
ICANN78 | Prep Week – Reviews Update
Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – 6:00 to 7:00 HAM

YVETTE GUIGNEAUX: If we can please start the recording. Hello, everyone. Welcome to the ICANN Reviews Program Prep Week webinar being held on Wednesday, October 11, at 16:00 UTC.

My name is Yvette Guigneaux. Sara Sarraf and myself will be your remote participation managers for this webinar which is being recorded and will be posted online shortly after we conclude. This session, like all other ICANN activities, is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

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Now if we could go to the agenda slide, we'll go ahead and introduce the agenda for today's webinar and give you some highlights. We will have some introductions. Those will be done in a moment. We will also be covering ATRT3 recommendations, Lifecycle of Reviews, and NomCom2, as well as some opportunities for community participation.

Okay. And with that, I will hand the floor over to our Vice President of Review Support and Accountability Projects, Larisa Gurnick.

LARISA GURNICK:

Hello, everyone. I'm Larisa Gurnick. My team and I are here to provide you an update on the ICANN Reviews Program. Thanks, Yvette. As introductions, Theresa Swinehart sends her apologies. She's in Japan at the moment and will not be able to join us today. My team is Review Support and Accountability. And with us today presenting, we have Evin and Jason. And thank you, Yvette, for helping us stay organized and capture all the questions. So with that, please let's move to slide eight.

The ICANN Reviews Program encompasses the management of Specific Reviews and Organizational Reviews, including the implementation of recommendations they generate, and the ongoing work to improve the reviews process. We'll go to slide nine, please, so that you can see a visual of what is covered by the ICANN Reviews Program.

Reviews are conducted to assess how certain aspects of the ICANN ecosystem are performing and how ICANN fulfill its commitments to the global stakeholder community. Each review is a multistakeholder effort in which the community or Independent Examiners make recommendations. The Board considers those recommendations. And the Org—ICANN Org as we refer to ourselves as Org—implements those recommendations that are adopted by the Board. This is a central and foundational point of reviews, and that's probably the most clearest way we can express what these reviews are. We will do our best not to overwhelm you with acronyms and detailed explanations, and there are quite a few of both. But if you can walk away with that basic thread of understanding, for those of you that are not very familiar with reviews, I think you'll find that helpful.

Reviews are required by the ICANN Bylaws and they're critical to maintaining a healthy ICANN multistakeholder model. We have a new CEO Goal, Goal 11, which has been added for Fiscal Year 2024. It recognizes the importance of reviews. This goal is focused on the continued management of reviews, implementation of review team recommendations, and also, importantly, introducing refinements in the review process.

So digging in a little bit further, as you see on the chart here, Specific Reviews are conducted by community volunteers and they examine a range of topics, including accountability and transparency, registration directory service, security, stability, and resiliency of the domain name systems, and more. We will talk about these reviews in more detail shortly.

Organizational Reviews assess the effectiveness of ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, as well as the Nominating Committee. Organizational Reviews are conducted by Independent Examiners. All reviews follow a predetermined cycle or schedule. Our Implementation Operations colleagues provided an update on Monday on the status of implementation of recommendations from Specific Reviews. Today, we will focus on the implementation work on several Specific Review recommendations that pertain to ICANN Reviews Program themselves, so a deeper dive and into just a few recommendations.

In addition to facilitating reviews, our team also works on ways to improve reviews. We will provide you with updates on this work today and you can see several of them listed in this picture. Lifecycle of Reviews Project is investigating the operational challenges currently faced by Specific Reviews and will identify procedural improvements to the process. This project will not look at the substance of the reviews or their cadence.

Continuous Improvement Program takes root from a recommendation made by the third Accountability and Transparency Review Team or

ATRT3 to evolve Organizational Reviews into a Continuous Improvement Program.

Holistic Review is yet another Accountability and Transparency Review Team's recommendation that called for a new Specific Review to be added to the four that already exist to look at all ICANN structures and their effectiveness in a more comprehensive manner. Let's please turn to slide 10 now for a status of various reviews.

So following along with the breakdown of Specific Reviews and Organizational Reviews, we'll start at the top. Accountability and Transparency or ATRT examines ICANN's execution of its commitment to maintain and improve robust mechanisms for public input, accountability and transparency. This review also checks that the outcomes of decision-making reflect the public interest and are accountable to the Internet community. Accountability and Transparency Review Team 4 is due to start in April of 2024. The timing is defined in the Bylaws and this triggered five years from the start of the prior review.

