
ICANN76 | CF - Welcome Ceremony
Monday, March 13 2023 - 00:00 to 00:00 CUN

[PLEASE STAND BY...]

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Rodrigo De La Parra, Vice President Stake Holding Engagement and Managing Director Latin-American and Caribbean.

[applause]

Hello, welcome to Mexico. I'm really so excited to welcome all of you to my country. We last hosted an ICANN Meeting, Public Meeting in Mexico 14 years ago, it was very, very long time ago, back in, then ICANN34 in Mexico City. Some of you might remember it. The COVID-19 pandemic altered our plans for hosting a meeting in Cancun back in 2020 and then tried again in 2021, but yeah, now we're finally here. Welcome to ICANN76.

[applause]

Welcome to ICANN76 Community Forum. With your indulgence I am going now to switch to Spanish to embrace our multi-cultural

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and multi-lingual community, and to use our extraordinary professional interpreters who are always present at our ICANN Public Meetings.

So, if you want to wear your headsets.

Architect Rogelio Jiménez Pons Gómez, Undersecretary of Transportation at the Secretariat of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation of the Federal Government of the United Mexican States, welcome, Mr. Undersecretary, thank you for joining us this morning. We are honored to have you here.

Mr. Francisco Carrillo, Social and Inter-institutional Undersecretary, joining us on behalf of Mrs. María Elena Lezama Espinosa, Constitutional Governor of de State of Quintana Roo, welcome, Mr. Undersecretary, we are honored to have you with us. Thank you for attending our opening ceremony.

Tripti Sinha, ICANN Board Chair.

Welcome, Tripti.

Sally Costerton, ICANN Interim President and CEO.

Welcome, Sally.

Dear friends in our global multistakeholder community, I feel truly honored and privileged to welcome you all to our ICANN76 Community Forum in Cancún, México.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Local Multistakeholder Committee here in Mexico: The Secretariat of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation; NIC.MX, the country code top level domain administrator in charge of .MX; NEUBOX the ICANN Accredited Registrar; and .2012 the generic top level domain registry operator in Mexico; the Mexican Chapter of the Internet Society; and LACRALO the Latin American and Caribbean Regional At-Large Organization, and, of course, the Mexican Internet Association.

I also want to specially thank my fellow countryman León Sánchez, ICANN Board Member, who has been unconditionally supporting us and the committee support while we were organizing this meeting. Thank you very much, Leon.

My most sincere and deepest thanks for your patience and support since 2020, when we started getting ready to hold ICANN 67 which, unfortunately, had to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

And finally, I want to recognize our dearest Latin American and Caribbean community for their outstanding participation and

commitment to ICANN since our organization was created, and, indeed, this year marks our 25th anniversary! So, thank you, thank you very much.

And without further ado, I thank you for your attention and I now have the pleasure of introducing our ICANN Board Chair, Mrs. Tripti Sinha.

Tripti, the floor is yours.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Thank you, Rodrigo.

Hello! Welcome to Cancun! I am very happy to be here with you.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the ICANN76 Community Forum. Whether you are here in this room or participating virtually, thank you for being here today. We have an exciting week ahead of us, and we will make the most of our time together.

I would like to extend a special welcome to the NextGen@ICANN participants and newcomers to the ICANN Community. The strength of our community and the future of the Internet depends on the next generation joining us and contributing fresh ideas. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the entire ICANN Community for your continued efforts and commitment to our mission.

I would like to thank those who made this meeting possible, including our Local Host Committee:

Mexico's Secretariat of Infrastructure, Communications, and Transportation.

NIC México

The Mexican Internet Industry Association

The Internet Society: Chapter Mexico

Punto 2012

and Neubox

The Board also thanks ICANN org for working with the Community to plan this event.

My thanks go to Sally Costerton, particularly, for quickly stepping into the role of Interim President and CEO to maintain stability and continuity at ICANN org.

