board.

And now we'll give the floor to LACTLD through Rocío de la Fuente. Rocío, you probably are there. Please stick to the time you have. It's

only three [minutes]. Otherwise we cannot see our agenda. Because I am in this moderator role, I have to tell this to you.

ROCÍO DE LA FUENTE: Hello, Thank you. Thank you for this invitation. I'd like to thank Rodrigo De La Parra, Rodrigo Saucedo. I cannot share my screen, but I'm going to provide you with a very brief update on LACTLD.

Let me introduce myself. I am Rocío de la Fuente, and this is my first ICANN meeting as LACTLD General Manager. I've been working in LACTLD for three years in different positions, first as Communications Officer and then as Policy Officer. And you know our association has undergone a transition. There has been a change in the staff structure.

So I wanted to introduce myself for those of you who do not know me. And I am open to talk to all the stakeholders in the community, to all the organizations in this, my new role. And I want to tell you about what LACTLD has been doing in the past year.

One important announcement is that we have a new ccTLD for Montserrat, and we have reached the milestone of having 30 ccTLDs in the region. So we are very happy for this and we're happy that our community is growing. And we're happy to have a new ccTLD. There are many Caribbean attendees, and this year we continued with our agenda with virtual entities as we have been doing in these past two years of pandemic.

So we have been able to continue with our work meetings. We've held 29 online meeting so far, and we have recently held LACTLD workshops coordinated by ccTLDs in the region.

So we've had three workshops, one per work group. One was a technical workshop. Another one was commercial. And all of these activities allow us to update our discussions to raise the concerns of the communities and to develop new work agendas for the future and for the next year. So this is what has happened internally.

Let me also tell you about some projects we have in LACTLD. I know many of you actually do know them. These projects have a collaboration component that I believe is key in the community of ccTLDs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

One of them is a network that allows to strengthen the DNS to make it more resilient. It is called the anycast cloud, and this allows to improve response times. And this project has been growing in the past few years. The last node added to the network is Chile. This is actually something very recent and has followed a trend in different exchange points in the region. This is for NIC Chile.

So last year we signed an agreement for traffic exchange, and we are very happy that the cloud is still being expanded. And now we have also added .pe as a customer. And this implied a milestone in the project development because we have now reached half the LACTLD members as participants in the LACTLD cloud. So this definitely has a positive impact on the internet in the region.

One other project is the Illegal Content Workshop from LACTLD. We have discussed this before here in this LAC Space, and so forum seeks to bring together the ccTLD community and join them with judges, policy officers, and others in Latin America and the Caribbean to teach them about cybercrime, illegal content, and then this project.

It also seeks to create networks and to build collaboration networks among these stakeholders and to protect the stability and resiliency in the network.

This was an in-person event initially, and so it was adapted to a virtual version last year. We believe it was very successful. We had 240 participants from 20 different countries, and now we are organizing the next virtual edition in November of this year.

And finally, our community continue to work in these collaborative projects with a regional impact. There is a work group within LACTLD that is developing a tool that we believe will have a very strong impact in terms of domain search in the region.

This is a tool that will allow to unify domain search in ccTLDs in Latin America and the Caribbean. So this is a work in progress, but I want to mention the members. Some of them are here on this call and are also active ICANN participants such a Lito Ibarra who is a member of the ICANN Board, Alejandra Reynoso from .gt, Carlos Cano and [Cynthia Alsario] from .pi, Javier Perez Sandoval from .co, and José Ernesto Grimaldo from .mx. I want to acknowledge their work, and we hope to share some more news about this project in the future.

So that's my update, and I am open to discuss with anyone who may be interested.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Thank you, Rocío, and I wish you many success in your new role as LACTLD General Manager.

We now give the floor to Sergio Salinas from LACRALO. Sergio, are you there?

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: I hope you can hear me. First of all, let me celebrate this space. This is a space that you're always looking forward to it, to share news and updates related to the [InterNetX] system but also related to our friendship. So let me send you a very big hug because in this pandemic context, it is very nice to be able to see you and to know that you are fine.