Moving on to the next line, Registration Directory Service Review or RDS looks at the effectiveness of the Generic Top-Level Domain Registry Directory Service and whether its implementation meets the legitimate needs of law enforcement, promotes consumer trust, and safeguards registrant data. RDS3 or the next RDS Review has been deferred at the recommendation of the third Accountability and Transparency Review and will be looked at by the next Accountability and Transparency Review or ATRT4.

Next, we have Security, Stability and Resiliency Review, which examines ICANN's execution of its commitment to enhance the operational stability, reliability, resiliency, security, and global interoperability of the systems and processes that are affected by the Internet system of unique identifiers, those that ICANN coordinates. SSR3 or the third version of this review has also been deferred at the recommendation of Accountability and Transparency Review Team 3, to be looked at by the next review.

Next, we have Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice Review, which looks at the extent to which the expansion of generic top-level domains has promoted competition, consumer trust and consumer choice. We refer to this as CCT. And the CCT Review also serves to assess the effectiveness of the new gTLD rounds, application and evaluation process, as well as the safeguards put in place to mitigate possible issues arising from the new gTLD round. This review follows a different cycle from the others. It will take place after the next round of the New Generic Top-Level Domains Program.

And finally, we have Holistic Review, which was recommended by the third Accountability and Transparency Review Team. It is in process of implementation and has not been scheduled yet.

Next, we have Organizational Reviews, which have been conducted by Independent Examiners, and they look at whether each organization has the continuing purpose in the ICANN structure. If so, whether any change in structure or operations is desirable to improve a given organization's effectiveness, and finally, whether the organization is

accountable to its constituencies. All Organizational Reviews have been deferred to allow for the relevant recommendations from the third Accountability and Transparency Review Team to be implemented. The Board will revisit the status of Organizational Reviews in June of 2025 to determine progress on the implementation of the Continuous Improvement Program and the way forward. And you'll hear an update on the Continuous Improvement Program, as well as others, the Holistic Review that I mentioned, later in the presentation. Now, if we could please turn to slide 11.

We referenced this as convergence of review related work. And indeed, as you can see, a number of initiatives are now converging. This provides an opportune time for ICANN Community, Board, and Org to design and sequence work to optimize effectiveness and impact while also being mindful of other ICANN-wide commitments and priorities.

So, starting at the top, looking at the different swim lanes, we have Continuous Improvement Program which is part of the implementation of ATRT3 Recommendation 3.6, to evolve Organizational Reviews into a Continuous Improvement Program.

Next, we have the Pilot Holistic Review, which also stems from a recommendation from ATRT3. And you can see that that work is in process, starting with the Terms of Reference, which is out for public comment.

We also have Lifecycle of Reviews Project, which is an internal initiative by the ICANN Org to improve Specific Reviews process under the Reviews Program.

We have the implementation of the second Organizational Review of the Nominating Committee or NomCom2. The recommendation from that review, to improve the effectiveness of the NomCom. And this work is covered in the Organizational Reviews swim lane. Not pictured on the slide but also important to note is work that's continuing to implement all other recommendations from Specific Reviews, as Alice and Giovanni reported on Monday.

Several key considerations, as you think about this, and we'll come back to the slide at the end of the presentation, there is also to consider timing of ATRT4 or the fourth Accountability and Transparency Review, which you see in the fourth swim lane, with that review scheduled to commence in April of 2024. Another consideration is planning and scheduling of the timing of all this review-related work to achieve better outcomes. We will highlight various opportunities for community participation and input because all of these projects very much depend on community's participation and contributions.

So next, you will hear from Jason Kean about the work underway on the Pilot Holistic Review. But first, over to Yvette to see what questions you have.

YVETTE GUIGNEAUX:

Thank you, Larisa. Currently, we do not have any questions in the Q&A pod and we don't have any in the chat. But we certainly want to give anyone an opportunity to ask a question if they would like to do so. So I'll give a few seconds for somebody to be able to raise their hand if they'd like to ask a question. Any questions? Okay. Okay, it looks like everything is clear. That's wonderful at this point. Okay. So I'll go ahead and turn the presentation, I believe, Jason, it's back over to you for the next segment.