Just last week, on March 8th, the world celebrated International Women's Day. And it is so fitting that ICANN celebrated this with two women at the helm and many other women in leadership roles on the Board, in the Org, and in the Community.

[applause]

This marks the first time that a woman has served as ICANN CEO; ICANN has, indeed, made great progress on gender parity in recent

years. ICANN's first Board Chair was a woman, and as the second female Board Chair, I am proud to be part of a community that encourages meaningful participation by women, embraces their involvement in leadership positions, and, with its two women leaders, speaks directly to International Women's Day 2023 global campaign theme of #EmbraceEquity.

I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Board for supporting me as your Chair. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the Board, alongside our newly elected leadership team Vice Chair Danko Jevtović and Board Governance Committee Chair Sarah Deutsch, at this critical time for ICANN.

The creation of the Internet is one of the most transformative events that humankind has witnessed in recent history. It enables the democratization of access and has been a global equalizer bringing opportunities to wherever the network provides access. Yet, there is still much work needed to bridge the digital divide. Today, there are more than 5.1 billion connected users, which is 63% of the world's population.

Recent statistics are showing increased adoption in Asia, primarily in China and the Indian subcontinent. The economies of Africa and South America also are adding to a more interconnected world, bringing the promise of tremendous potential. The rapid growth of the Internet elevates people of all genders and economic strata into

the mainstream of global engagement. ICANN's mission directly impacts this amazing transformation. And each of you has a role in this.

As we approach the 25th anniversary of the creation of ICANN, it is important to reflect on what we have accomplished, including: Successfully transitioning the stewardship of the IANA functions from U.S. Government oversight and fully into the hands of the multistakeholder Community nearly seven years ago, from seven original TLDs to hundreds, growing into a truly global organization by opening four Regional Offices and four Engagement Centers across five continents and weathering a global pandemic together and emerging even stronger than before.

During these past 25 years, the Internet has functioned, without fail, even as the number of users and traffic has exploded, and ICANN has done its part in ensuring that. At this moment, ICANN is on the threshold of another inflection point in its evolution. We face, together as a community, momentous new pressures in this evolving Internet-based world order. As demonstrated by the pandemic, the Internet has become a lifeline and a human right for end users, providing access to exercise their freedoms to participate in our world society.

More than ever, the Internet is the bedrock of both the private and public sector global services framework. Today, strong nation state

forces are calling for a harder look at the Internet ecosystem and questioning whether technical management of the Internet's unique identifier systems should reside in ICANN. Nation states now include "digital sovereignty" as an element that defines their national identities and security. With this comes the complex interplay of legislation, regulation and governments seeking more leadership from other global institutions.

ICANN's mission of managing the Internet's unique identifier systems is pivotal in ensuring "One World, One Internet." We must remain firm and grounded in ICANN's legitimacy as a global multistakeholder organization and play our part in safeguarding against fragmentation. A splintering of the global Internet will only contribute to a breakdown in the world order as stitched together by a single interoperable Internet.

Legislation and regulations pertaining to privacy and security are arising in many different jurisdictions, complicating the DNS service delivery and policy landscape, and the competing goals of preserving privacy and ensuring timely access to DNS registration information adds to our challenges. Internet technologies continue to evolve in the identifier space that could potentially collide with the unique identifier system and threaten the stability of the Internet as we know it. Indeed, there are many pressures on ICANN! This is a time for ICANN to strengthen our partnership and collaboration with other organizations in the Internet ecosystem, so

we can each deliver on our respective missions with synergy, cooperation, and mutual support.

While some governments have questioned the legitimacy of the multistakeholder ICANN Community, we must remember that many more actively participate in it. Today, our Governmental Advisory Committee has 181 Member governments and distinct economies and 38 Observer organizations. ICANN reaches another turning point in its history as we embark on the launch of several major Community-driven projects and initiatives. We have taken the first steps toward opening the next round of new gTLD applications.