I'm going to provide you with a very brief report. Let me just tell you that this is my last meeting as the chair. Once this meeting is over, Augusto Ho and Claire Craig will take over as chair and secretary in the region. We're not going very far away. Harold and myself are leaving the chair and the secretariat. We will have other roles in the region. You're not going to get rid of us very quickly.

But we have added an interesting balance in the region. There are new people who want to do new stuff. There's Augusto and Claire, but there are also other ALAC members who will provide interesting inputs.

There's Carlos Aguirre with an extensive experience and also Laura Margolis.

This puts our region in a very interesting situation. I think a quick balance I can provide is that we have invented something that we believe is very interesting in terms of what LACRALO is like today.

Then there's our Universal Acceptance activities. In November we will launce a new training session for end users, and this places the region in a different situation again. We want to have an impact on these issues that we are so interested in, but we also want to see growth in the [ICANNX] system. This goes beyond leadership, beyond what you can do from the perspective where I am now. But this is created with a collective effort. This was a drive that Sylvia Herlein provided us, together with all the Universal Acceptance Team.

We're also looking forward to what will happen with face-to-face activities. The Puerto Rico meeting, we had planned our General Assembly, and we are hopeful that this can happen because that General Assembly—and this is something we've been working on—would include the ICANN Academy in Spanish.

This was also created by the LACRALO training secretary. León, do you know about this?

And before saying good-bye, let me just say that it was an honor to serve you throughout this time. You will probably see me in my next role in LACRALO. I will be involved in activities where I will not be able to see

you face-to-face. And then in two years' time, we will meet again in some other activity.

Let me thank Lito for his huge task. I think he has opened a way. We need to raise the bar very high. He has set the bar very high. If you ask anyone in the region, they just say "Lito." In soccer terms, there's Lito and some others. So Lito, thank you very much. And let me also thank you all. Good-bye.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Sergio, thank you and your team so much. No doubt you made your mark in LACRALO and you've done an incredible amount of work. Thank you so much.

So Oscar Robles from LACNIC is our next speaker, but I don't see him in the session. So I'm going to give the floor to Jason Hynds from Barbados who will be presenting on Online Pandemic Public Services. So Jason, go ahead. You have the floor. Thank you.

JASON HYNDS: Thank you. Warm greetings from the tropical island of Barbados. Thanks for attending LAC Space and staying in order to listen to this presentation. Next.

I'm Jason Hynds, a former ICANN Fellow, Fellowship coach, Internet end user, and DNS aficionado. And I mettle a little with the local DNS affairs. Next slide, please. Yes, Thank you.

We are the most easterly island in the Caribbean island chain located 13 °N, 59 °W. Next slide, please.

We too experienced the COVID-19 pandemic, and we had to increase the provision of almost all services that we could in an online environment. And this includes the public services. I think that this a good time for us to also consider what our critical Internet services are and examine how we deliver those. Next slide, please.

The pandemic caused us to move school online, and all of the Barbados Public School System ended up utilizing G Suite for education. And basically all the public schools in the island had some abbreviated name of their school and then it ended with .schools.edu.bb on the end. And the students had individual e-mail addresses of that form that they would use to authenticate to the system and access the learning environment. Next slide, please. Next slide, please.

So government departments started to publish their contact telephone numbers and e-mail addresses via their websites, as well as by the central information hub which is our government information service called GAS. And all of the e-mail addresses, basically, were housed on the domain name space of gov.bb.

And there was also an initiative to allow more transactions with the government to be completed online. And sometimes some of those transactions would involve the use of courier services to get the physical material between the office and the end user. And as you can see on this slide, in order to get state of emergency passes which allowed you to move around during our curfew period, you actually had

to e-mail an e-mail address that is housed within our ccTLD space, Country Code Top-Level Domain. This e-mail address is at barbados.gov.bb. Next slide, please.

So in terms of our public online services during the pandemic definitely a great increase on the use of the subdomain edu.bb and specifically the subdomain schools.edu.bb for the G Suite product to allow almost all schools to function. The tertiary level institutions would typically be directly on edu.bb. They usually had some level of online-ness prior to the pandemic, but the online-ness of the primary, or elementary, and secondary and our high schools was mainly done around the pandemic period so that stuff could happen in terms of school when we were in lockdown or when other situations came up. So .bb domain space, very important for us in Barbados. Next slide, please.

