
ICANN75 | AGM – Q&A with ICANN Organization Executive Team
Monday, September 19, 2022 – 10:30 to 12:00 KUL

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Okay, welcome to the ICANN75 Executive Q&A with the ICANN Organization Executive Team. My name is Sally Newell Cohen, and I'm the Senior Vice President of Global Communications. I know I speak for the entire executive team when I tell you that we look forward to this session. Too far? Oh, you can't hear? I can hear myself so clearly.

Okay. We look forward to this session with you every time. It's really nice to be in person and also with people online as well, but it's really great to be in the same room as you. But we look forward to just talking about our initiatives with you, taking your questions...

There's three ways that you'll be able to ask questions, interact during this session. If you are in the room, you see the microphone right in the center? Just come up and join the queue. If you are joining remotely, there's two ways you can participate. One is by just raising your hand in the Zoom room and that will put you in the queue. When it's your time to speak, we'll call your name and unmute you, but you'll also need to unmute yourself. .

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

Alternately, you can put any questions in the Q&A pod and they'll either be answered directly in the pod, or Alex Dans, who is our remote participation manager, will be reading your question and then we'll answer it live. . So those are the ways you can participate.

Real-time interpretation for this session is available in Spanish, French, Chinese, Russian, and Arabic. You'll find the interpretation in the Zoom application or by using one of the headsets that you find in the back of the room.

We also recommend that even if English is your preferred language, you may wanna use the interpretation in Zoom or on the headset as well, because that will ease your to quickly hear if something's being interpreted in a different language.

Please remember that all participants must adhere to the Expected Standards of Behavior, which you'll find if you wanna look it up at the link on the screen, and also be aware of the Anti-Harassment Policy - you'll also find that at the link on the screen. Before I hand it to Göran Marby, I would like to ask the executives to introduce themselves and we'll start at the end of the table with Mandy Carver.

MANDY CARVER: Hello, I'm Mandy Carver, I'm the Senior Vice President for Government and IGO Engagement. I'm based in Los Angeles.

DAVID OLIVE: David Olive, Senior Vice President for Policy Developed Support in Washington DC.

JAMIE HEDLUND: Hi, I'm Jamie Hedlund, Senior Vice President Contractual Compliance US Government Engagement, also based in Los Angeles.

ASHWIN RANGAN: Hi, my name is Ashwin Rangan, I'm the Senior Vice President for Engineering & Chief Information. Officer, based out of Los Angeles.

XAVIER CALVEZ: Hello, I'm Xavier Calvez, Senior Vice President for Planning and Chief Financial Officer, based in Los Angeles as well.

GORAN MARBY: CEO, President, based out of Los Angeles.

JOHN CRAIN: I am John Crain, ICANN's Chief Technical Officer, responsible for the Office of the CTO and for the IANA functions.

SALLY COSTERTON: Hello, I'm Sally Costerton, Head of Stakeholder Engagement for ICANN worldwide. I'm based in UK.

GINA VILLAVICENCIO: Gina Villavicencio. Senior Vice President of Global Human Resources, based in Los Angeles.

THERESA SWINEHART: Theresa Swinehart, Senior Vice President of Global Domains and Strategy, based out of Los Angeles, and together with John Jeffrey, co-deputy to Göran Marby.

SALLY COSTERTON: And then we have John Jeffrey joining us remotely. Can we bring John up, please? [CROSSTALK]

GÖRAN MARBY: That doesn't sound like JJ for me, but I don't know.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: We're gonna pause for a second, we're having some technical issues, so if you could just bear with us for a minute, please. The people that are remote are having difficulty hearing us, so that's what we're waiting for. So we may have to do this again. Just the introductions.

GÖRAN MARBY: My understanding is that we have some problem with the interpretation, interpreters, who all speak at the same time. Sorry about this. If you all look on that side, you will see a lot of smart people trying to solve that problem. Now, looks like they're relaxed. Can we give my team a big round of applause. Just because they're doing a -- of a job. And please take away the word I used in the middle there.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Okay, we're ready to hand it over to you.

GÖRAN MARBY: Welcome, everyone. My team and I started this first time in Copenhagen, whatever year that was and I come to really appreciate this opportunity to share this time with you. And we are gonna talk about goals, strategic and my own goals, but you can ask any question to us about anything. You know that. So it's not only about my goals.

But the first [inaudible 00:06:48] this week we will focus on CEO goals for Fiscal Year 2023, it's an important part of our organization's commitments for Accountability and Transparency. So we talk about priorities a lot. They actually do start with things like strategic plans, they start with the goals we set and they end up with the CEO goals.

So let me start by talking about how we see the distinctions between these. So remember that the purpose of the strategic [inaudible 00:07:18] is set out at long-term strategic objectives for the organization reflecting the ICANN mission [inaudible 00:07:22], you are very much involved in that process, as many of you know. To carry us through the plan for Fiscal Years 2021 to 2025, was adapted by the ICANN Board in June 2019 and went into effect in July 2020.

It was a really impressive amount of work together with the community, this is not something where we do top-down, actually bottom-up as well. And by that, everything we do at ICANN org should support the strategic plan. We don't go outside it. Based on that then, we develop what we call operational plans and operational initiatives in support of the strategic plan. The Board tells where to go to you, we figure out how to go there. And that's the words we use when talking about operating initiatives. And then every year I work with the ICANN Board and my executive team to develop a set of goals for the next Fiscal Year, and these goals directly support a strategic plan and operational activities.

This year, I highlighted some of the work that org is doing to continue to improve processes and work flows, as well as our priority projects in critical management work that must be done. In many ways ICANN org reflects the structures of the Internet itself, just as no one organization or government operates the Internet, so no one person or team manages all the different projects and work at ICANN org.

We work cross functionally and in a collaborative way. I know I speak for the entire executive team when I say that we are very proud of our staff and the work we do to support ICANN, the

community and the Internet users of the world. And I want to do a little bit of marketing -- of course, everyone in the room has read the ICANN CEO report.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Yes.

GÖRAN MARBY: I hear the stunning “yes”. You can find it in the CEO Corner at ICANN org, you will find my FY23 goals there as well. So we will start a session review of this year’s goals, the Executive Lead in each goal will talk about their plans to achieve it, after that we have dedicated an entire audio session for your questions for us, and I hope you will ask us questions. Thank you very much, and welcome. So let’s start with the first goal presented by Sally Costerton.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you, Göran. I’m Sally Costerton, head of Stakeholder Engagement for ICANN. The first goal, ensuring that the community Relationship Management Platform features, including events 2.0 and ICANN join are deployed as planned in accordance with

relevant Data Protection laws and I'm sharing this goal of Goran's with David Olive.

