
ICANN78 | AGM – Public Forum

Thursday, October 26 2023 – 10:30 to 12:00 HAM

TRIPTI SINHA:

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to ICANN78 Public Forum. Today is the last day of the public meeting. I hope you've had a good meeting thus far. There were numerous sessions. You've interacted with your colleagues. You've attended a lot of parties. And that brings us to right now. And just a few words before we kick the session off. The ICANN board is committed to facilitating bottom-up multi-stakeholder process to progress our work. And, of course, we're committed to making continuous improvements and getting our job done.

So this is why we have these public forums, which is a valuable opportunity for the ICANN board and the community to come together and dialogue. It is the board's responsibility to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders and to hear directly from you about your concerns, your hopes and challenges that you may face. So on behalf of the board, I encourage you to take advantage of this session to ask questions, make comments and share your thoughts and your respective languages. I'd like to also remind you that this is not a replacement for public comments that ICANN seeks on various issues and policies.

So if you want to provide input on a specific issue that is open for public comment, please use the online system available in icann.org to do that. It is the only way your comments will receive the kind of attention and consideration from appropriate committees, supporting

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organizations and staff members. So before we begin, I would like to thank you, the community, for the great discussions through the week. Thank you for being here, and I look forward to your questions and comments. And now I'd like to turn this over to Director of the Americas, Alexandra Dans, who will say a few words about the format of the session and the participation process. Alex, the floor is yours.

ALEXANDRA DANS:

Thank you, Tripti. Welcome, everyone. My name is Alex Dans, and I'm the Communication Director for the Americas at ICANN.org. As we are about to begin the ICANN78 public forum, we want to remind everyone that as a condition of participation, those who take part in ICANN's multi-stakeholder model are expected to understand and follow the ICANN's expected standards of behavior and ICANN community anti-harassment policy and complaint procedure. Additionally, ICANN's Office of the Ombuds is here at ICANN78 as an informal dispute resolution office for the ICANN community. The email address is ombuds.icann.org.

Now I'm going to briefly explain the format for this session and how you can participate. Today's public forum is divided into three blocks. All blocks are open to any subject of community interest. Each block will be facilitated by a board member, starting with Christian Kaufmann, followed by Katrina Sataki, and then Matthew Shears. We strongly encourage you to use a headset to take advantage of the skill interpreters that we have here supporting us, as we often receive questions in other languages than English.

I will now briefly explain the participation processes. Once the first block begins, there are three ways to ask a question or make a comment. If you are attending the event in person, simply go to the microphone and wait for your turn to make your comments. Please remember to keep your comments brief and respectful to those attending online and in person. If you are participating remotely, you can virtually queue up in one of two ways.

If you want to ask a question or make a comment verbally, please click on the raise hand icon at the bottom of your screen and you'll automatically go into the speaker's queue. When it is your turn to speak, you'll see a message on your screen requesting that you unmute your mic. This lets that it will soon be your turn to speak. Once you've been introduced, please be sure to unmute your microphone.

Before stating your comment or question either in person or remotely, please say your name, where you're from, and who you're representing or affiliated with, if applicable. Please remember to speak slowly and clearly so that the scribes and interpreters correctly capture your words. If you're unable to voice your question or comment, please write it in the Zoom Q&A pod. I will read the question aloud. Please do not ask your question in the chat. We are not tracking questions in the chat and your question will not be read if you write it there.

When submitting a question or comment to the Q&A pod, please also include your name, where you're from, and affiliation, if applicable. Each person will have two minutes to make a question or comment. You will see a two-minute timer on the screen. We use this time limit to facilitate as many questions and comments as possible. The board

facilitator will then either answer your question or turn to the board member who is best equipped to answer your question.

Please note that the board may need a few seconds to determine who is best prepared to answer your question. If you have a follow-up question, we ask that you re-enter the queue. This ensures everybody has an opportunity to pose a question or comment to the board during the allotted time. And the two-minute rule also applies to follow-up questions and comments.

And finally, real-time interpretation is available in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Russian, and Portuguese. The language spoken may vary through the session. For the best experience, we recommend that you select the language you speak or listen to by clicking on the interpretation icon located on the Zoom toolbar. Our first board facilitator is Christian Kaufmann. Christian, the floor is yours.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you. Moin, moin, and welcome to the Public Forum. I will shepherd us through the first 30 minutes. And with that, I'm looking at empty microphones. Please. Microphone number two. Hello, who are you?