The availability of new gTLDs offers more choice and will make the Domain Name System accessible to more people around the world, especially those who use languages and scripts not based on English or ASCII. As ICANN looks to do its part to ensure that access to the end point is universal and safe, we must "Think Globally, Act Locally." Essentially, a system is only as good as its value to the end user. Likewise, the Internet is only as good as its value to the end user. For Internet end users, this value is realized in ensuring that the experience is safe, trustworthy, stable, reliable, and accessible.

True global accessibility is achieved by incorporating the principles of Universal Acceptance to bring about an inclusive and multilingual Internet. Designing for Internet infrastructures and services is principally a "Think Globally, Act Locally" endeavor, wherein it scales

for the global good and brings value to a localized endpoint, the end user.

Later this month, ICANN and the Universal Acceptance Steering Group are launching the inauguration UA Day on March the 28th, with a global event in New Delhi, India, and nearly 50 coordinated events in over 40 countries. This is an opportunity to engage with key stakeholders around the world and to highlight the work that ICANN is doing to build a more inclusive and multilingual Internet.

At the same time, the Board recently directed Org to implement the system for registration data requests to nonpublic gTLD registration data. The ICANN Grant Program, which the Board authorized last year, is in development and on track to launch within a year. Through this program, ICANN will support creativity and innovation that furthers our vision of a single global Internet and in support of ICANN's Mission and Core Values. The Grant Program is the culmination of years of work by the ICANN community. It is a testament to the multistakeholder model in action, as well as ICANN org's ability to deliver on the community's recommendations.

The ICANN Community is working to address DNS abuse. The contracted parties are negotiating contractual amendments to obligations for registries and registrars to mitigate or disrupt DNS abuse. This is an important first step. It will inform the next phase and can be an important building block for the community's

discussions about policy development to further address DNS abuse.

Based on our experience last year providing emergency support in Ukraine, ICANN has developed an Emergency Assistance Program to support access to Internet infrastructure during emergency situations. Under the Coalition for Digital Africa, ICANN has launched an initiative aimed at strengthening the Internet infrastructure across the continent by enhancing five existing Internet exchange points. We now must also look to the future. The Board has started organizing the search process for the next ICANN President and CEO. As we do so, we need to take stock of where ICANN is in its evolution.

What does tomorrow look like?

How do the pressures and winds of change shape our future?

We own the future when we embrace it, and when we embrace it, we give ourselves the opportunity to define it.

In that spirit, through a series of listening sessions, we will shape tomorrow's ICANN and the attributes of its next leader. The Board wants to hear your views on this, and we invite you to attend our inaugural Listening Session tomorrow at 1:15 PM in this very room. This will be followed up with many other Listening Sessions until we meet again in Washington, DC, this June.

Clearly, we have much work ahead of us. To be successful, we must keep our principles at the forefront by setting clear expectations on our deliverables, timelines, and deadlines, and then meeting them. We must get work done and hold each other accountable. Although we face challenges ahead, we will find a way forward through compromise, through consensus, through transparency, and through respectful dialogue. ICANN is committed to a bottom-up, consensus-based form of policymaking, in the public interest, that ensures a single, globally interoperable Internet.

It is also a time for us to examine how this process can be improved to be ever more inclusive and effective. And we may disagree on which path to take at times, but what we can all agree on is the goal of ensuring a unified, global Internet. There is a common thread that brings each of us together in this community – it is our common desire to serve ICANN’s mission. Let us work together in that spirit.

As a global institution, ICANN must demonstrate that it adapts, and is dynamic to an ever-changing landscape, that it embraces the pluralistic world community, and that its actions and leadership demonstrate and represent its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

It is incumbent upon each of us to ensure that every member of our community is included, is heard, and feels safe in an environment free of harassment. Respect and inclusivity should permeate the

fabric of the ICANN ecosystem. We should collectively ensure that ICANN is a model of diversity and inclusion.

