
ICANN75 | AGM – ccNSO: Strategic and Operational Planning Standing Committee
Sunday, September 18, 2022 – 16:30 to 17:30 KUL

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Hello and welcome to the ccNSO Strategic and Operational Planning Standing Committee session. My name is Claudia Ruiz and I am the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior. During this session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form as noted in the chat.

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For the benefit of other participants, please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace. You may access all available features for this session in the Zoom toolbar. With that, I will hand the floor over to Andreas, Chair of the SOPC.

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ANDREAS MUSIELAK: Okay. As far as I know, we can speak without the mask, so if you have a question or so, you can take off your mask. Welcome to today's SOPC meeting. So we have a very packed agenda, so if there is anything missing, let me know, we will discuss this under any other business.

At this point, I will turn it over to Becky and her team and welcome also Xavier, Victoria. So they will have a presentation, and if you feel there is no response for the question we had during the last budget period, please feel free to ask Becky's team. Please, Becky, I hand over to you.

BECKY NASH: Thank you very much, Andreas. This is Becky Nash from ICANN Org Planning, and I'm here with my colleague Victoria Yang, and I would like to thank Andreas for inviting us and the committee. We are here to give a short update on ICANN Org Planning. So next slide, please. So the agenda that we're covering today is first an overview of the FY24 planning process and timeline with a focus on the upcoming public comment timeline.

Then we have a short section on ICANN Org's responses to the SOPC public comment submissions for FY23. This is the year that we're currently in for our FY23, and specifically the impact to the FY23 plans, and then a focus in on what SOPC can expect with respect to responses as it relates to three key areas that were

outlined as part of the agenda, which is developing and reviewing KPIs, evolution of the prioritization framework, and adjusting of the plan documents.

I'm happy to take questions throughout the presentation, so I'll pause for any questions that anyone has. Next slide, please. Just to begin, we'd like to provide a quick overview of the overall annual planning cycle. So for FY24, which will be the next fiscal year, we have already started the planning process just on a calendar year basis back in January, 2022.

We started with the trends identification process, which is the strategic outlook trends identification, and then we moved into the development of the IANA and PTI operating plans and budget, which kicks off in approximately June timeframe, and still while we're working on the strategic outlook trends when we move to the impact assessment of all of the data that we collected and we appreciate the involvement of the ccNSO in that process.

From the July through September, the annual planning cycle then also includes a new step called the planning prioritization process. That's intended to be upfront in the planning process each year to be completed no later than July. We also then embarked upon the ICANN operating plan and budget process. At the same time in the September timeframe, we have the IANA

plans, which after being developed and reviewed, get published for public comment.

Then we move into the October and December calendar year which is coming up, where we have, first, the conclusion of the strategic outlook trends process with a proposed board resolution, and then we move into publishing the ICANN operating plans and budget for public comment, and that is on target to be in December, 2022.

Following that, the rest of the planning cycle after the public comment period ends, moves into the proposed for adoption, both for the IANA PTI, which is subject to empowered community, and then later on in the April timeframe will be for the total ICANN operating plans and budget, and they will be proposed for board adoption and then move into the empowered community period. So again, the purpose of this update is just to give a snapshot of the entire end-to-end annual planning cycle.

Next slide, please. So now, for FY24, we would just like to highlight that the Draft IANA and PTI FY24 operating plan and budget was published for public comment this week. I know many of your members have been traveling, so maybe it wasn't something that you got an alert for, but on September 15th, the public comment period opened and is scheduled then for 40 days until October 31st, 2022.

Another key item is that the FY24 planning prioritization process is running or being launched from September, and we will be organizing meetings in the early October timeframe. I would just like to highlight that FY24 for the planning prioritization process. This is the first year that we're implementing this process after a pilot that was run and concluded in May.

As you could see on the previous slide, I did want to highlight that typically the schedule for that key process where the community forms a group and prioritizes the activities as input to ICANN will take place earlier in the calendar year in order for ICAN to receive that input. For this particular year, for FY24, again, we're doing it at this time, primarily due to the fact that the pilot was run back in May.