As many of you know, in our Technical Coordination and Community Support functions, we rely on strong community and external relationships, a strong partnership between the org staff and you, our community partners and to ensure that we are maximizing the alignment across the inside teams, the internal teams in the org of the work that we do to support the volunteer groups around the world.

For some time we have been implementing a Community Relationship Management Platform that allows us -- so in this case CRN stands for Relationship Management Community, Relationship Community, not Customer Relationship Management. It's an internal platform that is integrating Engagement and Participation activities supported by multiple functions, such as Global Stakeholder Engagement, David's team, Policy Development Support, Government Engagement with Mandy, Global Communications with Sally, and others, and it is helping us to centralize and manage the information more effectively and more efficiently as we work with you.

You will benefit from more accurate data and reporting as the platform rolls out through the rest of this year and into the next, and I know for a long time many have wanted a better view as to

the size of your groups, the level of participation and engagement, and whether there are still gaps so that we can work together to make sure that we maximize representation and diversity at ICANN.

It's important that we develop this in line with current dated governance frameworks [indiscernible] and that has been a big lift inside the organization particularly over the summer but I'm happy to say we are now in a good place and ready to move to the next stage, confident that the tools we're using are legally compliant.

So I look forward to working with my colleagues as we complete the roll-out and I look forward to being able to share greater insight over the coming months and years with you, our community colleagues, about the pictures of our community and the priorities as we work together. Thank you. Now, I would like to hand over to David Olive, for Goal 2.

DAVID OLIVE:

Thank you very much, Sally. Goal 2 relates to continue to engage with the GNSO to improve the policy development process life cycle from the development through implementation. This effort is in line with the FY23 operating initiative to evolve and strengthen the ICANN community's decision making process to

ensure efficient and effective policy making. I share this goal with Theresa Swinehart, again it's the Policy Development Support and the Global GDS group, that is onto helping implement this goal.

First and foremost, it should be noted that in the ICANN, it's the ICANN Community, the Board, and the Org have complementary roles and they need to work together through the Policy Development and Implementation life cycle. Again, I like this goal because it stresses continuous improvements in what I call the Policy and Implementation Continuum or life cycle. In the global top level Domain Policy Life cycle, this includes policy development work that you are working on with the community, Board consideration of community developed proposals, and policy implementation which of course is conducted by the Org.

One of the elements of this Life Cycle, Theresa and her team have begun to engage the GNSO Council on the process looking at improving how they could modify consensus policy after they have been adopted by the Board and implemented, again to have some sort of flexibility in working on this as the real element is problem solving to address the issues before us.

We understand that the GNSO Council here at ICANN75 will be working on this and particularly have devised a mechanism for

tracking PDP improvements that are agreed upon, an important tool for the GNSO Council as it manages the Policy Development process.

And our GDS colleagues, Theresa's colleagues are allocating resources to support and be part of this dialogue to share their information and perspectives. There have been some recent developments related to this goal, the Operational Design Phase, ODP have been applied to two recent major GNSO PDPs, Tempspec and SubPro, one is completed the other underway and the Org is committed to reviewing the need for those ODPs and others as needed to capture the lessons learned and efforts that might be applied in this Policy and Implementation life cycle.

The GNSO Council has been working on the PDP 3.0 improvements, this is their effort to streamline the process and make it more efficient and that has been very good in terms of consensus building for the policy process. The GNSO Council has also been engaged with the GNSO appointed Board members to look to ways to improving communications between the Board and the GNSO during these policy development processes because we're in this together to solve the issues together. And the Board has begun to use this opportunity to appoint liaisons from the Board to the Policy Development work and PDP working groups.

The GDS also has liaisons participating in two current PDPs, the IDN EPDP and Transfer Policy 1. We will continue to work with the council on these dialogues as we move forward on this Life Cycle of policy and development. And we of course look forward to hearing the conversations here at ICANN75 related to this important element of continuous improvement not only for the GNSO but others involved in the Policy Development Process. Thank you very much. And I will turn over to my colleague, Sally Costerton.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you, David. So our third goal, to continue to build and implement the coalition for Digital Africa together with local stakeholders, partners, and communities. Now, I am working particularly with my colleagues, Ashwin Rangan and Mandy Carver, on this goal. This is a project that we have established now for some months and it is an opportunity for ICANN to use its convening power in the Internet space to encourage more Africans to have access to the Internet, very much in line with the comments that Göran made in his speech earlier this morning.

We are doing this because we think Africa deserves more from ICANN and we're using, as Göran mentioned this morning, the SubPro, the new gTLD program will have a new focus on Universal Acceptance on using scripts to help more people who do not

speak English as their first language to access the Internet and to enjoy its benefits. ICANN's mandate to act in the public interest to facilitate more access in this case with a focus on Africa. And we will officially launch the CDA with some of our coalition partners at the forthcoming IGF, Global IGF meeting In Addis Ababa in November.

Just to give you some examples of some of the project tracks within this coalition that are currently underway, ICANN is putting two manage root server clusters into Africa, one is already being set up in Kenya which is quite far advanced, and I am looking forward in a couple of week's time I will be in Kenya and I will be looking forward to going to see our partners there to see how we're getting on and we are in negotiations for the second installation which will be also in Africa in another African country.

Universal Acceptance an email address institution internalizational readiness in academic institutions, reminds me of what Wolfgang was saying this morning in his acceptance speech the importance of raising awareness in people that are coming through in the future as we do with our next generation colleagues here at this meeting, some of you whom I know will be in this room, encouraging new students to make email systems and other communication platforms within institutions, Universal Acceptance ready and to widen understanding inside

those institutions of the importance of it for widening Internet access.

DNSSEC road shows, supporting DNS operators, registries and registrars in selected African countries to implement and deploy DNSSEC, while working with them as well as network operators to turn on DNSSEC validation. Capacity building for ccTLD registries. Delivering and supporting specialized education and training aimed at supporting the ccTLD in the development of their national digital strategies as defined by those participating countries. Ten have already signed up and also further supporting robust participation and contribution from Africa in multi-stakeholder policy making.

And then finally, working with our colleagues in ISOC on IXP development, ISOC are leading this project and we are supporting IXPs in Africa to improve their services and infrastructures through activities that promote IXP operational and financial sustainability and capacity building including in areas effecting ccTLDs and the DNS. And I would now like to hand it over to my colleague. Sally Newell Cohen.

SALLY NEWELL COHENUNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you, Sally. I'm Sally Newell Cohen, Senior Vice President of Global Communications and Language

Services. Goal number 4 is to conduct high-level stakeholder engagement in countries and regions that will most benefit from the next round of gTLDs in particular those with non-English scripts or ASCII character sets. The goal is to create awareness of the importance of universal access beyond the ICANN community and to build an understanding of the link between Universal Acceptance and internationalized domain names in the next round. This goal includes promoting benefits of using the DNS as an important foundation for a country's Internet.