Before I conclude, I would like to recognize the members of our community and others in the Republic of Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic who were affected by the recent earthquakes, and who may not be able to join us here. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you recover from the unthinkable. Internet access is especially important in disaster situations, so ICANN has provided relief to domain name registrants in the affected areas.

I also want to take this opportunity to remember former ICANN Board Director Raimundo Beca, who recently passed away. His contributions were many in the Internet ecosystem and he will be remembered for his bold defense of his views, careful reasoning on policy decisions and for his humanity shaped by his country, Chile's intense political history.

The ICANN ecosystem is at a critical evolutionary juncture. We are at a turning point; the need for change is strong, and we must seize the opportunity as a community to make impact and be the agents of change warranted by current conditions.

We need to embark on the work ahead, together, and in a way that embraces the unique and diverse perspectives across our community. Just like names, numbers, and protocols, dissimilar as

they are, work together to make the bits flow on the Internet. Similarly, we should unite, in spite of our differences, in healthy collaboration to be bold and transformative in our actions. Let us together rise to the occasion, and a rising tide will only lift us all.

It is a privilege to serve the ICANN community as Board Chair, and my commitment to serve remains resilient. Again, a warm welcome to ICANN76! Thank you.

[applause]

And now I would like to welcome to the stage ICANN's Interim President and CEO, Sally Costerton.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Hola a todos (Hello everyone). Tripti's Spanish is much better than mine. Thank you, Tripti, for that wonderful speech, the warm welcome and for your kind words. And thank you to our hosts and all of our distinguished guests.

It's such a pleasure to be here with you in beautiful Cancún. There are so many wonderful things to enjoy here, the beaches, the weather, the history, and the food. But I live in England it's snowing, and tomatoes are being rationed, so I'm making the most of the sunshine and salad while I'm here.

We planned to hold in-person meetings here in 2020 and 2021 but they were moved online due to the pandemic; this is third time lucky, and I'd like to thank our local stakeholder community and our esteemed guests for your help on organizing and planning this meeting.

[applause]

I'd also like to take this opportunity to recognize the members of ICANN's Latin American and Caribbean community here today. Our LAC community has made amazing progress in advancing through the leadership ranks, holding two seats on the ICANN Board, the NomCom Chair, the ccNSO Chair, the incoming GAC Chair, and many more. Congratulations to you all, thank you for your contributions and your commitment to our mission.

[applause]

ICANN76 is our first hybrid Community Forum since 2019, and our third hybrid Public Meeting since resuming our in-person activities last year and we couldn't ask for a better location. We have more than 1,000 in-person participants, and more than 700 registered virtual attendees, representing 164 countries and territories.

Inside the organization and the community we've learned a lot over the past year, about how to do these meetings, and we continue to

make improvements to our meeting's format with input and help from the community. Thank you for your feedback, and your active participation in this meeting, whether you're here, in the room with us, or here with us online. Please keep giving us feedback. We will be like this for probably many years to come and we need to keep making improvements.

Importantly, I would really like to thank the ICANN Board for placing its trust in me to, to build on my ten years' service at ICANN leading our Stakeholder Engagement function and now to serve as Interim President and CEO.

It's amazing how far we've come in the past three years since the pandemic began. But what's even more amazing to me, is how far we've come since ICANN was founded in 1998. As Tripti said, this year we are 25. I wish I was still 25, but... In September this year we will celebrate its 25th anniversary. There will be plenty of opportunities to celebrate this occasion, and we have events planned during ICANN77 in Washington, D.C., and ICANN78 in Hamburg, Germany. As part of our celebrations, I wanted to take a moment to look back at our history briefly and appreciate how far we've come together, in these 25 years. I once said every Internet year is seven years. So, for 25 years, we are young.

It is being said that in many ways ICANN is the 'House that Jon Built'. In the early years, even before ICANN was formed, Jon Postel

volunteered to coordinate the unique identifiers, and tracked them on a text file., and his registry became the IANA function. He was one of the early Internet pioneers, many of whom have been heavily involved in ICANN and are still very involved today, including my good friend, Dr. Steve Crocker Steve is with us at the meeting this week, and I hope many of you would have the opportunity to spend time with him.