JASON KEAN:

Thank you, Yvette, and thank you, Larisa. Welcome, everyone. My name is Jason Kean. I'm a manager for Reviews Support and Accountability Projects. I'm here to discuss Accountability and Transparency Review Team 3 Recommendation 3.5. I'm going to be referring to that as ATRT3. This is about the Holistic Review.

So a quick history on the Holistic Review. The focus of ATRT3 was to examine if ICANN Reviews function effectively. It issued several recommendations about reviews. Recommendation 3.5 calls for the creation of a new Specific Review, the Holistic Review, which had four primary objectives. The Board approved recommendation 3.5, subject to prioritization and available resources, and directed ICANN Org to initiate the first Holistic Review as a pilot, pursuant to a community agreed Terms of Reference. In March of 2022, a team was formed to

draft the Terms of Reference to go out for public comment to satisfy that request.

I mentioned previously that the Holistic Review had four primary objectives. So what would a Holistic Review look at? It would review continuous improvement efforts of SO/AC/NomCom. It would review the effectiveness of various SO/AC/NomCom collaboration mechanisms. It would review the accountability of SO and ACs or constituent parts to their members. It would review SO/AC/NomCom's purpose to determine if any changes in structure and operations are desirable to improve the overall effectiveness.

The draft Terms of Reference produced by the team previously mentioned went out for public comment on the 30th of August 2022 and that proceeding closed on the 10th of November 2022. We have a link in [here](#) to the Public Comment page. That proceeding saw input on if this draft Terms of Reference was tailored to the community's expectations for ATRT3 Recommendation 3.5 and if it was fit for purpose.

We received 11 group submissions for this proceeding and two individual responses. The submissions revealed some diverging community views on the pilot and the Holistic Review itself. In response to an analysis of the public comments, the Organizational Effectiveness Committee of the Board reconvened the drafting ToR Team in March of 2023 to address the issues and questions raised.

The drafting team's revisions focused on addressing four primary areas that came out in the first proceeding. The first was the scope of the

Holistic Review is unclear. There is a lack of independent examination in the Holistic Review. There's a lack of identified dependencies, and the community might not have the ability to support the Pilot Holistic Review's work. The ToR Development Team, additionally, shortened and revised the ToR document to include more direct and clear language and clear deliverables. Following an informational webinar to the community, which is available in our resources on the slide deck, and review of the revised document by the Organizational Effectiveness Committee of the Board, the Board directed ICANN Org to open a second Public Comment Proceeding on the revised document.

Here's a quick timeline just highlighting the ATRT3 report submission, the invitation to start drafting of the Terms of Reference, the initial Public Comment period, the webinar just noted in August 2023, and the opening of the proceeding in September 2023. So the second Public Comment period on the revised draft Terms of Reference opened on the 28th of September and is slated to close on the 27th of November of 2023. We have in here a link to this live Public Comment page.

The Board is requesting input on whether this revised draft Terms of Reference is fit for purpose and if it sufficiently addresses the issues that were identified in the first proceeding. We include questions to guide community input and responses to this proceeding, including: do you support the revised ToR as drafted? Does the revised Terms of Reference sufficiently address the four primary issues? Does the revised Terms of Reference sufficiently clarify the deliverables? And do you

support the next steps for the pilot Holistic Review? Which I'm going to go over in the following slide.

So next steps for the Holistic Review. These steps are envisioned to guide the process from the close of the Public Comment Proceeding through the initiation for call for volunteers. So the process would be as follows. Following an analysis of public comment, the ICANN Board will consider whether there is sufficient community support for the revised draft Terms of Reference. If there is not sufficient community support, the Board will determine a pathway forward. If the Board determines there is sufficient community support, the Board will proceed with initiating the Pilot Holistic Review. Next would come a call for volunteers, which would be published in line with the operating standards for Specific Reviews. And then ICANN would wait to begin preparations to start the Pilot Holistic Review, which is currently targeted for Fiscal Year 2025.

So that wraps up my update on the Pilot Holistic View. I'd like to pause here to see if there's any questions.

YVETTE GUIGNEAUX:

Okay. We still don't have any questions in the Q&A pod. There aren't any questions in the chat. If anyone wants to ask any kind of question, they can please raise their hand. Go ahead and do that at this time if they have one. Okay, I don't see any hands up. Okay. I don't think we have any questions. All right, I will turn it over to Evin to facilitate our next segment.