So in the final report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP, the Working Group recognized that the community priority evaluation guidelines were biased toward economic based communities which disadvantaged non-economic communities such as cultural, linguistic, ethnic, indigenous, minority and civil society advocacy groups and communities.

The final report also confirmed that the primary purposes of new gTLDs are to foster diversity, encourage competition and enhance the utility of the DNS. For the Internet to be truly interoperable and diverse, we have to increase access to the DNS in various scripts or languages to promote linguistic diversity, including through gTLDs.

ICANN org is strengthening our efforts to raise awareness of the need for Universal Acceptance and its importance to a multi-

lingual Internet and we're supporting the community's efforts to encourage software developers and back-end providers to adopt UA. This is a cross functional effort across ICANN org, particularly within the communications, Global Stakeholder Engagement, Government Engagement and Global domains and strategy teams. In the past several months, we have conducted several activities with this goal in mind.

In June, ICANN signed a memorandum of understanding with urAD to strengthen our collaboration and supporting IDNs and promoting Universal Acceptance of all domain names and email addresses.

In May, the fifth version of the Root Zone Label Generation Rules was published and it integrates a total of 26 unique scripts. We continue to provide support to the GNSOs IDN, EPDP, ccNSO IDM policy, that's a lot of acronyms in one sentence. We've conducted security and stability analysis of IDN tables for gTLDs as part of the IDN table update project. We held APAC DNS forum session on what is next for IDN variance.

ICANN org is also engaging frequently with the UASG to allow for better understanding of how ICANN org can further help the UASG to promote Universal Acceptance. We continue to conduct UA regional training programs, you can find details about this in the CEO report. We also publish weekly social media content to

promote UASG resources and we publish periodic blogs and announcements to support efforts as they progress.

One of the tracks of the SubPro ODP is Application Support Communications and Engagement through this group we are managing outreach in two parallel tracks. The first track is to provide the community with updates on the progress of the ODP and then later on the progress of planning and implementation of the community recommendations in preparation to launch the next round. These updates include blogs, announcements, periodic formal updates, content on ICANN org and other vehicles.

We are also developing the communications plan well ahead of the next application round. We will soon be announcing the PR from public relations firm that was selected to work with us over the next two years to support the UASG efforts in creating awareness of the need for Universal Acceptance, particularly among software developers back-end providers and governments and they will work with us to raise greater awareness of ICANN and our role beyond the ecosystem, so this will be through advocacy, actually public news releases and engagements.

We will provide education and information for potential

applicants far ahead of the actual launch window. Our communications and engagement efforts will be global but they're going to focus on the regions that can most benefit from Universal Acceptance, IDNs and new gTLDs, and as the plan develops, the regional engagement teams will be working closely with coms and government engagement to deliver the messages across the targeted regions and audiences so that we can maximize potential stakeholders understanding of the application process. And next John Crain will tell you about Goal 5.

JOHN CRAIN:

Thank you very much, I'm John Crain, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. For those on the line I understood you didn't hear the earlier introduction. I will talk about two goals as I have 5 and 6, and it would be a little strange to hand over to myself. So I will start with the first one, Goal 5, which is develop and deploy programs to increase DNS operators' knowledge of best practices for both authoritative and recurring name service.

Now I have some good news on this one and that is we have launched an initial program called Knowledge Sharing and Instantiating Norms for DNS Naming Security or KINDNS, and it has a .org domain name, so KINDNS.org, and I would like to give shout out to Adiel Akplogan if you could stand up if you are in the

room, Adiel; he said he was in here somewhere, he's over in the back there.

He is running the team that has developed this together with community members. It's a technical initiative, and we have a booth here at ICANN75 where if you would like to come along and visit, you can talk to some of our staff about the initiative. And for those online, I am going to paste the URL into the chat so that you can have a look at that. So that is number 5. And I will now hand it over to myself for number 6.

Number 6 is to develop an implementation framework for each of the 12 recommendations provided by the DNS Security Facilitation Initiatives Technical Study Group, a long name for a group, and those are to strengthen collaboration and communication on security and stability issues that impact the Internet. Now, that is process that has been ongoing for a while, we are using the advice registry process, although this is not actually part of official advice for those processes, and we are currently on the phase that we refer to as evaluate and consider.

So in the next weeks there will be a document going to Göran as the CEO, as this was CEO initiated, and then we will move on to the next phase, which is really about community consultation, et cetera. So we expect to see some solid movement on this at the end of this month where those reviews of the recommendations go

to the CEO, so that is moving along nicely and after that there is of course consultation and then implementation which will follow all the normal processes that we do around prioritization, et cetera.

And I will also post a link into the Zoom room for a blog that lays out the process a little bit more. And with that, I will pass on, if I get it correctly to Xavier.

XAVIER CALVEZ:

Thank you, John, Xavier Calvez, VP Planning and Chief Financial Officer, I will speak about Goal 6, which is about the enhancement of the effectiveness of the Multistakeholder Model, that is a long name which thankfully Göran has not tried to give it another of his famous names, and it was created by the Board, initiated by the Board a few years ago during which the community identified six main issues to try to improve on.

Three of those issues were prioritized, given higher priority and all the activities and projects that were being carried out throughout the community and the org that contributed to improve any one of these six issue areas were documented for being monitored and to see how they improve our Multistakeholder Model and its effectiveness.

So there is an org team that was created two years ago, the implementation operations team that has developed an evaluation methodology for these activities and projects and that team is led by Giovanni Seppia together with Negar Farzinnia, they have selected four projects out of the list that have been completed so that now we can start measuring their effectiveness in improving our processes and our collective work.

The four projects are the improvement of communications between ICANN org and the community, the second one is the Consensus Playbook, the third one is the Fellowship Program and the fourth one is ICANN Learn.

So these four projects are going to be evaluated in terms of their impact on improving our processes and once we will have the preliminary results we will be able to share those and be able to present them to the community and continue the work of evaluation and monitoring of those projects as well as addressing gap areas that are not yet covered by existing projects or activities that are areas that need improvement as well. With that, I will pass it on back to David for a goal that he and my team supports.

DAVID OLIVE:

Thank you Xavier, this is also another goal that I work with Xavier and his team on. It is one to develop and propose program and project management tools to assist the supporting organization and advisory committees in managing and planning their work in a uniform way. This will facilitate improved SO/AC effectiveness, potential cross community coordination and a common decision making or coordination process. Here the key word I think is uniform for program and project management tools and some new tools for us to help out each other in the management of the work that we do for Policy and Advice Development.

Here I have asked and created within my policy team a small group to work on this headed by Mary Wong, and they have been looking at how a uniform program management tool for all the SO/AC's can be developed and implemented and this tool is based largely on a previous one developed for the GNSO Council, they were trend setters in this and to that extent you heard a little bit about the PDP tracker that is an element of this project.