However, there were some technical issues that we observed during the pandemic. And it begs the question, what is the Domain Name Space Foundation on which all of this predicated? Is it reliable? Is it well designed? Is it trouble free is it monitored? And what does the live experience that we observe teach us about what we should do?

And I'll examine that in terms of three technical incidences. And one of them is an edu.bb outage. Next slide, please.

So on the afternoon of Sunday April 5th 2020, I was made aware of a problem where it seemed like all hosts, all operations on edu.bb were not operating outside of a narrow set which actually corresponded to some that were hosted by one particular service provider. So apparently that service provider applied for, on a form, to update his

name servers because he was migrating between web server platforms. And he sent it to the Country Code Top-Level Domain registry. Next slide, please.

Unfortunately, this was an incorrect filing on his part because he was updating the information for a tertiary-level institution in that case, and he should have actually gone to the main university in our country, which is the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. And they are the registry for edu.bb. Even more unfortunately, the Country Code Top-Level Domain registry saw this authentic-looking request on their official form from the client and thought it was good and re-delegated all of edu.bb to this one provider that perhaps had maybe two or three clients in the whole space.

So this actually coincided to a period when—and I don't recall exactly, but I think coming out of the Easter break—they were having a soft launch but delaying online school. But people were actually doing school without them officially saying to the public, "Well, it's online school across the public school system." So it was set to start on this soft launch that same week that it occurred or that I was told about it, but only disguised clients were working.

Thankfully, the issue managed to get resolved late that evening, and then it returned to the situation where only that service provider's clients itself had an outage. Next slide, please.

So this a redacted version of the service report related to that matter. Next slide, please.

I think coming out of this, the recommendations would be that institutions should have a really good grasp of the details of their online services and who provides them, and definitely the ccTLD registry and any important sub-registries should re-examine their processes and their cooperation. And then, again, change management procedures really need to be improved. And an incident like this should lead to better analysis to make the system better. Next slide, please.

Issue #2 was an outage to gov.bb. And this was unfortunately due to non-payment of a renewal of a .com domain name, telebarbados.com. Next slide, please.

We estimate that about 62 domain names utilizing that name server would have experienced some multi-hour outage on April 9th 2020. And the issue probably started from the 8th, which you'll see later. And just to give you an idea of the impact, all public servants in Barbados, I think, have an e-mail address which is some version of their name and then @barbados.gov.bb that would have had a complete outage.

The National Drug Service, the Ministry of Health, both important to pandemic response, would have had an outage. In terms of travel, the Immigration Department, completely out. Our regional examining body for secondary school students which helps with multiple exams at the primary level, too, in terms of transitioning from one school level to the other, they had an outage and they're a .org.

The fire service, our Department of Emergency Management, our Central Bank, and one of the major insurance companies. And, of course, many others. Next slide, please.

This slide gives you an idea of the scope. And it's courtesy securitytrails.com. Next slide, please.

And as you can see from the WHOIS, there was a registry hold. And about 10 minutes to 1 am on April 8th, the domain name would have expired and could have been out. And I believe that time is in Zulu or Greenwich Mean Time. Next slide, please.

So the registrar of the .com was kind enough to respond to a humanitarian plea and probably got his services restored slightly before actual action was taken by the actual client of the domain name. And that would have helped. Well, however, one of the government IT functions prolonged the outages to some sites by actually re-delegating a whole set of governmental domains to another name server which did not have the zone files for some of the domain names. So some of those outages went into multiple-days after.

And I think one of the lessons from that is that with the power to modify ccTLD name servers zone files, you need to exercise great responsibility. Next slide, please.

Recommendations from this will be that there should be a study of how the government agencies use the domain name space and identify critical services and examine how to improve the security and stability of our infrastructure. Next slide, please.

And issue #3 was that there's an inefficiency of the edu.bb operation. Next slide, please.

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And this was discovered in April 2020, but a formal report was only given to it this year. I don't know exactly why there was a delay in addressing it, but basically, on my part, I forgot about it.