We would like to thank the ccNSO SOPC for their support of the planning prioritization process, and the SO and AC leadership for nominating both a member and a secondary member for the planning prioritization process. Another key calendar item is the FY24 additional budget request process that is expected to run from the November timeframe 2022 through January, 2023.

So that will be the timeframe for the submission of what we call the additional budget requests. Then we have the Draft ICANN FY24 through FY28 operating and financial plan, and the Draft FY24 operating plan and budget, and that is on target to be

published for public comment December 14th, 2022. That public comment proceeding will run through February 13th, 2023. We want to highlight we will have a public webinars to present those plans to the community once they are published for public comment.

Next slide, please. So the next agenda item is related to the ccNSO SOPC public comments submitted for the FY23 plans. So first of all, ICANN Org appreciates the ccNSO SOPC's continuous participation in Icahn's overall planning process year after year. We just highlight here that for the last two years for the Draft IANA PTI plans, from the ccNSO SOPC in FY22, there was one comment, public comment submitted, and then in FY23, we did not receive any comments from the ccNSO SOPC for PTI IANA.

Again, PTI and IANA, which is the IANA functions is also included in the overall ICANN plans under the functional activity of IANA. Just highlighting here that for the draft ICANN plans for FY 22, we received a total of 57 comments from the ccNSO SOPC, and in FY23 it was 28 comments. I would just like to highlight that the process that ICANN Org takes when these comments are submitted, is that we divide them up into individual themes and comments.

So that's how these numbers come about from the submission, which is typically a memo. So the submissions that we received

specifically over the last two planning cycles from the SOPC, they've covered a variety of themes from the structure of the document, from specific activities that are being planned in addition to resources allocated and financial management.

Those are the types of themes that we divide up those comments into. So if we go to the next slide, please. So we were asked to present on the impact to the FY23 plans. So we just would like to highlight that based on the comments received, first of all, ICANN Org reviewed all of the public comments received.

We review those very carefully and where applicable and feasible, ICANN Org updated the draft plans, and we just would like to highlight that specifically from a comment of the SOPC, ICANN Org did update the narrative or the text in the functional activity of policy research and stakeholder programs based on a comment received, which was really asking us about research that was being done in that area and what it was applied to.

So there is a direct impact to revisions that are made. We find these comments very helpful, and again, where applicable and feasible, we are able to incorporate changes for that particular year. So many of the comments received for FY23 related to overarching improvements to the planning process. So one key thing is the KPIs and progress measurement of the operating

planning activities, enhancing the planning document, and evolving the prioritization process.

So we'd just like to highlight that, first of all, thank you for the suggestions and the improvements, it's very important in our process. We do have several of these activities that are incorporated in the plans, where during FY23, the current year and the year we're planning for FY24, ICANN Org is committed to continually improving the planning process, and we'll give a few examples on the next slide.

Some of the comments received related to financial management, again, that's the theme that we grouped the comments in. So, there were comments submitted as it related to professional services and the costs related to that, the funding sources, and based on those comments received, specifically from the SOPC ICANN Org did add clarity in the plan and updated text to make it clearer for the public, and we added additional explanations in the public comment staff report as well to enhance several of those areas.

Next slide, please. So a couple of key areas of comments, again, progress measurement and reporting. So, the response that we provided is that there is an operating initiative in the operating plan, which is planning at ICANN. That operating initiative is intended to enhance the planning process, and ICANN Org

intends to work on progress measurement related to measuring the achievement of this strategic plan and the operating plan activities.

So we will start first during FY23 and 24 with developing a proposed framework to share with the Org board and the community. We will value engagement with the ccNSO SOPC to seek input. So again, that is an activity that is part of the operating initiatives in the five-year and one-year operating plan.