Of course other groups do have program and project management, and they do organize their work in this way, but this is going to be the common uniform tool that hopefully can track and manage work, also have reports on that and this will be supported by the org and its project management approach. I think having the uniform tool will also allow our org staff to help

the community in their management of the work, creating reports on workloads, milestones and useful data to help them in the project looking at what might be delays and ways to get around those delays and also improving transparency.

We believe this tool will be valuable to the SO/AC community, and we hope to have more concrete programs in place during this Fiscal Year. The policy and planning team of course coordinate to ensure that the organization's operational and budget plan can be using some of these tools and we will be working on that with the community.

Regarding the coordination and cooperation within the supporting organizations and advisory councils, the policy team will continue to work with the SO/AC Chairs, the roundtables and their discussions as they're looking at collectively governing and coordinating the work of the SOs and the AC's and they have expressed a support for this kind of new tool which we hope will be helpful.

The policy and the planning team, that's Xavier's team will work to coordinate with the prioritization as well, and we have worked well under the leadership of the SO/AC Chairs in that exercise and will be working more on that as we go forward with the planning for Fiscal Year 24. So exciting new tools for common and uniform

approach to provide with us data we need and the information you need to coordinate and manage your processes. Thank you. I now turn it over to Sally Costerton.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you, David. The next goal is to work on creating a plan over the next Fiscal Year to ensure that ICANN consistently delivers best in class hybrid public meetings that integrate the most meaningful and effective experiences for both virtual and in-person attendees. And just to be clear, many of you will know because you have worked with me and met with Nick and I, Nick Tomasso here.

Nick, would you just like to stand up so that everybody can know who you are? This is Nick Tomasso, who is the head of ICANN's meeting team, and he works as many of you know, on bringing us all together here today, all of us online and offline along with colleagues in [inaudible 00:36:49] and MTS and the policy team, with David.

So there's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to bring these meetings together. There have been over -- just shy of 1400 registrations for this meeting in person. We've already seen over 1000 but it just picked up with morning, on day 1 and around 650 registered online, and we expect that to increase. So what that

shows us, this our largest so far hybrid meeting here in Kuala Lumpur is the community is very comfortable with Zoom. And there has been enormous progress in our capabilities and comfort with using our remote participation tools during the pandemic.

It has not been difficult, therefore, to encourage our community to come together in this hybrid combined model as we have gone back to face-to-face meetings we've introduced with your help, tools such as the use of a single Zoom key to manage and balance the in person interventions with the remote participations, it's a major priority of staff as we evolve this plan that we make sure that everybody as much as possible feels equal when they are participating in our public meetings.

The SO/AC chairs and community leaders have been extremely supportive of our attempts to constantly improve our support for these hybrid meetings and have been supportive of the resource requirements that have been necessary. As we have noted in our operating and financial plan, it will be important for the org to continue to prioritize the constant and continuous evaluation and assessment, what is working, what do we need to do more of, what did we try but it just didn't work and where are the gaps.

So you will see a survey coming out after this meeting as we have after most of our meetings to ask for feedback, and tell us just keep giving us feedback because all of us in this room at this meeting are at the fore front of change and this will be with us for the foreseeable future and we want make sure that we do everything we can to use all resources we have, whether that be technology, or people, knowledge, expertise, time, working with you as well in your 270 volunteer capacity to help us to keep moving, to keep doing the best to deliver best in class hybrid meetings.

Now, I will do that weird thing John did and hand it over to myself for the next goal which is the Grant Program. So could we go to the next goal please on the screen. Actually, my colleague Xavier is just going to update you on this but I have been the executive in charge of the way in which the organization has taken on the recommendations that were provided by the community in the report, and endorsed by the Board and we are now in the process of designing an implementation plan to put in place a best in class grant giving program that is consistent with ICANN's mission. So, that is now as we go into this next stage, I'm handing that over not just this morning but in operational terms, to my colleague Xavier, who is going to be going over what we've been doing this summer. Xavier.

XAVIER CALVEZ:

Thank you, Sally. As Sally indicated our two teams work together on this project but also other teams, the legal teams, the communications teams, et cetera, I won't repeat what Sally has already said. We are working to go draft a program design at the moment and its implementation plan and as further Board decision that adopted the recommendations of the cross community Working Group requested in June when adopting those recommendations we will provide to the Board the visibility and a review of the draft design in mid October as was originally intended.

And once this program will be finalized, it will be reviewed and approved by Göran and then it can be considered for prioritization of implementation. And the org will continue to work on this program throughout that phase. So I will leave it at that and pass it on to John Jeffrey for the last goal. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY:

I don't hear you, JJ. And that's unusual. Good morning, John.

JOHN JEFFERY:

Hello, can you hear me?

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Yes, we can hear you.

JOHN JEFFERY: Thank you. Can we move to the next slide. So goal 11 will be the necessary steps taken by the org, the org's steps that we're responsible for supporting the community to accomplish the independent review process Standing panel during this Fiscal Year. In particular, the independent review process of course is the cornerstone of ICANN's accountability mechanisms.

The ICANN community made key improvements to the IRP through the cross community Working Group on enhancing ICANN accountability. Exceeding the IRP Standing panel will be a major milestone in completing the implementation of those improvements. The IRP Standing panel is expected to be comprised of panelists with diverse backgrounds and experience. The ICANN Bylaws setup a process for developing this Standing panel, including SO/AC recommendations of a slate of panelists to the ICANN Board for confirmation, the SO/AC may only select from panelists that ICANN org agrees are qualified.

ICANN org has worked closely with the ICANN community and the SO/AC leadership on how SO/AC would coordinate among themselves to nominate a slate for the Board approval. There is not an existing mechanism or process for this type of coordination so earlier this year a seven member community

representative group was announced. The SO/AC leadership agreed that this group would work with an external consultant to reach nominations.

Since the CRG started its work in May, a lot of work has progressed. The group agreed to use Andrew Bernstein as the consultant to help with vetting the candidates. 98 candidates have applied to serve on the Standing panel, many of them with extraordinary backgrounds and experience. [inaudible 00:43:48] is currently working with the community group and ICANN org to recommend a set of qualified candidates for additional consideration. We expect to see a recommendation to the Board in late 2022 or early 2023, and I would like to express my thanks to the Community Representative Group membership for their work.

ICANN org has worked both to support the Community Representative's Group and help the Community Representative Group make a recommendation to the Board. This is the work that Goal 11 focuses on. The org is responsible for engagement with and support of the CRG, ensuring administrative items were in place for the Standing panel to start its work including contracts with the panelists and initial training materials and delivery of the training itself.