EVIN ERDOĞDU:

Thank you so much, Yvette and Jason. Hello, everyone. Thank you for making the time to attend this webinar on the Reviews Program ahead of ICANN78. I'm Evin Erdoğan, and I'll be first walking us through the implementation of ATRT3 Recommendation 3.6 to evolve Organizational Reviews into a Continuous Improvement Program. If we could go to the next slide, please. Thank you so much.

For context, as Larisa mentioned moments ago, Organizational Reviews assess the effectiveness of ICANN Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, and the Nominating Committee. They are conducted by Independent Examiners to assess the organization's continuing purpose, any change and structure or operations to improve its effectiveness, and its accountability to its constituencies and other stakeholders. So the third Accountability and Transparency Review Team issued two recommendations to address issues related to the function of reviews. The issue observed by many community members over the years is that Organizational Reviews are time-consuming and costly, and on the most part, do not produce useful recommendations and outcomes. ATRT3 published these recommendations to address these community concerns.

Recommendation 3.6 calls for ICANN Org to work with the ICANN community to establish this Continuous Improvement Program. And the outputs from the Continuous Improvement work are conducted by ICANN structures will inform the eventual Holistic Review, as my

colleague Jason outlined in the previous section on Recommendation 3.5.

The Board approved these two recommendations and the community assigned each high priority status. For the time being, all Organizational Reviews have been deferred with support from all of the community to allow time for the implementation work to proceed. The Board will consider the progress toward evolving Organizational Reviews into a Continuous Improvement Program in June 2025 to determine whether the deferred Organizational Review should be resumed. So our goal would be to demonstrate significant progress related on the related Continuous Improvement Program implementation by then.

This presents an opportunity for ICANN to replace Organizational Reviews with a more flexible process that is responsive to the unique needs of ICANN's organizational structures while maintaining consistency and comparability across all structures. There will be community discussion of overall principles to guide the ICANN community and its assessment and the determination of criteria specific to each community structure.

The Continuous Improvement Program will include an annual satisfaction survey of members and participants and a regular assessment including a summary of continuous improvements published at least every three years. The initial development phase, the Continuous Improvement Program framework development, is estimated to take up to 12 months beginning after ICANN78 and concluding by December 2024. The first Continuous Improvement

Program assessment period would be estimated to begin at the end of 2024 and conclude at the end of 2027, for a period of about three years, and the second assessment period would be estimated to begin in early 2028, and conclude at the end of 2030, another three years. To that end, preparations are underway to engage the ICANN community on the next and initial step to implement ATRT3 Recommendation 3.6 to develop the Continuous Improvement Program framework.

This next slide details the proposed means of community participation to develop the framework. Thank you Jason. The proposed plan is to leverage the Community Coordination Group model, which is being used effectively for the implementation of certain Work Stream 2 recommendations. Each Supporting Organization, Advisory Committee, and the NomCom and their constituent parts are 22 groups total, would designate one representative with an optional secondary representative to serve as an alternate to contribute to the development of this Continuous Improvement Program framework. ICANN Org will share communication with the community in the coming days to request the appointment of representatives and facilitate working sessions with the Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group targeting to begin in November.

As the ICANN community considers the implementation of a ATRT3 Recommendation 3.6 as it relates to each community structure and for the ICANN community overall, the Community Coordination Group is intended to serve as a forum to exchange best practices, lessons learned, as well as for sharing information and progress related to

already existing Continuous Improvement activities. The representatives in this group will collaborate on community-wide implementation of Recommendation 3.6 while relaying information back to their constituencies to inform the process and voice decisions.

A lightweight structure is proposed to achieve four things. One, develop a shared understanding of the meaning of continuous improvement. Two, consider methodologies for effective Continuous Improvement Programs. Three, agree on the methodology that is fit for ICANN purpose. And four, formulate a Continuous Improvement Program framework to be used by each organizational structure.

To emphasize, the implementation of this recommendation is an opportunity to replace Organizational Reviews with a more flexible process that is responsive to the unique needs of the ICANN community structures and their constituent parts, while maintaining consistency and comparability across all structures. It also is an opportunity to support meaningful improvements within the ICANN community, including toward improved governance. We're excited to support the community in this effort.

So with that, I'll pause here to take any questions. Yvette, if you would please let me know if there's anything already in the chat or Zoom Room, that would be appreciated.