So another key area of public comment is evolving the prioritization framework. So we launched the planning prioritization framework project during FY22, where ICANN Org reached out to the SOs and ACs and the public to receive input on how to design a proposed planning prioritization process.

We want to thank the ccNSO for their contributions to a workshop, we had a very detailed session that provided a lot of input along with other SOs and ACs on what became in the FY22 timeframe, a framework that was published, and that is available on our ICANN Wiki. In addition to that, we ran a pilot, and again we appreciate the members that contributed to the pilot.

The pilot was run in April and May, and on our ICANN Wiki, we do have the results of the activities that were prioritized. The scope of the pilot was board-approved specific review recommendations, and the team worked during approximately

five meetings and was able to prioritize 45 of those projects that were eligible for prioritization.

Those projects are currently underway in what's called an implementation design phase, and more information will come about the status of the tremendous amount of work that has been done by Org, and we will report to the community about how to accomplish that. I just would like to highlight that subsequent to the pilot, we did publish a planning prioritization framework version three, and now we're moving into the implementation for FY24.

Again, the members that have been nominated by the SO and AC leadership have all received an email this week that we're scheduling the prioritization. So one other key area of comment is the adjustment to the planning documents. So ICANN is committed to continue to improve the planning documents and enhance the public comment staff report and the experience overall.

We want to thank the SOPC for all of the constructive feedback on how to make these improvements to the planning process, because again, for transparency and accountability, we are committed to making sure that it's accessible to the public, that things are clear and easy to read about what ICANN is planning over a one-year and five-year period.

So for example, in FY23, we did enhance the linkage between the strategic plan and the operating plan, and that was done by a visual in the appendix that was able to reduce a significant number of pages in the annual five-year and one-year operating plan. We realize that it's a very lengthy document and we appreciate all of the commitment of the members that do review the document in detail, but we want to make sure that it's complete, but also easy for navigation and to enhance the reader's experience and understanding.

So one other key thing that is part of an enhancement is to introduce guided public comments. That's where we can highlight and ask specifically for the community's input on various activities in the plan. That does make it easier for groups to submit public comments, even though if there are any other general comments, those are always permitted by being able to upload them and have completed comments.

So that's another enhancement that we've been doing. So if we could just go to the next slide, it's actually the last slide. We just wanted to highlight again our appreciation for having us here today, and I look forward to any questions.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: Thank you, Becky, for the presentation. We can really see the improvements, and I think on slide number five, you can clearly

see the improvement because even in quantity, the numbers of comments reduced from 57 to 28 from FY22 to FY23. No comments for the IANA PTI planning, but we hope to give some feedback for the FY24. To the SOPC members, any question regarding the presentation? Irina.

IRINA DANIELA:

Thank you Andreas, and thank you Becky for the presentation. This is Irina Daniela, for the record, I have couple of questions just to clarify the details. So first of all, maybe for this group and for the broader audience, would you explain a little bit in more details, what would be the subject of upcoming prioritization process and what's going to be prioritized? That's the first question. I'll have some more.

BECKY NASH:

Thank you very much, Irina, for your question. Very good question in the respect that the key to focus on for the prioritization framework is that it is related to board-approved activities that are eligible for ICANN Org to implement. So as part of the operating plan and budget, we have an appendix, which is called the Five-Year Community Roadmap, which explains in detail the status of several of our activities such as PDPs and other key projects.

It clearly states whether or not it has been board-adopted, because until an activity is board-adopted, it's not eligible yet to be prioritized for ICANN Org to implement. So we have been working on the detail of what is available, and it I guess a sneak peek would be that those are much smaller number of activities than what was tackled during the pilot.

We also are preparing a complete analysis of why several other projects are not eligible to be prioritized because we think the community really, and the community members on the planning prioritization group want to understand what is eligible to prioritize under this definition. So it is board-approved, whether it's a PDP or any other kind of activity such as review recommendations.