These Internet pioneers worked hard to ensure the success of the greatest peacetime invention in history. They developed a unique governance model to enable a safe, secure, and resilient Internet that was allowed to expand and evolve. And ICANN grew, but it was still a very young organization.

But in 2016 the IANA stewardship transition marked a major milestone in ICANN's development, and what I like to call the start of ICANN's 'teenage' years. There was a lot was at stake, but we proved to the world that our multistakeholder model is a legitimate form of Internet governance, and we continue to prove this every day.

In the process of that oversight transition, something incredibly important happened, we created the Empowered Community, and in doing so we changed the way that the Internet is maintained and governed, forever. And I feel at that point ICANN grew up, it became

an adult. And it was just as well that we took that step when we did, because how were we to know what challenge lay ahead of us?

The COVID-19 pandemic tested, as never before, the resilience and stability of the Internet, and the world was looking at us, to keep the Internet running. Suddenly, everything in our lives around the world went online. It was ICANN's greatest test, but we came through with flying colors, and we should be proud of that. And we should use that experience to build our confidence, as Tripti said, as we move forward and we are more flexible, and we move forward to adapt and change, we can do this.

Now we've matured, we grown up. We have continued to fulfill our mission for more than twenty years. The Internet works. The IANA functions have been up and running smoothly, without fail. These challenges have strengthened our resilience and pushed us to find innovative solutions as new problems arise.

And now we are 25, we can confidently face the challenges and uncertainties, that Tripti talked about, which are very real, as a more mature adult organization, but knowing we are not alone, and many of you in this room are part of a wider ecosystem, and we are part of that, this powerful resilient ecosystem. We are all in this together; we all have different roles to play, but we are one team, we are one family. At the same time, we are supporting and nurturing new generations, like a parent, to our newcomers here today and online,

welcome! It's So wonderful to have you here today with us. You are an integral part of our family.

But even now at this moment of maturity, we can't relax, we are a critical global resource, and it is more important than ever, that we have the responsibility to act in the public interest, and that we do that, that we prioritize it, as Tripti point it out. In my ten years I have seen a huge change in ICANN's visibility. In my early days, in my stakeholder's engagement role, my colleagues are in the room, we would be knocking on doors, and they would say I'm sorry, who is ICANN? What does it stand for? Not so much these days. But not everybody is positive, not everybody wants to do things the way we do. They say, what is all the fuzz about? "Internet works. To them it looks like a magic trick, but you all know that's not that simple.

We need to help our stakeholders, and not just the people in the ICANN community but wider stakeholders around the world, to understand how much work actually goes in to ensuring a secure, stable, and globally interoperable Internet. And some people actively want to change the way the Internet is governed. So we must redouble our efforts to keep it safe and secure for the next 25 years.

The next 25 years will take us to the middle of this century, and as interim CEO I am committed to maintaining continuity and stability, as we steer through the beginning of this next chapter. To continue

to deliver on the promises that we've made, our on-going projects and initiatives that address the challenges we've identify.

Firstly we have to keep internet users safe, as Tripti said, we are negotiating with contracted parties to address the problem of DNS abuse. We are beginning to implement the registration data request service, which will streamline the handling of requests for non-public registrations for law enforcement.

Secondly, we need to ensure everyone can access the Internet in ways that work for them. The group that I work with on international group, as Tripti said, we have many offices around the world now, we are actively engaged now through the Universal Acceptance Day, and week and activities and through our on-going programs with our community partners all over the world to raise awareness of the criticality of Universal Acceptance in order to deliver back access to the internet and to meet the needs of more people around the world, whatever script or language they use. It is not an overnight exercise, we need to explain, and communicate, and engage and we need to do it over and over again, and we need to be present, and we need to be active, and we need to be partners.