So there are about five servers servicing edu.bb, but two out of them have out-of-date software which is not compliant to RFC 6891. So it makes it inefficient, and every query to those servers that involves those by chance—because it's a round-robin operation happening— loses microseconds in query time and is thus inefficient, especially for Barbadian-based users because those are the servers closest to the Barbadian infrastructure.

And you can see on this current slide the "FORMERR" which is a format error that it returns because it's not compliant with EDNS. Next slide, please.

So the recommendation coming out this will be that these servers should be replaced with Extension Mechanisms for DNS-compliant servers. Next slide, please.

And certainly there should be better coordination between the registry and sub-registry. And even though some of these things seem simple, they need to be correctly managed. And they're actually more complex than esoteric and require engineers that keep up to date. Next slide, please.

Thank you so much to all the people who would have helped make this presentation possible. And thank you for being a great audience, for

your time and concentration. And I'm open to any questions. Enjoy the rest of ICANN72. Stay safe. Thank you. All the best.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Thank you, Jason for this excellent work. We will now give the floor to Pitinan Kooarmornpatana who is going to talk about a proposal for Latin Script Root Zone generation. Pitinan, please go ahead.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Thank you. I'm speaking in the English channel. Thank you for having me here and the opportunity to present on the Latin Script Root Zone LGR. I believe this is an important topic to the region as well. Pitinan Kooarmornpatana from ICANN IDN Program.

So I will just go on briefly in two main topics today. First is the history or the background of the Root Zone LGR project. And then the second part will be the overview of the Latin Script Root Zone LGR.

So for the brief history of it, going back to 2009-2010, around that, the community identified that there's a need of variant top-level domains. But at that time it wasn't very clear what was the definition of the variants, so the community from various groups came together and created the Integrated Issue Report which is the list of issues, what would be the issue if variant top-level domain is implemented.

So one thing of the report is, then, that there is no fixed definition of the variant definition, and this can be various by script to script. So then the definition needs to be developed. And the way to develop it is by the

LGR procedure. And this procedure has been developed by the community and it was approved by the ICANN Board in 2013.

Since then the community has then started working on the Root Zone LGR for different scripts. And in parallel, ICANN Org also developed their recommendations on how to manage the variant TLDs .

So fast forward to 2019 the Board also resolved and agreed with the recommendation of managing the IDN variant TLDs and asking GNSO and ccNSO to take that into account for their policy development.

Also in 2020, the Board also resolved the recommendation by the Technical Study Group on how to utilize the Root Zone LGR. And earlier this year in 2021, the GNSO published a final report on the SubPro, and that also included the Root Zone LGR into the report for the next round of the gTLDs.

So, how does it work? It's the Label General Rules. Right. So it's used to generate the label in the particular script. It's like the formula that can be input into the tool, and then this tool, when it's installed with the rules, it can [be used] to validate the labels.

So you can input the labels. And then the tools with the Root Zone LGR can validate whether these are the valid labels or not. And if it's valid, what are the variant labels of it?

The structure of the work is organized into a two-step process by the procedure. First, that will be the Generation Panel in the blue block here. They are the script-based Generation Panels. So each script

community will form a panel and then they will work on the rules to use for that script.

And then once the Root Zone LGR for the particular script is finalized from the community, it will be sent to the Integration Panel as a second step.

This Integration Panel will make sure that all the solutions align. And there might be some multiple consultation between the Generation Panel and Integration Panel.

And finally, when the Root Zone LGR for that particular script is finalized, it will be added into the collection of the Root Zone LGR. And this will be used to validate the top-level domain strings.

So far this is the status of the Root Zone LGR project. Since the first call for Generation Panel in 2013, we are now at Root Zone LGR Version 4, released late last year in November. So far we have 18 scripts integrated already from Arabic, Ethiopic, and so on, up until Bangla and Chinese.

We're also expecting the Version 5 coming up in the next year. And that should also include all of these: Armenian, Cyrillic, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Latin, and Myanmar. So that's why we are here today, to present you that the Latin Root Zone LGR proposal is now published for the public comment.

This is just to give you an overview of your work from the community. So all of these scripts are recommended to be used as an identifier by Unicode. Each one will have the Generation Panel for that particular script to work on. Some scripts can take shorter time, like a year or two.