YVETTE GUIGNEAUX:

Okay. We don't have any questions in the Q&A pod. Sara has been keeping an eye on the chat. We don't have any questions in the chat

either. If anybody has any questions, they can feel free at this time to raise their hand. And we'll acknowledge you on the floor and go ahead and let you ask your question. Anyone? Okay, it does look like there's no questions at this point. I also would like to remind anyone, if they're going to either ask questions or any of our presenters, we do have interpretation on the call. So if the speaking pace, if we could just slow things down a little bit more than we normally would, just so that they can accurately interpret the call, that would be great. Okay, I think we're good. For now, I think we'll turn this over to Jason for our next segment.

JASON KEAN:

Great. Thank you, Yvette and Evin. Now I'm going to discuss the Lifecycle of Reviews Project. So starting with the project's purpose, ICANN Org initiated the Lifecycle of Reviews Project to understand the current operational challenges faced by Specific Reviews and to introduce procedural improvements to the reviews process. Just to note here that this is actually a continuation of the work that the Organizational Effectiveness Committee of the Board had started but had been paused while ATRT3 was operational.

Current progress on this work. The Review Support and Accountability Team compiled the challenges and proposed improvements articulated by the Community, Board, and ICANN Org over the last five plus years. This information has been analyzed and organized into targeted improvement areas. As Larisa had noted earlier, a blog announcing this project just went live a few weeks ago, as well as the Thought Paper which was published along with it.

The Thought Paper outlines the current state of reviews and provides an overview of the potential improvements to enhance their effectiveness. The Thought Paper intends to open up the discussion with the ICANN community around the problem areas and potential improvement areas as well. So that's something we're going to be seeking engagement moving forward on.

I'd like to pause to look at the reviews by the numbers. A significant amount of ICANN resources have gone into supporting reviews. And just looking at the last four reviews, CCT, RDS2, SSR2, and ATRT3, as Larisa had previously mentioned, a total of 9,727 hours were spent by 62 community members in meetings. There was an average of 60% participation rate by community volunteers. And if we dug into those numbers a little bit more, we'd actually find that in some cases, a handful of volunteers participated at 100%, while other volunteers participated at a much lower rate. There were 19,488 hours of support provided by ICANN Org in preparation to and during meetings, and a total of \$3.4 million U.S. was spent to support the work of these four Specific Review Teams. I'd like to note here that these figures were collected from the Specific Reviews Fact Sheets that are available on each review wiki page.

Some other numbers to look at. Those four reviews produced a total of 125 recommendations for Board action. If we just focus on the initial action taken by the Board, it gives us the following percentages. 43% were placed into a pending category, requiring additional clarity or supporting information, 14% were rejected as not feasible, 12% were in

part or in full directed to community groups outside of ICANN's remit, and only 31% were either approved or approved in part or with caveats. For an update on the status of these recommendations, we do have a link in here to Implementations Latest Update Report.

So as you can imagine, these recommendations, a lot of work went into producing them. However, there was a lot of work after Board action that was required to better understand them and bring them back to the Board for further decision.

So if you look at the proposed improvements for Specific Reviews, these were presented in the Thought Paper that I previously mentioned. This really is serious that we wanted to focus on. The first is around scope setting. So the idea is to move the scope setting to the pre-planning phase and involved SO and AC leadership, along with the Board and ICANN Org, based on defined roles.

Moving to scope, so the beginning of the process achieves a couple of things. It gets consensus amongst the community about the true focus of the review. It allows ICANN collectively to plan and schedule review accordingly. And it provides us with the skillsets required to conduct a review of this nature. That includes informing a call for volunteers.

Next, we have review team leadership. So the idea is to develop and refine required skillsets for review team leadership to ensure facilitation of highly engaged collaborative process. And in doing so, we mentioned the participation rates vary wildly amongst volunteers. Our suggestion throughout this process is to improve and introduce a lot

more structure, and in doing so, allowing the leadership to focus on facilitation of review team members throughout that process.

The third is review team selection. So again, in introducing a lot more structure to this process, we're also looking to create a balance between highly experienced ICANN volunteers and those that represent new voices. So if you don't know that much about the process, it's not insurmountable to participate in the process.