LOUSEWIES VAN DER LAAN: [Inaudible - 00:06:18]. Thank you very much. I'm happy to kick off. I would like to express some concern about the political developments when it comes to safeguarding the technical layer of the internet from

government and political influence. And I'd be very interested to hear from the board what kind of sense of urgency you have about this with the discussions going on at the UN, with what's happening with WSIS+20, and all the different developments there are. How you're responding and whether you are concerned about the way the technical community is sometimes treated at the political level.

I think safeguarding our technical layer of the internet from political influence is one of the biggest challenges we have. We see a very polarized and dangerous world in which this is, of course, a key asset for everything that's important to us, our democratic values, our security, et cetera. And I'm very interested to know how the board is addressing this and what kind of priority you're giving this. Thank you very much.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you. Tripti, do you want to take that one?

TRIPTI SINHA: I certainly will. Thank you, Christian. And thank you, Lousewies, for the question. Yes, it is indeed very concerning what's happening and the efforts to airbrush the technical community. And that's a term that Jordan Carter, I hope he's in the audience very eloquently. Jordan, there you are. Hello. I like the way he stated that yesterday in our technical infrastructure coordination group meeting. So it is a concern. As the global potential upcoming imminent global digital compact has airbrushed the technical community out of the compact itself. So we were at the Internet Governance Forum in full force. We had a very large

delegation that went from ICANN, which included 10 board members and 18 staff members, to the IGF in Kyoto. We had many, many meetings with many ministries.

And we were there in full force expressing it wasn't so much a concern, but expressing how well the multistakeholder body has worked. And it has worked because all the different stakeholders have come together. And in particular, a key constituency, the technical constituency, the technical community that has built the underlying infrastructure and the protocols and technologies and so forth that make the Internet work, need to be at the table.

And indeed, yesterday, the reason why we, Christian and I, hosted this meeting was to add some collective form and function to this group. We all come together as affinity groups and we coordinate between each other for sure. But there needs to be a face to this technical community group. In particular, ministries and legislators and regulators don't know how this all works. And in terms of where is this a priority, it's a top priority right now for ICANN. I see three major top priorities, which is SubPro, the next round, WSIS and GDC and all of that, and the strategic plan. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you, Tripti. We have a remote question, I believe.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Yes, this question is actually from the 25th anniversary session and we ask them to put it again for the public forum. This is from Faheem

Soomro; how does ICANN envision the future of the Internet in the next 25 years? And what strategies and initiatives are in place to address the evolving needs and challenges of this dynamic ecosystem? Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: That's a rather broad one. Do you want to take that one, Tripti?

TRIPTI SINHA: Sure. If I understood the question, it is what are our thoughts for the Internet for the next 25 years? Yes, we're thinking about it hard and that's the strategic plan has been kicked off. And that is exactly what that process is about. It's about strategically planning for what is to come in the future. And so we will be looking at a 10 to 20-year horizon and tackle them in five-year chunks. And yes, so we're on that. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you again, Tripti. Then we move to queue number one. Who are you?

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Sébastien Bachollet, Chair of EURALO. I will be speaking in French. Sorry, it's a nasty habit, but I like to use the tools that we have and to speak French. We have to use them or they'll go away. So I would first like to tell the organizers of this meeting how we esteem you. The organization of this meeting has been great. The access was great. Hamburg is not a capital, but it's been very easy to come. I know that

some people who don't usually come to the ICANN meetings were able to come, so maybe we should consider coming to Hamburg more.

Second, my priority is the review that we call the holistic review, the global holistic review. There's a public comment that's open. Now it's time for everyone to voice their opinion and their position. I think it's essential, even as part of the reflection and thinking about the strategy of ICANN. And third, the Ombuds office will have to be replaced. In the second phase of the IANA transition, there was a subgroup for the Ombuds, and I think the members of that subgroup are ready to give it some thought. And we had worked hard on that topic back then.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN:

Thank you, Sébastien. Good. Sorry, just checking. With that, we go to microphone number two.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Amrita, for the record from APRALO, and thank you for this meeting. This has been wonderful. Just a few points which comes to my mind in terms of sessions is when there are certain things which are of priority for the whole community, such as the GDC or the WSIS20, it would have been great if we had plenaries which were universal in nature because we did have conversations from different SOACs on say WSIS+10. While certain parts were different, but many of the inherent components were same. So rather than repeating that, we could have had one single session where everyone can come in and hear. I know for meeting organizers that's difficult, but perhaps certain things where we converge together could be unified in future meetings. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you. And with that, do we have someone remote?