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And then some other scripts can take longer time. It depends on the complexity or maybe too many code points, too many letters to analyze. And for the Latin case, they are just too widely used and so many languages have to be included into the consideration.

So right now the Latin GP has finalized their work here and go on to the public comment. So the public comment was released in September, last month. And we also have the presentation by the Generation Panel during the Prep Week as well, so I believe this presentation will be available online after this session so you can follow the recording to see as well.

The public comment will be closed on the 23rd of November. And then after that, it will be finalized and submitted to the Integration Panel for further consideration.

So this is the overview of the Root Zone LGR. Then let me also go over the overview of the proposal and hopefully this can help you review the material and can give some comments easier. And we also have some members from Latin Generation Panels in this call as well, so if you have any questions please just put in in the chat.

So we will just go through the proposal briefly. Basically the first chapters— 1, 2, and 3—will be like the introduction explaining what are the coverage of the script and what will be the technical information of what would be the Unicode [code chart] that is in consideration.

Moving on to Chapter 4, it will be the methodology how the Latin Generation Panels select all the language to analyze. And in the scope

of work, they selected the languages which have the EGIDS scale, 0 through 4, which is the scale made by Ethnologue which is the formal reference for the linguists. And also, we will have the definition of this level in the next page.

Also, if this is the language Level 5, if the population of users is more than a million, then it will be into the consideration as well. So total, there are 212 languages covered in the proposal. All of these 212 languages are listed in Appendix B.

And this is the brief definition of this scale. So Level 0 is international languages like the UN languages. And then Level 1 is for national. And then it will move in provincial and so on. Level 4 is still educational, meaning that is the language being taught in school. So it's still fairly easy to find information on how to use this Latin script in that language properly.

But really—let's go to Level 5—it's not too hard to find formal information, but however the Latin GP also takes this in consideration if the population is more than a million.

So that is Chapter 4. Moving on to Chapter 5, this the repertoire or the list of code points or a list of characters or letters that can be used in the label. It can be just as simple as the single code point, like example "a" here. Or it can be the sequence of code points like "ğ" here. And if the Unicode has the precomposed form, then that will be the one that is listed. The principles of all this, you can find it in Chapter 5.

And in conclusion, the Latino Generation Panel proposed the repertoire which includes 218 characters. 197 of them are a single code point and the rest are in sequence.

This will be some examples from the proposal. You can see the table that lists all the possible code points to use. They have a unique value— the glyphs, the names, and then they also list the language that is used and the reference. So this is one point. I would like to invite all of you to take and look.

Also, there are some code points that are excluded from the repertoire as well. Some of them are for technical reasons, some of them for other rationale as well. So you can find this is in Chapter 5 Section 4. And if you want to see the list which is groups by the glyphs—like "a" all the variations of "a" all together, then you can find it in the Appendix C.

Moving forward to Chapter 6, this about variants. So a variant is something that can be perceived as the same by the user, so it can be the same by that shape or it can be the same as it can be interchangeably used. And so in the proposal, they also include all these types.

When we do the variant mapping, it also has the type as well that can be blocked or allocatable. And then the scope of analysis can be within this group itself, like within the Latin script. What are the variance of each other?

And also the Generation Panel looks beyond to the other scripts as well to see the cross-script variant, especially the Armenian, Cyrillic, and Greek because they are closely related, and also some other scripts.

All this analyzes detail you can find in the Appendix D. But in Chapter 6, there we have the conclusion of the variant sets. And this is some example. So for example, the shape of all … There are this many characters of all from other scripts and also from within scripts that are now made variants. So this is also the second [point], Chapter 6 for you to take a look.

I also would like to point out that all the variant types are blocked except for two special sets here which are being made allocatable also to make it backward compatible with the IDNA 2003. The two sets are the "sharp S" (ß) and the "double S" (ss) here, and the "dotted I" (i) and the "dotless I" (ı) which is used in Turkey. And all this rationale you can find in 6.7.

And lastly, the Appendix E lists the confusable code points, which you can see some examples here. They are the glyphs or the code points as similar but not up into the level that the GP decided they are variants.