IRINA DANIELA:

Thank you very much. My next question, so second one is very brief. Previous year you had a milestone in the public comment of when the clarifying questions were to be submitted. So during the public comment for the operating and financial plan of the ICANN, there was a start of this period, and then there was a date by which we could submit clarifying questions, when this date will be announced this year because we really try to do some advance scheduling of our current work.

BECKY NASH:

Thank you for your question. Typically, that date is the end of the January timeframe, and I just want to clarify what clarifying questions relates to. So when we put the draft plans out for public comment, we are awaiting the public comment submissions, and we realize the tremendous level of effort it is for the community to prepare these public comments.

The purpose for a clarifying question is, as a community group starts its work to prepare public comments, if there is something that is preventing them from completing their question or thought on a public comment, we want to be able to answer that question in a very open and transparent manner, not just for the person that's requested it, but also for the public.

Because as we often know, every question is a good question, and usually everybody in the group or the class would like to hear the answer to that same question because they might have had it as well. So, we will clarify potentially in the chat the expected timeline, but it is dependent on when we put things out for public comments.

So it's normally three weeks into it because we can't wait till the last minute, it's not effective for both the community or the Org. Thank you.

IRINA DANIELA: Thank you very much Becky. My last question is related to the guided public comments because I'm going to try to explain why I'm so interested because we currently in SOPC we are trying to adjust methods how we work and to make more efficient, and one of the potential activities we do for ourselves is focusing our approach to the public comment by certain most relevant to ccNSO initiatives, but also going through, let's say, predefined set of questions we are going to ask ourselves. So to match this approach with what you call guided, is there anything we should or can be informed in advance?

BECKY NASH: Thank you for your question. You may know that the process for public comments was a subject of an improvement for the community and part of a review recommendation as well. So one of the key aspects of that is that at the time the draft plans are submitted for public comment, there are a series of questions, and in fact we have an example for the PTI IANA public comment that just opened, it actually has the guided comments on it.

However, I think a key point that you brought up is that is for all of the community. So what I'd like to stress is that if any SO or AC or any member of the public has other comments that is more important to them or of interest to them, they still can submit it on the form, so it's not limited to the guided. I think to your

question, you were asking whether or not it would be upfront before public comment, it's actually part of the public comment form.

So it is at the time the public comment goes out that these categories or series of questions are there. We're starting that process again, it's a key improvement that was recommended by the community, and it's in order to improve the experience for the public comment process.

We hope that you take into consideration and give us feedback on the guided public comment specifically for PTI and the IANA plans that will help us have input as well into the ICANN plans. Thank you.

IRINA DANIELA: Thanks a lot.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: Any other questions from the group? If not, I have also an additional question and it's also about the efficiency. So we discussed in the SOPC group about, for example, to build new KPIs. So we know the schedule for commenting is very tight, so for example, if we talk about headcount personal costs, and one of your response was if we can hire certain persons, we would use consultants to cover that.

Our problem at the SOPC is really to see how you achieve the goals. So on the one hand, if we say 100 persons can cover that and that, so we want to see how you can, not in numbers, but how you can achieve your goals in quality. That's why we want to be at a very early stage to discuss this point.

So to see if you go in consultant, if you still achieve your goals, instead of hiring 10 new persons. Is this possible to find a solution to say we achieve the goals by hiring five persons and five consultants to achieve target ABC? That would be one question.

BECKY NASH:

Andreas, thank you very much for your question. So overall, the concept of progress measurement is to measure the activities and the results of the activities. Rather than speaking specifically about the resources to achieve that activities, we know that the ccNSO SOPCs recommending KPIs that are related to how has the activity been achieved.

As we mentioned on one of the slides, progress measurement, which normally would include KPIs or a baseline measurement, is something that ICANN Org has as a part of the operating initiative planning at ICANN. So we will be embarking upon a project in order to design a framework, and that fits the purpose to be determined and then to be communicated and engaged upon with the community board and the Org.