Ongoing panelists needs such as coordination with another community group, the Independent Review Process Implementation Oversight team on additional training for the Standing panel. From the ICANN org side we are committed to do all we can to have the panel operational as soon as possible and in the meantime the IRP process goes forward as the ICANN Bylaws allow for IRP panelists to be individually selected when no Standing panel has been put in place. However, ICANN org agrees with the community that this is an important step in completing the IRP improvement work. And that's it, thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you, JJ.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you everyone, we are ready to start taking your questions, and I know we're running short on the Q&A time so we will just intersperse between people at the mic and online and we'll start with the first person at the mic.

MICHAEL: Hello. Mike [inaudible -- 00:45:41]. And to that very point, just an initial comment, this was billed as a Q&A and it was a little

disappointing to spend over half of this meeting as someone who read the goals before, it would really be helpful if we could better use this time.

So to my question, Sally, this question is to you regarding goal number 2. In goal number 2, you specifically made reference to the use of the CRN and it being deployed in compliance I believe with all applicable law or in a legally compliant fashion. My question to you is, has ICANN undertaken the DPIA in connection with the data that is going to be processed by that CRN?. Yes or no? If it has been produced can that be made available to the ICANN community and if it wasn't produced,. why wasn't it?

SALLY COSTERSON: I'm going to defer to my legal colleagues here, thank you for the question and we will come back to you in writing with the answer to that, I want to be quite precise about it. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY: Hello, Michael. Let me add to it, you are conflicting a couple of things. As you are probably well aware of,. the fact of the matter is that, any system we have, anything we build which has any people in it, regardless of outside or inside is something that we have to do according to law. What you are saying is that we

should go and ask if it's necessary to go and ask for instance the European Commission for doing an internal system, which is not the really same thing, because that is the method we are doing that for other systems. Thank you, Michael. We will come back to it with more information.

MICHAEL: Well, I'd like to respond. I didn't say that you had to go get permission, you can do a data privacy impact assessment internally. That is what I asked for. Maybe Dan Howard could respond to that. Bye.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, we will go to the first hand raised in the Zoom room, Alex, please.

ALEX DANS: Yeah. Can we please unmute Sebastian Bachollet?

GÖRAN MARBY: He has unmuted himself.

SEBASTIAN BACHOLLET: Hi, and thank you for being here. I heard Sally say we will be using the Zoom line for all interventions. So I thought I had to raise my hand. I did as I was told. I entered the Zoom room and raised my hands-on Zoom. So that's what it took. I have different

comments to make here.

First, even I who have been here for quite a while, didn't exactly get everything you said, the alphabet soup you are all using is honestly impossible to follow. So for newcomers, I imagine it must be very difficult to follow. So thank you. And as we all need to make an effort to quit using the SubPro acronym, for instance, if we hear SubPro, how would we know what it is. Fortunately, someone explained what it is but if you come to ICANN for first meeting, it is impossible to follow if everyone speaks a different language.

And then when you speak of a uniform tool for everyone, it makes me scared. I have a tendency to run out of there, to get out. We're all different, and I hope the different tools will take into consideration the specific needs and identity of each of the communities. You cannot impose a common tool on everyone, it won't work.

And thirdly, it strikes me to see that these goals do not speak of the reviews which are part of the provisions in our bylaws and in our texts in general. That is to me what ICANN must do first. You first need to implement what is in our fundamental bylaws. And when that is implemented in the case of reviews, it surprises me to see that your goals did not mention that at all. Thank you, and

I'm sorry for jumping the line, but I thought we had to raise our hands-on Zoom. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you. So first of all, I would like to agree with, Sebastian, about the use of acronyms and strange words, and this is -- I have been trying to help with it, I started naming everything with fruits, apparently didn't go long, and then I came up with things like the WHOIS Disclosure System and we are actually trying forming [inaudible 00:50:54] we can control. But many of those names lies with you [inaudible 00:51:00] and I saw another question.

So when're talking about support tools to be able to have a more common project management of systems. Because what we see is we don't always provide the same sort of support going in an org group, the outcome, how to write notes and all that have -- so that is what we are talking about. All the different consistencies have different methods in the sense that they have different bylaws or different charters, but in end it is always about coming back to the same, sitt down in meetings and having discussions and we haven't had a really conformed way of making sure that we can share that information.

And [inaudible 00:51:38] project, we did realize that there was misunderstandings about how actually communities worked

with each other, for instance different parts of the community have different definition of consensus and different ways to reach consensus and we're not saying that anything's gonna change, but I think we need to be able to teach each other how that works because in the end we have to work together.

What was the third one? Reviews. So here's the thing. So we do all of those things and it is bylaw mandated, it's not like we're not doing it, and you know that. But if you look at the strategic plan, what we do, the bylaws are the first thing we always have to do, we don't have to prioritize that, because it's already prioritized. Then we sort of see this as a bit large pyramid but there are occasions where the community through the strategic plan says there are things we want to focus extra on during this five-year period, which is on top of what we do at the bylaws, that has always been done.

And above that, I engage with my executive team and Board to say these things here, is where we would like to do a correctional change, this is when we are going to do something more, often based on discussions internally with the Board, but also with you. And that's what's reflected. So we're not taking away things but we do prioritize the most important things to do, while we have done all the things we have to do. I hope that answers your questions. Reviews are important.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, next person in the queue, please.

RUBENS KUHL: Rubens Kuhl, NIC.br. Let me tell the tale of the Brazilian Eastern payment system, Pix. It's a paying arrangement, compared to Visa or Mastercard, designed and operated by the Brazilian Central Bank, which started operating on November 2020. It currently has half a million I identifiers to bank accounts mappings, the DNS of bank accounts, which is more than the 350 million domains in the DNS system, it processes more than 2 billion transactions a month, which is much larger than the monthly numbers of the DNS create, remove, delete transactions and it costs one tenth of a real, which is 1/1 5th of a US dollar per transaction, most domains pay ICANN 30 cents --

GÖRAN MARBY: Sir, we have a problem hearing you, that's why. We would love to answer your question but -- at least I have a problem hearing you and I think the translators have as well. Sorry, sir.

RUBENS KUHL: I's in English, not in Portuguese. If you are trying to listen to the translation. Well, it costs very little transaction compared to domain, why ICANN has no operational role in any domain registration, and that system costs \$4 million to build, not 14, not 40. Just \$4 million.

And the WHOIS Disclosure System has been described a glorified ticket system and is just a minimal evolution of CCDS will cost \$3.3 million to build, SSAD would cost at least \$20 million to build and could cost \$100 million a year to operate -- the new gTLD operational design phase, which is basically the cost of estimating how much the system will cost to build, took \$9 million already. It will probably cost more than that to actually prepare for the next round even though being an incremental evolutions of the 2012 process. So my question is, why is everything in ICANN-verse so expensive?

XAVIER CALVEZ: I will is that right and I'm sure my colleagues will add as well. So you are mentioning the SSAD system which is a system that has been designed or the start has been designed to be able to address the EPDP recommendations for disclosure of WHOIS information as you know.