So they are not included in the formal part of the Root Zone LGR, but this is for information and it can be used by another panel like the string similarity later on.

So that's the overview, briefly, of the proposal of the Latin Root Zone LGR. Just to conclude, they are now released for the public comment. The link is here. It will be closed on the 23rd of November. And on behalf

of the Latin GP, I would like to invite all of you to review and give some comments. There are no minor or major comments, and even though you don't have any comments but you have review, just submit some acknowledgement. That will be very helpful as well. All right.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Thank you. We're going to give the floor now to Rodney Taylor. He's the Secretary General of the CTU, and he's going to talk about the strategy of the different ICANN constituencies, that is what would be the road ahead. So Rodney, you now have the floor. Welcome.

RODNEY TAYLOR: Thank you very much. I want to thank you for the opportunity to present here on behalf of the CTU and its member states and the Caribbean community in general within the LAC Space. I have been intrigued by the presentations so far, in particular Jason Hynds from Barbados. I appreciate his presentation and I actually worked with him in resolving that particular issue. And so we thank you for the opportunity to present here.

My presentation is not so much technical, but it focuses on how we can increase the participation of the Caribbean states within the ICANN community. We are a small group of nations and, essentially, my presentation is about how we can increase that participation, but also how we can align ourselves with other small island developing states to help advance our regional issues and challenges. If you can move to the next slide.

I will just outline … With respect of the CTU, I won't spend a lot of time on this because you're aware that the CTU is an intergovernmental organization within CARICOM, established by CARICOM member states. And we have 20 members. We are an observer within the GAC since 2012. We participated in [inaudible] meetings prior to that.

But we're also a coordinator with respect to global Internet governance policy within the CIGF, the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum which predates, actually, the Global Internet Governance Forum. And one of our stalwarts has been Mr. Nigel Casimir who represents the CTU in our region as well as an observer within the GAC.

The CTU also supports the number of national IGFS. And this is critical with respect to raising the discussion at the national level of what are the issues with respect to the management of the DNS and also global discussions with respect to the Internet Governance Forum.

I was honored to be one of the founding members of the Internet Society Barbados Chapter and be also the first, second, and third national Internet Governance Forum within Barbados. So that experience was quite useful for me.

We also support the engagement of regional [iOrgs]. I work very closely with our regional rep, Mr. Albert Daniels who's on the call, in terms of trying to promote regional participation within the ICANN process. And Albert has been very instrumental in bringing our Caribbean member states into the GAC, the advisory committee, to provide further input to the GAC policy development process. And of course now we want to take it to the next level to ensure that we not just have numbers

registered as members, but also that our voice is heard and we are able to make clear recommendations with respect to quality. Next slide, please.

So I won't spend a lot of time in here, in the interest of time. I'll just say our participation dates back from 2006. I mentioned Mr. Nigel Casimir who's also on the call. And we became formally a member of the GAC in 2012.

And we provide advisory services for member states, as we appreciate ministers of government who have responsibility and who make policy for Internet governance [including] management for DNS and ccTLDs. They often don't have the time and, in some cases the capacity, to actively participate. But we ensure that there is a brief that is prepared for them and we update them on what is happening within ICANN. Next slide.

So in terms of our recent engagement, we were honored to have the Chairman of the Board of ICANN, Mr. Botterman present to our 24th General Conference of Ministers on September 21st. And that was indeed very useful. Prior to that, I think it was the CEO, Mr. Fadi Chehade somewhere around 2012, 2013, or so. And it was a very engaging discussion with the ministers responsible for ICTs including, of course, Internet and Internet governance. It was a very interactive session and we are pleased that, in particular, Albert Daniels was able to make that happen. Next slide, please.

I would also say that we also had an engagement at the regional level. We convened a meeting to try to get all of the stakeholders within the

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ICANN community. So we're a small group within the region and so there's representation within the GAC. There's representation within the GNSO. There's even representation within the NomCom and across different communities.

But it is small and we're challenged with respect to sustaining that engagement. And so, in a sense, the issues are how do we improve the effectiveness of the ICANN multistakeholder model of governance— well, certainly from the Caribbean perspective. And the slide you see here is drawn from the ICANN strategic plan.