Next, four is about the review process itself. So our goal is to develop a standardized process for research, problem identification, and recommendation development. And in doing so, staying true to the previous suggestions, having those be transparent processes that are very clear in nature so that the body of research is mentioned in the draft report, it is validated by SMEs and participation with Org. Problems are identified based off of that research which are easily called out, again validated amongst the participants involved. And the recommendations that are developed speak clearly to the scope of work that was identified, subsequent research the problems that were identified out of that research, and those recommendations are specifically addressing problems. This would be included in a draft report which calls out each of these processes in a very transparent way so you can follow the breadcrumbs from scope, all the way through recommendation development.

Finally, we would like to discuss review monitoring. So defining a suitable role for SO and AC leadership or similar group or mechanism for the review team relative to establish scope of work and community

expectations. So, similar to the scope setting, developing community's consensus around very important milestones throughout the review process so that there's constant touch points and we do not run into situations where a draft report is the first touch point around a lot of this information, especially scope.

Last is really a combination of the process I've described to you earlier, which is involving certain metrics of the outcomes of reviews, how we're tracking them, the results that they've produced, and ensuring that we're taking lessons learned from the process, and quickly iterating on the process to propose new improvements.

As I mentioned previously, we would be looking to do engagements, especially offering them at ICANN78. There'll be more information later to openly discuss this information. I'm really looking forward to those engagements. And ultimately, these improvements will culminate in a draft of revision to the Operating Standards for Specific Reviews early in calendar year 2024.

So on that note, I'd like to pause to see if there are any questions to any of the information that I just presented.

YVETTE GUIGNEAUX:

Thank you, Jason. We don't have any questions in the Q&A pod. We don't see any questions or anything in the chat. Anyone like to raise their hand and ask any questions, you can do so at this time. Okay. I think we're clear. All right, there seemed to be no question. So I will go ahead and turn it over to Evin for our next segment.

EVIN ERDOĞDU:

Thank you, Yvette, and thank you, Jason. Hello again, everyone. Next slide please, if you will. Thank you. So work to implement 27 recommendations from the second Organizational Review of the Nominating Committee was led by a community group of volunteers, the NomCom Review Implementation Working Group. We have some members on the call today.

The Board took action in March this year to accept the status of their implementation work on all the review recommendations, including a withdrawal of their proposal on rebalancing the NomCom. I'll speak more about the next steps regarding NomCom rebalancing in a moment. As part of this March 2023 Board action, the Board initiated an ICANN Bylaws amendment process necessary to complete implementation, including a Public Comment Proceeding. The Public Comment Proceeding on Bylaws amendments and documents to implement the NomCom2 Review was open from the 17th of April through the 12th of June. Community submissions to the public comment revealed overall support for the standard ICANN Bylaws amendments and also provided suggested edits to the NomCom Standing Committee Charter. The community submissions raised concerns, however, about the proposed unaffiliated director statement and corresponding fundamental ICANN Bylaws amendment. I will also go into more detail on next steps for the unaffiliated director role in a moment.

In accordance with community input, on the 10th of September this year, the Board approved the standard ICANN Bylaws amendments and accepted the NomCom Standing Committee Charter. We want to emphasize what a positive development this is for the NomCom and all the work that's been undertaken by ICANN to get to this point of action.

The improvements in overall effectiveness of the NomCom include the following. The change in NomCom delegate's terms to serve two-year terms that will help preserve knowledge within the NomCom. Transforming all delegates except leadership to be voting members will include more participants in the decision-making process. Establishment of the NomCom Standing Committee will provide continuity across annual NomCom cycles and build the institutional memory of the NomCom since the NomCom itself operates on a tight timeline and needs to focus on its recruiting and evaluation activities.

In order to mitigate the impact on the work of the 2024 NomCom that is already in progress, the transition article included in the Bylaws amendment sets out the expectation that these new Bylaws' provisions will not impact the composition of the NomCom until the seating of the 2025 NomCom. Similarly, the NomCom Standing Committee is expected to be in place and available to support the 2025 NomCom.

For unaffiliated directors, the ICANN Board will further consider community concerns regarding this fundamental Bylaws amendment on Article 7 of the ICANN Bylaws related to unaffiliated directors role and its related statement that was included in the public comment. The Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee will develop a plan

within six months of the Board action that was in September to address the issue before determining whether or how to proceed Board in the fundamental Bylaws amendment process.

Regarding the topic of NomCom rebalancing, in its prior March 2023 resolution, the Board directed ICANN Org to facilitate and support the Board's engagement with the community to understand community views on how the NomCom should be rebalanced, who should conduct this work, and the level of priority that the community would assign to this work within their planning efforts.