And in front of the complexity of the system which again is a worldwide system designed to potentially address hundreds or tens of millions of requests, the complexity of the work that resulted from the EPDP recommendation leads to costs that are in that magnitude but that are very much driven by the volume of requests and the processing of every single request which requires to identify the requestor, qualify the requestor, et cetera.

There are actually a lot of information that are extremely difficult to process. Which has led this team, the EPDP team, to say this is not going to work and a different work has been directed which is much more simple in structure and would cost of course a lot less.

So it is the complexity of what the ICANN community is trying to address that creates the costs to address them, and it is completely logical because you are all dealing with very challenging problems on a worldwide scale and inevitably when it is complicated, when it's broad, and when it's very voluminous, it will cost a lot, that is true, everywhere, not just at ICANN.

RUBENS KUHL:

You noted I compare it to a system that processes 2 billion transactions a month, so it's quite large, even though it costs only 4 million to build.

XAVIER CALVEZ: There is processing and processing. So I think if you want to discuss further the topic, there are teams that participated in the design have made themselves available during the presentations on those systems, and you are most welcome to discuss that technical aspect with them.

HOLLY RAICHE: Can you understand me, is that okay? Good. First, David, just a mild request. When a policy issue comes up, could we have webinars and could they be in different time zones. Xavier, a question really to you, for the grant scheme, I understand we have got additional budget requests, I know where those funds come from, we have the supplemental fund for the implementation of community requests so you know, acronyms there, we understand that the Board has set aside 20 million last year for that fund. So my question is probably number 1, how does the grant scheme differ in terms of funding and purpose, and where are those funds coming from from the overall budget? Thank you.

XAVIER CALVEZ:

Thank you Holly for the question, an important question to clarify. So the grant program is a program aiming at distributing in the form of grants the new gTLD auction proceeds that have been collected as part of the program, and in terms of the work of implementation, it will be funded by those proceeds that ICANN is holding and has been holding since they have been paid to ICANN. And then the grants will come from those proceeds.

And the recommendations of the community group is that ICANN develops a program that distributes all the funds and once there's no funds anymore, then the program shuts down. So that is the design of the program. And there are those funds today that held by ICANN, that have been held by ICANN since they have been paid and the program will distribute those funds into the form of grants and once the funds will have all been distributed, the program will shut down. Thank you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN:

Thank you. And if I could remind everyone at the queue to please state your name when you start? Thank you. Yes, go ahead.

PAUL DIAZ:

Right, thank you. My name is Paul Diaz from Public Interest Registry. Xavier, I actually have a follow-up for a question about the auction proceeds. You blogged in summer of 2020 that ICANN

had met its reserve fund goals, and I am reminded that the Board had moved \$36 million out of auction proceeds to help meet that reserve funds goal. The question for you now is since we have met that level, and that was back in 2020 and costs have been less than expected due to the pandemic, are there any plans to return any of those funds from the reserve back to the auction proceeds?

GÖRAN MARBY:

That is a discussion for the Board, I would ask you to take the same question back to the Board. It's not an ICANN org decision to make distinctions between the different funds. Thank you.

NAMRA NASEER:

Hello everyone, thank you for the opportunity. I am Namra Naseer [] ICANN75 fellow from Pakistan and I'm currently working with Washington based policy think tank, but right now I'm based in Islam and my question is addressed for the whole panel actually and I really want to know how does ICANN manage and navigate the political pressure around ICANN functions and Internet policy that may come from any country and with the competition coming on, recently Ukraine crisis, there were a lot of observations that surfaced and were observed. I would really love your thoughts on that.

GÖRAN MARBY: Mandy, would you like to start?

MANDY CARVER: Hi, sorry, I'm having trouble even hearing my colleagues. ICANN manages in the global space, we prioritize those areas that could directly impact the operation and the management of the unique identifiers. There is a lot of activity going on currently that also goes to questions of platforms and content, and those are not spaces that we can operate in.

We follow a series of different initiatives, one of which is to work actively with the permanent representatives in the various IGO spaces to talk about the problem statement that they may have that they're trying to address. Because we often see sometimes situations where they are trying to fix a political question or a social question with a technical response. So we try and draw distinctions for the decision makers so they are aware of the intended or unintended consequences of their actions.

On regional and national levels we are also monitoring specific pieces of legislation, again, that would impact the ability to manage the unique identifiers or the ability of the community to develop policy around those. Göran made reference at the beginning of the session that there was an upcoming election at the ITU plenipotentiary, it's next week, there's a very distinct set

of positions between the two candidates for secretary general, we're trying to connect the dots for the governments that will be voting in that election, we're not a nation state, we don't vote.

But in addition to the election which of course has an impact on the leadership and therefore who is running, setting the agendas, there are also specific resolutions because the plenipotentiary is also about the constitution and the work at the ITU, so we are working regionally with our colleagues that are tracking the proposals that might amend those resolutions. And again, trying to connect the dots and help those decision makers with concerns in the space to understand the distinction between maybe what they are looking at which is about behaviors or content versus operations.

NAMRA NASEER: A quick follow up, how does ICANN prioritize regions especially in line with the goal 4, when you are talking about high-level stakeholder engagement with the countries?

MANDY CARVER: Well, we don't prioritize or rank order of the countries, per se. Government engagement works very closely with our global stakeholder engagement teams, that are the folks in the field and

then of course in the IGO space, the tendency is to be working particularly with those countries that have leadership positions, whether that is study group workgroup or a committee. Because they are the ones that are involved in setting the agendas and also the dialogues within the regional groups that are bringing forward potential changes. So we don't have a secret short list where we're only talking to A and not B, the goal is to work with the whole world.

NAMRA NASEER:

Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY:

And might I add something, because it's a very good question. First of all, we have a really good team, and they have a session here and it's a very popular one, that the one thing. The second thing, is actually you, guys. You represent -- for instance you work very closely with the ISOC chapters who are often engaged on the local side but there is one more thing, we have many countries who stand up and defends us, the declaration of the White House with more than 60 countries standing up and talking about the Multistakeholder Model. We use the word capacity building, we engage with governments and we talk about the things we see.

There is a [inaudible 01:06:] how we do this. We stand within the technical realm, we don't say that this law is good or bad, we say it can affect the people's ability to connect to the Internet, but it is true that we need those friends to be active, and I think I've mentioned in my speech or I tried to say that, and people have been taking what we do for granted, your work for granted for such a long time and now suddenly we realized that we have to fight for what we already have, not miss it and we have to do it now before it goes away and we see as you all know, I sometimes become vocal about legislative proposals that would actually take away the ability for you to [indiscernible] make policies or going all the way down to regulating the core of what we do, the route servers. It is many things that we have to do, but it's actually the most important assets are you and we're here to help you. Thank you very much and thank you for the question.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you. We actually have a hand raised in the Zoom room, if we could go to that person next please.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Can we please unmute Olévié Kouami?