So as of right now, there is progress that's listed in the operating plan, meaning that there is information on what has been achieved in the last fiscal year and what's been either accomplished or deferred to future years. So we look forward to continued feedback on this matter and engagement with this group, which I think will give a lot of very good feedback based on your charter.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

Xavier, you have a question? A comment. Okay, please. Okay, then later. Okay, Becky, thanks, that explains very well. I think if we see we reach a good outcome and activities, that is a good result. Okay. Then, just from my point of view, the last slide, the slide before. Kim, you can go back to the last slide, the slide before. Slide number seven. Exactly.

I think here the key areas of comments from my point of view, the first two are very important because we have a very tight agenda. So if we get the proposal framework well and ahead, that helps you to improve the whole process. Okay. At that point, I would say thank you, Becky, and your team. You're welcome to follow us for the next points. Kim, can you share the agenda?

BART BOSWINKEL: Andreas, this is Bart speaking. Xavier posted a question in the chat, but he could have two minutes on the agenda.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: Right now? Yes, go ahead.

BART BOSWINKEL: Yes.

XAVIER CALVEZ: Thank you, Xavier Calvez for the record. Just quickly wanted to give this committee a heads up that the team and Becky's team is working on a project at the moment, which is to evaluate simplifications of the planning process and notably the differences that currently exists between the two planning processes for the IANA functions and the ICANN overall planning process.

You know very well that the Ike process includes the IANA plan, but there's also, of course, the IANA functions process that's separate, that's earlier, and that is the subject of separate process.

There's a number of differences between those processes that are being looked at with a sense of whether or not there could be an integration of some of those processes or a synchronization of

some of those processes that would not change anything to the objectives that the transition led to put in place with those differences, but that would nonetheless make the processes easier to understand and manage by the community, by the public, and to produce simpler documents also for everyone to use.

An illustration of a difference that is the subject of that assessment is the fact that, for example, the IANA functions strategic plan is a four-year plan, the ICANN strategic plan is a five-year plan. There's zero logic for those two durations to be different. I was part of the work at the time, I know that simply the two teams didn't speak to each other when they did this.

So it's a simple illustration of a difference that is unhelpful and that has no reason to stay in quotes, but of course, so this is in the works. The PTI board has asked the team to look at this topic and is very eager to be able to simplify what can be simplified separately and in parallel, the board finance committee of the ICANN board has the same thing.

So everyone is very aligned to try to do the best possible adjustments of the processes so that the processes are simpler, mainly for the community and the public, without, of course, losing any of the intense purposes and objectives of the transition in 2016.

So I just wanted to give you a heads up simply because I'm assuming this committee will be very interested in the next steps about this project once we have something more substantive in the draft, but still complete to offering to present, and we will welcome your opinion at the time. Thank you.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

Xavier, thank you. I think it's very important to synchronize and harmonize the budgets. We have from now next agenda point, exactly the PTI budget to discuss what we think, at least for this planning process. It's good to have the PTI ahead because now we have the chance to somehow look into that beforehand so we don't have everything at one point in time. Nevertheless, I think on the long - synchronizing makes sense because both, you call it, impact the other one. Thank you.

Okay. Then agenda point number three, volunteers for commenting FY24 PTI operating plan and budget. As Becky mentioned on September 15th, I think documents were shared. Irina and I, we had a short slot today in the technical working group to find volunteers supporting us.

So we could see in Becky's presentation, there were no comment for last year's planning, we want to change that, but we said probably, we need the technical expertise. So for the group here, we have a meeting on Wednesday, 13:15 PM, 1:15 PM, right, Joke?

So please raise your hand from the SOPC group who wants to join us. It's a very unofficial meeting where we discuss with the technic worker group the PTI budget. So if there are interest, please raise your hands because it's an onsite meeting, there's no Zoom link, but at least for those persons here in Kuala Lumpur, we would like to have some expertise in addition. I see Stephen has a comment. So you would like to join? Perfectly.

STEPHEN CROCKER: Yes, I'll try. Can you reconfirm the time?