ALEXANDRA DANS: Yes, thank you. So the question that we received from Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong from Chad; does the ICANN board has a plan to establish an ICANN foundation to help support people of the world to develop their internet while we know that ICANN's mission is limited within the DNS ecosystem? Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you. You want to take that one, Tripti, or start at least? Thanks.

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you for your question. This was deliberated for a while, some years ago. We will not create a foundation. However, we are kicking off a grant program, which is scoped strictly to ICANN's mission. You will hear more about that. But yes, at this moment in time, we do not have plans to create a foundation.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Good. And with that, we go back to queue number one.

JEFF NEUMAN: Thanks. This is Jeff Neuman speaking in my personal capacity. Most of me. I'm usually not at a loss for words, but I wanted to just report

something that was eventually taken care of, but I would like to hear from the board unequivocally. There was a couple messages on the mural, which has since been taken down, that involved a conflict going on in the Middle East that were allowed to remain up there for about 24 hours. And I just, sorry, it's very hurtful, and for the first time, I felt not safe.

And I'd like a strong message from the board that this is not, I don't want to take away anyone's right to free speech, but this is not a place where political discourse or views on conflicts like that are, I'm trying to be very general, I know, are not welcome here and are not appropriate at ICANN. I'm sorry, I'm just not finding the right words, but I would like the board to make a very definitive statement that certain kinds of political discourse are not welcome. Thanks.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you. Tripti?

TRIPTI SINHA: Yes. Thank you for that. I'm not aware of it, and I would like to make it absolutely clear to everyone in this room and online, Jeff put it very appropriately, this is not the place to make statements like that. This is meant to be a safe place for discourse and interchange of ideas. So please do not engage in any kind of political dialogue and hurtful dialogue. So thank you for bringing that to our attention, and we will issue such a statement.

JEFF NEUMAN: I just want to say, the mural's been removed, but yes, thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you for bringing it to our attention, I was not aware of it. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Queue number two.

JAVIER RÚA-JOVET: Thank you. Morning. Javier Rúa-Jovet, NomCom appointee to ccNSO from Puerto Rico, but here in my personal capacity. Just would like to state my appreciation as a stakeholder individual interested in sustainability, appreciation to the board and to the ICANN org itself for starting to think on sustainability, ICANN Goal 8, it's just a start, but it's a good start from my perspective. Maybe the CEO or the board chair, or maybe board member Botterman can comment on this, but for the rest of the community, there's an ICANN Goal 8 on sustainability. It's beginning to start a conversation internally on this important topic. Thank you, and see you in Puerto Rico.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: First of all, thanks for the appreciation, always welcome. And with that, I give it to Maarten.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Thanks Javier. You and others have been raising this point already in the community and the board has heard it. And we are very cognizant of the importance, because we're people too, that we need to address this issue of ecological stress in the world. And this means that we will need to act as a good citizen. This was the reason why also the CEO Goal was formulated. If you look in the outline, we see three areas. One is where the internet contributes to the world, and it goes well beyond ICANN. It goes about information exchange, open data, open science, all these things. And there we may contribute. Then there is how we can do our operations as eco-friendly as possible. And we're looking into it and we're preparing for that.

And then there's the community to find its balance in, for instance, travel and the effectiveness of the multi-stakeholder model. And that is something that's clearly to be led by the community. So we have asked the CEO to start with scoping and helping to understand what could be done. Maybe it's good to go into your goals, Sally.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you. And yes, we're very much looking forward to seeing you in Puerto Rico. Yes, absolutely, Maarten. The goal is designed to do exactly that. It is an important decision that we've come to, to do this, to dedicate resources, which is why it's in the CEO Goal. And that will be a process of collaboration, which has already started actually at this meeting, which is terrific, under that framework. It's already achieving its objective, which is to bring us together as a community and a board and an organization to agree a framework as to how we should put together a policy moving forward. So thank you for your support. And

I really look forward to working with you on it and many others in this community, too. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you. We have a hand raised in the online chat.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you, Christian. Yes, we have Fabricio Vayra.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Please, Fabricio. Hello.