And ICANN itself acknowledges that there is a need to improve this engagement. There's a need to strengthen the bottom-up multistakeholder decision-making process and ensure that work gets done and policies are developed in an effective and timely matter. And there's a risk that the multistakeholder model is compromised if we don't have multistakeholders participating.

If, in fact, we have a multistakeholder model that maintains the status quo—that the big countries are represented and the big voices are heard, the loud voices are heard—then it presents challenges for those regions that are underserved, that are for many, many different reasons not afforded an opportunity to make their positions known. Next slide, please.

And so what I'm saying [inaudible] what we certainly would like to see is an increased participation within the ICANN constituencies and the policy development processes within the Caribbean. We also want to

see an increased representation in ICANN governance, the committees and supporting organization.

So across the board in every community, how can we raise the level of participation from the Caribbean community? And we've had a number of successes, as my next items show. But how can we also build knowledge and capacity with respect to DNS policy?

So we don't just want a seat the table, which we already have, but we want to be able to effectively speak from a position of knowledge with respect to the policies across all of the communities.

And so there are persons I can point to who will be familiar—I won't call any names—but certainly who have been very active. We want to ensure that that is increased and that it's sustainable. And it is not necessarily based one individual, but there is a systematic interaction.

So how can we strengthen the SIDS ICANN multistakeholder community across the governance supporting organization, advisory committees? Of course, the Caribbean is a subset of the Small Island Developing States—there's a UN classification with respect to Small Island Developing States and the Caribbean—and without a doubt identifies within this global community for many reasons. And we saw the presentation earlier about the .ms for Montserrat.

And also earlier I was in the ALAC-GAC session which spoke about the At-Large Structures. And I'm familiar with the some of the At-Large structures existing within Barbados and I know for a fact that some of them are [different] and are challenged with respect to their ability to

actively participate within ICANN process. You can go forward, please. Next slide.

And so within ICANN, there is in fact an acknowledgement that there is an underserved region. There are underserved regions and, at the moment, this is dealt with adequately within GAC. And I was also privileged to be a part of that discussion within GAC to receive the report of the Underserved Regions Working Group. And in fact they do address many of our challenges, and we're appreciative for the work that they have done. Next slide.

And here we have the definition of the underserved regions. Certainly, we fall into that category as the Caribbean and the wider global community or Small Island Developing States. And those interventions at the level of the Underserved Regions Working Group has led to travel support, higher-level engagements, capacity-building opportunities, and application support for gTLDs. So we've had some successes.

And what we're saying is that we now want to take this forward. We want to have a more cohesive approach and increase the level of participation. Next slide.

And we believe that we can achieve this by way of a Cross-Community Working Group. What that allows, in terms of what exists now, we are too small as a region—and certainly I would say all Small Island Developing States—as a sub region, if you will, to be segmented solely within the ICANN classification of GAC, of GNSO, of ccNSO, and so on.

And we're saying that there's a very small group of expertise within the region [that obtains] and we want to be able to leverage that expertise, that capacity, those resources to support overall across the board and not be segmented in that way to say, "This is a group representing the Caribbean and, to a large extent, the Small Island Developing States. And we want to foster collaboration, increase knowledge sharing, enhance capacity building, the general support and backstopping. And there will be some opportunity for backstopping.

So we don't want a bottleneck. Say if we are representing our member states within GAC, there is an opportunity also to represent our member states within the ccNSO or GNSO or the various ICANN communities, perhaps even on the Board, of course, as the formal structure that exists.

But how can we foster that collaboration without necessarily—or I would say "without," but certainly not to the exclusion of that structure—but how can we create a structure that lends itself greater to the support of Small Island Developing States? And Sophie, move to the next slide.

We understand that the Cross-Community Working Group does not necessarily have a locus standi within the formal ICANN structure, but it is merely to facilitate greater support for underserved regions, such as SIDS. So there's cross community.

And my recommendation—and just to be clear that this is a recommendation with respect to how we can enhance the collaboration within Small Island Developing States and certainly from

a Caribbean perspective—how we can increase our participation within the ICANN process. Sorry, go back one more. Just go back a little bit. Yes, thank you. So it facilitates greater support for underserved region/cross-community.