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: 1:15 on Wednesday. Joke, I'm right?

JOKE BRAEKEN: Hi, Andreas, this is Joke. Yes, that's correct. There's also calendar invite that was sent to certain volunteers, and since you already expressed your wish to join.

STEPHEN CROCKER: I can, I have to be at the ccNSO GAC meeting.

JOKE BRAEKEN: That's after that. We'll check Stephen, and let you know. Thank you.

IRINA DANIELA: So I'm ready to see.

STEPHEN CROCKER: Yes, that's good. Yes, put me in then, Joke.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: Okay, Stephen. So it would be great to have you with us because you represent both groups very well. Okay. Please, raise your hand if you want to join so Joke can share the invite again. Then the idea, when we come to the timeline, we will share with the whole SOPC group afterwards, but we will just discuss it under agenda 0.7. At that point, I will hand over to Irina for the next agenda, 0.4.

IRINA DANIELA: Thank you, Andreas. So if you recall our discussion on the SOPC action plan and the approach to this year ICANN public comment period. I'm talking about ICANN financial and operating plans and budgets.

We agreed that we will focus on the areas most relevant to the ccTLDs and ccNSO community, which does not prevent SOPC from commenting on any other issues we might see, but however, we want to have a clear focus on what is mostly of the most importance to ccTLDs, and therefore, we need first to identify what should be those focus areas.

You might also recall, and Kim, maybe have the table from the last prioritization exercise. If you recall, we did this exercise couple of years ago, maybe three years, and we just ranked operating initiatives and functional activities. So the suggestion for this year is to make it even easier.

So, the suggestion is to take operating initiatives only and to identify five more of the most importance. We are not going to do it right now. Andreas and I suggest to do it offline via email, but we are going to ask you to select five most important operating initiatives from your standpoint, and to assign, let's say, five points to the most important, four points to the second important, et cetera, and we will definitely send you instructions.

Before I go further, any objections or any other ideas or suggestions how can we do this prioritization and how can we identify these operating initiatives and areas of the most relevance and importance?

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: So for us, it's important because we discussed when we changed the charter to be very focused as SOPC, and we think if we focus on the top five of this 15 initiatives, so we can very well go through that, we have enough time to focus on the top priorities for the ccNSO.

So I think it's a very well approach which Irina proposed, and I think how we do that, the secretary, I will send out the approach, and I hope we will get soon feedback because as we mentioned before, the planning process is very tight so we would need to know your feedback as soon as possible. Irina.

IRINA DANIELA: So I see comments, I see no objections, so I believe this approach is approved. The only comment is that we assume since we do it for in advance, the plans are published. We definitely assume that operating initiatives will be the same as we had a year ago. So, that there will not be significant changes and ICANN will not suggest us absolutely new set of operating initiatives.

So before doing this ranking, you have an opportunity but also only read the title of the initiative, but also to look a little bit deeper in its description, which is available in the planning document from the previous year to make sure you fully understand what it is and what it is about because time has passed.

Honestly, I forgot a lot of things and I will definitely need to refresh in my memory what these titles actually mean. So that's what we currently ask SOPC members also to do. Please expect an email in the next couple of weeks from us suggesting to do this exercise, and the goal is to complete it somewhere in the middle of October to have enough time for other activities in preparation to our next public comment cycle, maybe end of October. Returning back to the agenda.

BIYI OLADIPO:

This Biyi Oladipo for the records. May I suggest that the list be circulated again with links to the deeper meanings of all the different [00:47:03 - inaudible], which we have an idea of what -- to refresh ourselves like you said again, and then when we're picking them, we are prioritizing, we know exactly what we're talking about.

IRINA DANIELA:

Yes. Thank you, Biyi.

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Irina, Bart has a stand up.

IRINA DANIELA:

Please, Bart.