FABRICIO VAYRA: You hear me?

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: I believe we do.

FABRICIO VAYRA: Great. Thank you so much. And thank you for the opportunity to weigh in here. I wanted to raise a concern that I've had after some of the discussion this week about what the impact of NIS2 directive is going to have on WHOIS policy once that's transpositioned, the directive is transpositioned into member states.

And specifically, when I read the NIS2 and I look at the current policies we have on WHOIS, there seems to be a lot of areas where NIS2

specifically directs registries and registrars to have certain obligations and our current policies don't do that or say the opposite or are silent. And while I know that a lot of contract parties, at least this week, have said that they believe that they're in compliance with that or are already taking those steps, there does seem to be a very clear tension between our current policies and what NIS2 is clearly asking of contracted parties with obligations.

And so my concern is that we're going to run up against what we did with GDPR, where we're sort of rushing to find a solution. And I wondered if the org or the board could comment or make some commitment here that we won't do that and that we could take remedial steps now from the learnings we had from GDPR and start trying to reconcile the current policy with NIS2 and some suggestions would be to do that comparison.

I have one, I'm happy to share one, where we can call out what the differences are, perhaps put in some sort of temp spec or something that draws things into line and then kick off some quick or light policy to confirm where we should make the corrections permanent. But it's not going to be a good state of fare if we just replicate what we did with GDPR to wait until the last minute and then try to make the corrections to align our policies with what's going to be required under law. Thank you. I should state, Fabricio Vira, a member of the IPC, but I was speaking in my personal capacity.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you. Becky?

BECKY BURR:

Thanks, and thank you, Fabricio. We have, in fact, looked at the requirements in NIS2 and it's our conclusion that our current policies fully enable registries and registrars to do what they think is appropriate to comply with the requirements of NIS2. The data is available under our policies with respect to Thick WHOIS. The data is available to registries from registrars if they believe that that is that they are required to have that at the registry level under NIS2.

So we're not aware of any contradictions and in fact we believe that ICANN's current policies and contractual requirements facilitate compliance with NIS2. If there are any specific areas, Fab, where you think that's not correct, we are of course happy to take a look at them and happy to discuss them with the community. But as I said, we've reached a different conclusion and don't see any conflict between ICANN's policies and contractual requirements and NIS 2 compliance.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN:

Thank you, Becky. And we go back to microphone number one.

MOHIBULLAH UTMANKHIL:

Good morning, respected members of board members of the ICANN and the broader Internet community. My name is Mohibullah Utmankhil. I'm from Afghanistan and I'm here on my personal capacity. First, I would like to extend my congratulations to the ICANN community on its 25th anniversary. During the past week, I have been deeply moved by the significant presence of women in various levels of

ICANN's leadership and across many community positions. It is indeed impressive to witness this. However, it is hard to accept that in 2023, there are still millions of women in Afghanistan who are fighting for their fundamental rights, the right to work, to study, and to contribute to society.

The very idea of such restriction is daunting, even without experiencing the harsh reality of the gender apartheid. Yet the same group has control over the Internet resources, and they not only curtail the rights of women, they also misuse the Internet for spreading their own propaganda. I believe the majority in this room would agree that the Internet's safety and reliability goes beyond the protecting of its protocols and identifiers. While I do realize that these issues do not fall directly under the ICANN's responsibilities, however, ICANN as a key player in the Internet governance space should hold the influence to play its ethical role in ensuring the Internet's safety in all of its aspects.

And in the case of Afghanistan, we would appreciate a systematic and close monitoring of the Internet's resources and the ccTLD's operation by ICANN. Our commitment to Internet freedom should extend to ensuring that this freedom reaches every corner of the globe, irrespective of gender or geography. Thank you very much. Thank you for your attention.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN:

Thank you for your comment and feedback. And with that, we go back to microphone number two. Assuming this is a queue, people are very far away from this microphone.