As Tripti mentioned, she and I are heading to Delhi at the end of this month, for the inaugural event, and during the event and this week ICANN will showcase its own commitment to achieving UA-readiness in our internal systems. We are also committed to

promoting Universal Acceptance in the next round of new gTLD applications, and to create a more diverse, multilingual, and inclusive Internet.

Thirdly, in this next phase, we have to protect ICANN's unique multistakeholder model, in which everyone is equal, and every voice can be heard. We must show the world that our model works. We've delivered the transition, we can do this, that is one of the hardest things, to use this model to do this, is extraordinarily difficult, and all of us that went through knows how hard it was and how long it took, but we did it! And we should remember that we can do that and move forward with confidence. In this meeting, we have a session later in the week, where we will have an open session looking at the WSIS+20 review. I think this is an extraordinary opportunity for us as a community to come together to start to think about, how can we use that process? to reaffirm support for the multistakeholder Internet governance to the wider world

And finally, and this is very important to me, and to us, to the organization, the staff, as well as to you the community and the Board, we must keep ICANN a safe space. We live in an era of increasing polarization, shouty politics, and social media, it can be very hard to have a reasoned debate, and unfortunately, this can sometimes result in treating others with a lack of respect, or courtesy. I ask you, please remember we have all signed up, coming to this meeting, to our agreed-on standards of behavior while we

are here, during the day, in the evening, all the time we're together, please do observe them, because we need to take care of each other, in order that we can stay connected and work together on our challenges.

In the future, we have to expand our community, we have to attract participation amongst younger users, no offense to the people in the room, but generally speaking we need more younger people, and those who live in places who are coming, where we are coming to an ICANN meeting, is hard.

We discovered during the pandemic, we hardened our resources around remote participation dramatically and it allowed us to bring people to ICANN meetings and to ICANN work who couldn't come and would have never been able to come, but it opened up the opportunities for participation dramatically, we need to build on that.

We need to maintain a global focus, between now and 2050, the population of sub-Saharan Africa is expected to double, to more than 2 billion people, this will result in many more Internet users, and we have to be ready to help them to participate. And that is why we launched the Coalition for Digital Africa, which aims to bring together stakeholders to expand the ability to access the internet.

We must also promote education and awareness to make sure that everyone in the world who uses the internet, understands what we do, how it affects them, and how they can participate.

And my team and I look forward to working with you over the next few days, to make more progress on these efforts and to advance in our mission of ensuring a unified global internet.

Have a wonderful meeting. Thank you very much.

[applause]

Thank you so much. I like to hand back to Rodrigo De La Parra.

Rodrigo.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you, Sally, a very encouraging speech.

And now let me ask our host, the Undersecretary of Transportation of the Ministry of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communications of Mexico, Architect Jiménez Pons, please.

[applause]

ARCHITECT ROGELIO JIMÉNEZ PONS GÓMEZ: Good morning, welcome to Mexico and Cancun. I will change to Spanish.

Mrs. Sally Costerton, ICANN CEO, very pleased to meet you. Mr. Rodrigo De La Parra, nice to meet you.

I convey greetings from the Undersecretary of Transportation, Infrastructure, Communication and Transportation of Mexico. Greetings, on his behalf to ICANN. I would like to thank the organizers for your invitation. We want to be part of this event to keep up to date with the dynamics of growth and evolution of the Internet.

ICANN's work is really important to secure a stable, secure, and unified Internet and the challenges are ever growing. We need to focus on maintenance, security, governance, and resilience to make sure the Internet continues to grow and remain operable.

According to the IDU, we have 8 billion people worldwide, and we have 5.3 billion Internet users. Also the GSMA points out that thanks to the rapid adoption of 5G in the area of telecommunications, mobile access will grow to 2 billion users by 2025. Despite this progress, different organizations are pointing out that more than 2 billion people will remain offline, they will be excluded from services and innovations that improve their standard of living.