BART BOSWINKEL: Thanks. May, I also suggest and to assist people it was included in the background material, that you, in determining the preference of the operating initiatives and it's your individual assessment, but that you also look at the, I would say, the ccNSO priorities or strategic one pager. I think it was included in your package, so we'll circulate this and include this in the package as well, so you have a good way of looking at it. That was all. Thanks.

IRINA DANIELA: Very good comments. Thank you very much, Bart. To go to the second thing to do within next, let's say, five, six weeks according to the action plan and schedule we have discussed is to develop actually a preliminary set of questions just to streamline our review, not trying to imagine what should I say about that, but just to make our life easier if we could go through like, question 1, 2, 3, 4, okay.

Questions answered. Seems we are done. This seems to be a good idea. I have tried to compile preliminary set of such questions, which we may want to share with membership, probably not this ICANN week, but maybe a week after.

Definitely, the specific of the PTI public comment should be taken into account to check what ICANN suggest us and whether it might be helpful. So the feedback we will be looking from SOPC members is just to look at these questions and say if this makes sense, if we have missed something important, or maybe some of these questions does not make sense, we should remove it, just to have this kind of template for the future.

Again, this will be sent through the list. Any questions or comments on this? Full agreement, full support. Thank you very much. That's awesome.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

Okay. Then we come back to the agenda, agenda 0.5, Identify Groups to Cooperate. Kim, can you share the document with the groups which submitted comments on FY23 budget process? So I think which we will include already is the tech working group which we agreed upon, and then the question to the group is if this is the, let's say, the groups we should approach for FY24.

So we have ICANN Business, we have Registrar Stakeholder Group, the gTLD Registry Stakeholder Group, the SCBO, and LX. So is there any group missing from your point of view?

Anything in the Zoom chat? Okay. So that would be the groups we would approach once we are clear for the processes and the

question we can share. In particular, we agreed with the SCBO because many question were raised at the same time, so we can consolidate the work. Irina.

IRINA DANIELA: Thank you, Andreas. I have a tricky question. Should we approach all these groups?

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: My personal answer would be no, it depends which question we have. Basically, we are looking which groups could be of interest, okay. So, for the records, we should really approach groups when we see there is a question or a comment we need to raise, and this group can give us in depth answers for that.

Okay. Kim, can you go back to the agenda? I think any other business, we discuss with the secretariat once a year, we need to ask our members to reconfirm their memberships. So we would send out an email in the next days or after the ICANN meeting.

So please reconfirm if you would like to stay with the SOPC group. You all are welcome to be part of the SOPC because your contribution is very important. Then nothing from the group under any other business. Go ahead.

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Apologies for going back one step, but I was wondering if the IPC would be one group that we should add there.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: We can add any group so we have that in mind. Do you have a particular reason why you think that's important, Pablo?

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: Only because they are the ones with the intellectual property areas that perhaps it could be beneficial to have them in there.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: Okay. Then --

PABLO RODRIGUEZ: But no particular question.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: Okay. Then next meetings ahead of this meeting, we discussed two points. We said we want to go to the PTI budget during ICANN here in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday. So I hope we can prepare a document which we can share shortly after the ICANN meeting.

Irina and I would like to invite the SOPC members for October 20th for a meeting to discuss first the PTI comments. We will

prepare with the technical working group. So the secretariat will share the state, but you have the state already.

Another meeting which we think is important because the whole comment process will end in January, so we should have a clear picture until end of November. So the next meeting after October would be December 14th. Right, Irina, if I'm not wrong?

If we need another meeting in between, we would then be quite flexible. So these are the two meetings, October 20th, to discuss the PTI comments and start under Agenda 0.4, the action plan for the upcoming meeting and be streamlined in December.

Okay, this brings me to the end of today's SOPC meeting. I would like to thank the secretariat, also Becky and her team to give us a presentation. It's always good to have a feedback from both sides. Also for my colleagues from the SOPC, thank you, and I wish you all a successful ICANN meeting. Thank you.

CLAUDIA RUIZ: Thank you. You can now stop the recording.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]