And I have had discussions. I know who our resources are within the community. I know them by name. I know them because we are on the WhatsApp group. It is a very small community. There are obviously some which may be outside of that small platform for engagement, but it is really a small community. And there are smaller communities, just globally, that have the same challenges.

And certainly we're not seeking to develop policy, but we're seeking to support policy development across all communities within GAC, within ALAC, within GNSO, etc. Collectively, we understand what the issues are within the respective communities and we are supporting each other to reinforce the support [of the] policy positions within each distinct community.

As with all other working groups, we certainly would recommend that it is guided by a charter. And I would say that I acknowledge that there is a Caribbean working group already that exists within the LAC Space. What we wanted to do is strengthen that. We want to build on what has happened before. We want to address the challenges with respect to that group and the engagement of that group and sort of take it to the next level so that we are more active and it is more sustainable.

And the recommendation, of course, is that we move forward with implementation of a Cross-Community Working Group focusing on

SIDS and SIDS issues. And maybe review that within a two- to three-year framework after we develop the charter. Next slide.

In relation to our participation, we have definitely seen an increase in the Caribbean region's participation within ICANN. I started off by saying thanks, in large part, on the government side with the support of our Rep from the Caribbean for the Global Stakeholder Engagement. But there's significant room for improvement.

So while we have seen an increase in numbers, we want to see an increase in terms of our participation, our input, our engagement, our discussion. Wonderful presentation, in fact, by Mr. Jason Hynds on his own initiative. And in fact, the issue that he addresses also from a national perspective, from his own initiative—and we appreciate people like JSON who have brought these issues to the floor.

But we want to build a more sustainable, broader community. And we believe there are opportunities to share with persons like Jason who exists throughout the broader Small Island Developing States community.

And who should participate? We certainly believe that if you're a part of SIDS, if you're a part of the global community but with an interest in the Small Island Developing States, as the Regional Internet Registries are, as ISOC is, as the Global Stakeholder Engagement reps are, and whether it's the Caribbean or Asia Pacific countries.

And of course, there's the GAC Underserved Regions Working Group as well who would be well placed to speak on these issues. So it must be

multi-disciplinary as well, and also allow for all relevant parties to get together as a body where resources are generally constrained. Next slide.

So in summary, I wanted to say that this is about improving the participation of the Caribbean countries. Next slide, please, which is the last slide.

And it has improved over time for many reasons, including the interventions of our rep for Global Stakeholder Engagement, because of interested parties, because of people who are committed—very, very committed—to the cause, very often without pay, without remuneration, just almost as a labor of love.

But there's significant room for improvement. There is significant support from an organizational, from a funding perspective that can be had to ensure that our input, or participation is consistent. And it is not just based on individuals, but it is based on a concerted effort and a strategy to work with like-minded states.

And so, certainly, we can admit that even though the region, in terms of underserved regions—since it's a small stakeholder group, however you look at it—even within the LAC Space, there are small islands arranging from ones around 5,000 within our member states up to Cuba that have larger populations.

So it's an opportunity to provide, to strengthen the SIDS participation within ICANN, which ICANN acknowledges is critical if we are, in fact, adhering to the model of multistakeholder engagement. And I would

certainly wholeheartedly support a charter to guide its work, to give some formality to its structure.

And again, to reiterate that it is not to develop policy, but to support respective communities and policy development given the capacity constraints—so in GAC and GNSO, etc.

And certainly, as Secretary General of CTO, I would offer whatever resources we can bring to the table to ensure that there is sustainability within this group.

And with that, I thank you very much for your time and your attention.

LAURA MARGOLIS: Thank you, Rodney, for this presentation. A very interesting perspective on how to bring the Caribbean constituencies on board. Thank you so much for this presentation.

Unfortunately, we are at the top of the hour. Time flies. So my apologies. I wanted to give the floor to Ignacio from LACNIC, but unfortunately this is not going to be possible. We do need to bring the session to a close. My apologies, Nacho. Next time I will keep an eye on times so that all the speakers can take the floor as planned.

Thank you, everyone, so much for joining us. We will stay in touch online or, hopefully, face to face soon. Thank you very much for joining us. Thank you.

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