OLÉVIÉ KOUAMI:

My name is Olévié Kouami. I come from West Africa, I am from Togo, but I live in Senegal and I have been there for five years already and I was very glad to hear that ICANN was going to work closely in my region in the coming years. We have heard of the set up of a series of root servers in Africa for a while. And there are two countries that are most usually mentioned, we know work underway in Kenya, but thus far I don't know why you never mention what the second country is. So that is my first question.

And then secondly, I would like to discuss the business model that we could develop in the private sector. It would be important to know where that model is to accompany an implementation of root servers in the area. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you. And the sort of simple answer for the first question is a complicated one. We are talking to a government in the African region and the reason we haven't disclosed, we have a set of things we're going through, independence, connectives and all of those have to be set up and it takes a little bit of while and this has taken a little bit while longer than what we -- but hopefully we can disclose this very soon. The reason why we don't talk about it is as done is because we don't want to set expectations.

For us, when it comes to the business, there is no business model for us to have a root server, ICANN is only one of the root server operators, we have the ICANN managed root server, if you want to learn an acronym, IMRS, at least it stands for something, we are one of all the operators but what we have built around the world, which are called clusters, which are large installations of those.

So for us there's no business model, for us it's part of the public interest, which I know is the same for the other root server operators, there are technical advantages for you to have, so the closer you are to a root server, the shorter the time for you to get a technical reply and the bigger capacities, the faster a reply. For us no business model -- there are a lot of people in this room, I can tell you, who could potentially help you with a business model ICANN is a non-profit and really bad at business models. Thank you.

HAFIZ FAROOQ:

Hello everyone, my name is Hafiz Farooq and I am a cyber security architect in Saudi Aramco, I am a new fellow in ICANN75. My question is for CTO John Crain about the KINDNS project. As we are aware of the last decade the cyber security acts, they are increasing big time, they are always increasing and enterprises are under attack. .

So right now you were saying this is more of a best practices and recommendations for the service provider. But as an ICANN can we enforce the service provider to follow it strictly just to secure and make sure that the safety's our priem mission and it should be followed in complete sense. Thank you very much.

JOHN CRAIN:

So I think the correct question is whether or not ICANN can force the people to actually follow these norms, and the answer is a very clear no. KINDNS is around demonstrating these forms and providing both systems and guidance on what the good things are to do. Now, part of the KINDNS program is actually a tool that you can run to test your own systems to see if you follow the norms.

But it's completely voluntary. ICANN does not have the capability to go out to an Internet service provider or even a large DNS resolver operator and tell them what to do. That's not how the bottom-up process works and it's not an authority or a capability that ICANN has.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Please go ahead.

BILL JURIS: My name is Bill Juris] speaking for myself. This is something of a process question. When ICANN is developing a new policy or has created some kind of work product, part of the process is to put that out for public comment before it is published. And I'm wondering if you might be able to modify the process to ensure that the authors actually pay attention to those public comments.

The reason I bring this up is I was recently involved in a group that created one of those products and we dutifully put it out for comment and once we had the comments there were one of two reactions, first, "well, that is just one guy's opinion," or the other was "obviously they didn't read our document," but zero intention to actually address the comments that were made. I don't have a brilliant solution for that, I don't know if the org could have their liaison say sorry, you can't publish until you actually pay attention, I don't know if that's even thinkable but I wonder if something could be done to address that kind of issue. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY: David.

DAVID OLIVE: Thank you for the question. Here we're talking about in terms of policy development process, an iterative mechanism so every time there are certain two or three public comments within the process for which people comment, the comments are taken and summarized as well as available in their entirety, and those comments are then given to the Working Group that is looking at that policy development process as an input. Indeed in the final result, we look at all those see public comments.

Now, the strength of someone's argument is more important than if it's one person or an organization's person but the point is that it is looked at and looked at in the context of the remit of the Working Group, the issues that are being addressed, and some of it may be acknowledged but not accepted or some of it may be acknowledged in part and accepted. But as part of the process you have various step by step public comments to do that and your comments are read, given to the Working Group and also summarized so that the Board knows who said what and when they're making their decisions.

And we also allow 40 days for the public comment period so

people can have time to understand and submit inputs that are important to hear all views. All views necessary but not necessarily taken into account in the final product as it is a consensus document worked out by the Working Group and eventually the councils.

PETER MMBANDO: Good afternoon. My name is Peter Mmbando], I'm an executive director of Digital Agenda for Tanzania Initiative, the ICANN75 first time fellow and I am coming from Africa, the part of Tanzania where is Mountain Kilimanjaro and Tanzania. My question is most recently the African Union has officially recognized Swahili language and ICANN is playing a big part on the goal of digital initiative Africa as you have mentioned. So we lack local content menu for ICANN. So when and how ICANN will reach Africa, specifically in East Africa where there are more Swahili speakers to reach with local content menu? Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you very much for the question. We may know we have an engagement center in Nairobi, so are very focused on this part of Africa. It's a good question. I can't give you a direct answer this morning, we will come back to you and investigate if there are plans. I think relaying to Göran's comments about scripts and

languages, there is no question a big part of the Coalition I mentioned in my goal is about Universal Acceptance readiness and this is in line a little with what you are saying. So we will do everything we can to come back to you with a more detailed answer, but thank you very much for the comment, the sentence is very welcomed.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Please go ahead.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: My name is [inaudible 01:17:45] from Tunisia, and I really appreciate the way you have developed this goal and I think that this goal is very useful, you know it involves the ICANN activity [indiscernible] I wonder if you have developed some metrics that you could share with the community in order to allow the community to follow the development of this goal.

My second question, surely at ICANN org this goal could help to involve the activity of USCI, but I wonder if it's in the scope of the org to answer my question, whether this goal will help to evolve the topic treated within ICANN activity. I mean, if this goal, a goal would be helpful in order to allow ICANN to follow the new technology evolvement. Thank you.

GÖRAN MARBY: Sir, I'm sorry, I missed at the beginning, which goal were you referring to? Everything made sense, but --

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes, for example the African Digital Initiative,] have you developed some metrics in order -- that you could share with the community in order to allow them to follow whether this goal has succeeded or evolving in a good way? It's only an example.

GÖRAN MARBY: It's a good question and I really want to answer it. So the official launch of this program will actually be at the IGF in a month where we will talk but we have -- and that is broken down in several different projects. We have one that we do together with the ITod where we do joint capacity building together with and for country code operators.

We have the investments, we're doing the root server clusters and I don't know if it's official but we're also together official with ISOC we're doing investments together with them as well. Thank you very much for that ISOC cooperation, and we will add more projects to it. We will report back on those projects.