ICANN correspondence from the Board chair was sent in April this year. Out of the 21 constituencies and groups contacted, 17 replies were received, where 15 provided input on NomCom rebalancing. In September, the Board reviewed the various views expressed by responders to the correspondence and discussed potential options. Communication from the Board chair will be sent to all groups who responded, thanking them for their response, summarizing the diversity of community views, and outlining next steps. Potential options include conducting research to identify models outside of ICANN which can be relevant to consider for the NomCom and have good track record on governance to identify relevant organizations to complete this research.

So I'll pause here for questions before moving on to the next section on opportunities for community participation and input. Do we have any questions?

YVETTE GUIGNEAUX:

Thank you, Evin. I don't have any in the Q&A pod. We've been keeping an eye on the chat. I don't have any questions in there as well. If anyone has a question that they would like to ask, they can go ahead and feel free to raise their hand at this point, and go ahead and ask their question. Anyone? Okay. I don't think we have any questions. Okay, Evin, back to you.

EVIN ERDOĞDU:

Thank you, Yvette. All right. So if we could go to the next slide. Thank you so much, Jason. So the ICANN community's contribution to the Bylaws mandated reviews is essential to the success of reviews and to ICANN's mission to help ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet. On this slide, we're providing here further information about opportunities for community engagement and participation.

As my colleague Jason noted, we have the ICANN Public Comment on the Pilot Holistic Review revised Terms of Reference, which is currently open until November 27. This Prep Week webinar on ICANN Reviews today and another webinar on implementation efforts that occurred on Monday, please use the slide deck and recording from these webinars as resources. There will be an Innovative Open Space session organized by the ccNSO Guidelines Review Committee or GRC during ICANN78, which aims to explore and develop a shared understanding of what Continuous Improvement and Continuous Improvement Program framework means for the ccNSO. There will be engagement sessions

offered with the ICANN community during ICANN78 to provide the current status of your Reviews Program. And finally, as described during this webinar, there'll be a formation of a Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group to develop a framework to implement ATRT3 Recommendation 3.6, as well as community engagement regarding the Lifecycle of Reviews.

I'm placing in the chat two recent ICANN Org blogs on the ICANN Reviews Program and on the Lifecycle Reviews Project. I think the Larisa may have already shared as well, but just sharing, just to emphasize.

So with that, I'd like to thank everyone again for attending this webinar, providing an update on the Reviews Program. I'll hand it over to Larisa to highlight the convergence of work in the Reviews Program unless there are further questions. Thank you so much.

LARISA GURNICK:

Thank you, Evin. Again, this is the slide that we started from. This is just to hopefully give you a visual of all the different elements that we talked about. Again, as you see, there's a great deal going on, and community participation and input is extremely valuable. So we look forward to seeing many of you in Hamburg, realizing that ICANN78 is as busy as any AGM usually is. So if we don't have time to connect at ICANN78, we are always available to join any community group, any meeting, monthly meeting, or any opportunity to speak with you about any of this work. Any opportunities to hear your input are always welcome. And with

that, I will ask Xavier Calvez if you'd like to say a few words to wrap up. Xavier, over to you.

XAVIER CALVEZ:

Thank you, Larisa, and thank you to the team for the update and for everyone's participation and attention to this information. The review process is a fundamental mechanism of accountability of the organization and it takes all of us together to demonstrate it to make it work. It's not simple, it's not too easy, but it's the right thing to do. We can only thank you for the time you've dedicated to this presentation, as well as other presentation during Prep Week in advance of ICANN78 in Hamburg in a couple of weeks from now. So thank you very much for keeping at it, for your attention, for your participation, for your contributions in various different ways relative to this review process. We all look forward to be able to connect whether remotely or face to face at ICANN78. Thank you.

YVETTE GUIGNEAUX:

Okay. Thank you very much, Xavier. We don't have any questions in the Q&A pod or in the chat. We will give anyone, as they say in Hollywood, last look. We will give you a last look or a chance to ask any question or to make a comment, if you would like to, you can feel free to raise your hand and we will let you take the floor. If not, we will go ahead and wrap things up.

LARISA GURNICK: Thank you, everyone.

YVETTE GUIGNEAUX: Thank you very much for joining. We wish you a good afternoon, evening, morning, wherever you are in the world. Thank you very much for joining our webinar. Have a good day.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]