The digital divide stops them from enjoying the different benefits that the Internet brings around such as financial inclusion, education, and higher productivity and all the other advantages that derive from being online, for example, ICANN has identified other issues that hinder access to internet users in Latin America and the Caribbean where only 60% of the population can use this service. Also, the greatest risk to using the Internet in our region is cyber security because we are the region that suffers the highest number of cyber-attacks.

ICANN has created different tools, a tool that enables the measurement of these indicators to face public policy development, we also need to phase the proliferation of illegal content that threatens users and their on-line experience. We want to recognize ICANN's work in this regard and to commend ICANN for working together with other organizations to address this channel. As a Mexican government representative, I want to recognize ICANN's efforts to keep a stable and secure Internet, to grant widespread access so that all our inhabitants in the region can access this critical tool.

Thank you so much for your attention, I wish you a pleasant stay here in Mexico, and thank you, once again.

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you very much Undersecretary and once again thank you for your support.

Let me now introduce another one of our hosts, Mr. Francisco Carrillo - Social and Inter-institutional Undersecretary of the Government of Quintan Roo on behalf of her Excellency Governor of the State of Quintana Roo, Mara Lezama.

Undersecretary, please.

[applause]

MR. FRANCISCO CARRILLO: Good morning to you all. Good morning in different languages. I hope that you are all awake. Welcome home, here in Cancun, Quintana Roo.

Greetings to all the authorities and leaders that have already been introduced and mentioned today. Governor Mara Lezama sends her apologies because of other work commitments she was unable to join us today but sends greetings and welcomes you all.

I also want to thank Sally Costerton ICANN Interim President and CEO of ICANN for the invitation to this event. We are very proud to know that you have chosen Cancun to host this event. I hope you

have a fruitful meeting, best of success to all of you and enjoy Cancun.

Cancun has experienced significant growth over the last few years. We know that because of the pandemic some things have progressed like in slow motion. But today we are already prepared for joining the dynamics of growth that exist today.

So I want to highlight this kind of event, this conference, executive trips from different organizations because they help reinforce the actions towards the new agreement on welfare that is led by our governor, Mara Lezama. As Engineer Jiménez Pons has said, the aim is to bridge the digital divide to dynamize tourism so that the welfare can be extended to the whole state of Quintana Roo. As part of this diversity, I would like to say that we receive the number 30 million tourists, passengers in our airport, and this shows that both Cancun and the state of Quintana Roo is a growing tourist attraction. We are already planning for the next 50 years of this area. We are investing heavily in society, because the most important added value for the state is its people, warm, good, kind people; people who are here to serve you, to treat you as if you were at home so that you can come back in the future, not for work but for leisure. This government promotes actions to modernize and to introduce digitalization and add benefits to the society. Together we will transform Quintana Roo.

Welcome all and thank you to ICANN.

[applause]

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you very much Mr. Carrillo, thank you for having us all in Cancun and for your hospitality.

And now the summit moment of our Opening Ceremony, the much expected cultural performance. Let me... I am going to read this in Spanish, is actually Spanish and a little bit of Mayan, so, and my Mayan is a little bit rusty. So you shall excuse me.

Ok, let's do this. Good luck my friend interpreters.

[laughter]

The U kiilbal chaak Performance, and this means the God of Rains Thunder, this is a cultural performance group that is based on ancient Mayan tradition. In Tihosuco, Quintana Roo. Today, these performers will show how our ancestors used to play ball and dance to the rhythm of autochthonous music, and thus they celebrate the different warriors and the different Mayan times.

We will have no human sacrifices today, so there is no need for you to worry. With that, please enjoy the performance.

- Mayan Ceremony, Cultural Performance -

[applause]

RODRIGO DE LA PARRA: Thank you very much. I hope you have enjoyed this performance.
This concludes our opening ceremony.

I just want to wish a very successful and productive meeting.

Welcome to ICANN76.

Thank you very much.

[applause]

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]