But there is one thing that we sort of don't do. We don't put a financial benefit to it. We don't say we think that someone is

going to make this amount of money or something, and sometimes things are very hard to calculate as well. What contribution do we do, for instance to create more local content which is necessary for an Internet in an ecosystem to actually drive so information strives within the country. But the way we think about it, together we work with our partners, AfriNIC, the RAR, in general the country code operators, the developers, and that is how we can find an enabling way to go forward, and thank you for your question, we will report back and thank you for the questions. It's a very, very important question for us at ICANN.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: For the second question, I will repeat it. So, surely the 11 goals you have mentioned in this session are very important and allow the improvement of the management of the SO/AC and ICANN activity and management. But I have some doubt that this goal will help to evolve the topic treated within ICANN and whether it will help to follow the new technology evolution that needed to evolve that are going around.

GÖRAN MARBY: J.C. Would you like to?

JOHN CRAIN: Sorry, I will apologize because I was in the middle of answering something.

GÖRAN MARBY: Maybe I will start. My understanding of your question is you want a due date due to things we do and our goals here involve this sort of technical part of ICANN. We have IANA, we have a relationship with the root server operators which I want to give a compliment because they are working hard to come up with a new governance model for root server operators, which is probably as important as the transition itself.

And then we have through IROS, which is the name that Jace is head of a combination of IANA and OCTO are doing several work projects when it comes to the evolutions of DNSSEC, we have KINDNS, health indicators, DAAR, but there are questions that I would like to have a whole ICANN meeting about, how do we evolve the joint identifiers systems in such a way it becomes even more secure, stable and easier to use around the world, including taking in Universal Acceptance and IDNs, but the time will not allow me to answer it. It's there, but we should do more is the answer. Thank you.

JOHN CRAIN: And I would add that we have a lot of training programs and outreach in the African region and if you would like to come talk to me afterwards, I would be happy to have a conversation about the various things we're doing.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: We have time only for this last person in the queue, so please go ahead and tell us your name.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thank you very much, my name is Abdulkarim Oloyede, I speak on behalf of myself. I have two questions, the first one, personally I think diplomacy is one thing we should use more of in ICANN and my question, for example, what if the candidates, the ITU candidates for secretary general that you were campaigning against wins the election, don't you think ICANN is going to be in a difficult position? That's my first question.

And the second has to do with the issue of Universal Acceptance. For us who have been Universal Acceptance ambassadors for a while now who had like a freeze from ICANN because what has happened is, over the years ICANN is saying will stop funding for anything that has to do with any other event, and what has happened is, we are encouraged to organize local events without

any support from ICANN.

I have organized a number of events and not even a penny is actually coming from ICANN to support these events. And the reason is simple, it's that ICANN is not -- the Covid has not allowed ICANN to support any of these local UA events. So I don't know, you are talking about trying to support and things like that, so that's my question. Thank you very much.

GÖRAN MARBY:

So let me answer the first part. We are not campaigning against, but we are reflecting on the fact that one of the candidates doesn't like what you do here, your ability to walk up to this microphone and ask that question is for you. You can't do that in the UN setting. At ICANN with our all friends, countries around the world are standing up against -- and it's not a new one, it's been around, but it's a really, really big risk that we will lose this ability for you, which I tend to say is so unique.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: So you might say that this is diplomatic or not diplomatic, but I have to admit, I'm culturally not normally a very nervous person but I'm very cautious about the discussion, because in the end, it's not about us in the room, it's not about us coming to the microphone, even though I think

this is one of the most beautiful thing, it is the fact that people around the world might not be able to connect to one single intraoperable Internet, there's no fragmentation of the Internet today, we got more than 5 billion people using all the same identifiers and if we would access fragmentation, it would come from political decisions, and it's not like they can come in and take over what you do, it's not technically possible to do that but it would be very complicated to have a conversation with it.

But I know we have 190 country members in the GAC, we have constant dialogues with them. Most countries in the world seem to support the interoperability and the openness of the Internet we have today. If that is a diplomatic answer, we are strictly neutral when it comes to who becomes the secretary general, we vividly oppose one of the platforms that one of the Russians -- the Russian potential secretary stands for.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: For example, I had the Russian guy talk in so many platforms or so many forums and events, and I have never heard him talk about proliferation or anything that has to do with the Internet. And I think yes, probably the problem is Russian, and I think we need to be a bit cautious about that.

GÖRAN MARBY: If I make a little bit marketing, instead. if you go to Mandy's web page, whatever that is, we can post it, there is an excellent paper written by our experts that goes through the Russian positions and what the Russian platform has been. And I have a lot of friends in Russia. This is not an issue for ICANN. It's a non-political organization.

But we stand up one time which is in [inaudible 01:28:09] when we see proposals that can disconnect people from the Internet or actually make it impossible for you to be here to make policies, then is when we go out and react. That is the only time. And we do that by being factual, we do that by taking the stand for doing this, and we doing it together. Thank you very much.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Thank you. The other part of the question on Universal Acceptance?

THERESA SWINEHART: Thank you very much for that question, and as you know we fully support the Universal Acceptance ambassadors and all the activities so really, really appreciate all of the work there, as you know during the COVID situation providing additional support in relation to travel and various other things needed to be put on

hold. So as soon as it is practical again and we can move into direction, we will certainly be taking a look at that. And I just wanted to say, very much appreciate everything.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE: Even when it's not travel, when it's to support the event locally? Because a lot of these are not travel-related support but they are still not forthcoming.

THERESA SWINEHART: And I will let my colleague, Sally, answer that. Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you. So my African colleagues are with us here at this meeting and we have a meeting this afternoon of the whole African community that is here at this meeting and online at half past 4 in the banquet hall, and if you are available to come to that meeting, I would like to suggest that you do. I will be there as will my African colleagues, and I would like to understand a little bit more about the specifics you are describing, working with them and making sure you are connected to the right team on the ground. So please, I would like to do that if we can. Thank you very much.

GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you very much. And we had time for a lot of questions, despite we were a little bit slow, we had a little bit of a glitch, but hey,. it wouldn't be an ICANN meeting without a glitch and thank you very much for the support.

There's one more question I wanna ask because I get it from different sides. So I get the questions but we had Eddy on the stage this morning, how do we support?. We do support AfriNIC. But ask Eddy, we have a really good relationship, but we are trying to this as friends, we are friends in the ecosystem. As friends, we don't always necessarily talk about the things we do. Go and talk to Eddy. There was a reason why he stood on stage, which has never happened I think in the history of ICANN, to have that kind of individual standing in that position on the stage. That is also support. But we do a lot of things.

And with that, my thanks, I would like to say thank you very much, a big applaud from us and to you -- and I'm looking forward to hearing more questions. Don't forget the open sessions with the Board, and please engage with your communities. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]