GUNELA ASTBRINK:

Thank you. I had to sit down while waiting in the queue. My name is Gunela Astbrink, outgoing vice chair of APRALO, and I have been sick this week, so unfortunately I haven't been in the rooms as much, but I wish to sincerely thank many staff and the community for your support. And there are people with disability, I wanted to talk about that, are 15% of the population in the world, but we only see a handful here at ICANN.

And I just wanted to raise this because, for example, in terms of comments by Sally Costerton earlier in the week about the importance of digital accessibility, language accessibility, let's remember we also are talking about digital accessibility for persons with disability. And so I just urge ICANN on a lot of different levels to continue on that path of a culture of accessibility for persons with disability in regard to the program for diversity and inclusion. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN:

Thanks a lot for your comment. Much appreciated. Good. Then the next one is remote again.

ALEXANDRA DANS:

We have a comment also from Paul Schull. It is very difficult to ensure that the technical layer and technical community is isolated from political shenanigans and government interference when the number resource organization and regional internet registry actively seek to

influence the sovereign state of Mauritius government and when they appeal for special governmental statuses, etc.

The credibility of members of the technical community to behave properly must be sacrosanct. And at the moment it is not, at least in some of the organizations. The IETF may be above reproach and ICANN is properly accountable, but it is naive and dangerous to ignore the governance problems in some organizations who use the designation of technical as a shield for their malfeasance. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you for the comment. And with that, I'm actually handing over to -- Tripti wants to come in. Sorry for that. Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you for your comment. Just to reassure you that ICANN is taking the issues with AFRINIC very seriously. We are engaged and we are providing neutral assistance to have their governance structure be resuscitated and brought back to health. And we are by no means disengaged. We are quite involved. And if you would just have good faith as this progresses and we hope that it will have a positive outcome in the end. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you, Tripti. Harald?

HARALD ALVESTRAND: Quick comment on the technical community. The technical community is not isolated. It's not needed. It does not need protection. It needs to be listened to and be able to contribute constructively. We are, as members of the technical community, also players, participants in the political process. There is no isolation, but we need the integration.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN: Thank you, Harald. And with this now, I'm handing over to Katrina. Katrina, the floor is yours.

KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you very much, Christian. And before we continue, just let me remind you that we have two microphones here in the room. We have an opportunity to ask your questions in the Q&A pod or raise your hand in the Zoom room and then ask your question. With that, let's go to microphone number one.

BRUNA SANTOS: Thank you very much. My name is Bruna Santos. I'm part of the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group. We would like to start by thanking two of the outgoing board members, Avri Doria and Matt Shears on behalf of the Holland CSG. It was a pleasure to work with the two of you when it's set to see you go. On that same note, we would like to welcome all of the incoming and new board members and put ourselves at full disposal for collaborating in the coming years.

This week was also about the sustainability of the multi-stakeholder approach and how the participation of everyone, business, tech,

government, and civil society is at the heart of what ICANN does. But we are concerned that the current board structure does not have a member that can bring in perspectives from civil society within GNSO. And therefore, we would urge the NomCom to be aware of that as they consider their work the next year and the year after. We have all voices at ICANN, so all of these voices should be represented in board. So thank you all for the opportunity.

KATRINA SATAKI:

Thank you very much for your comments and thanks a lot for your statement. Thank you. Now we have a raised hand in the Zoom room. Please read the question. Oh, sorry, please unmute the participant and please ask your question.

ALEXANDRA DANS:

Thank you, Katrina. We have a hand raised from Torsten Krause, Digital Opportunities. Torsten, you can now speak.

TORSTEN KRAUSE:

Hello, my name is Torsten Krause from the Digital Opportunities Foundation in Germany, Civil Society. First of all, I would like to thank the ICANN staff and the board members, of course, and all the people who organized this great event. Thanks also go to the host of the meeting and all the various partners who make this possible. For me, it was the first ICANN meeting on site and I found it very impressive. I learned much and realized that also a lot I didn't know before. And after being at the IGF in Kyoto and the last few days in Hamburg with you all,

I know better, I now better understand the need and the value of your multi-stakeholder approach.

As a political scientist and child rights researcher at the Digital Opportunities Foundation in Germany, we benefit from this multi-stakeholder approach and will stand by you to ensure and expand this approach in the future. Working for child protection and the realization of children's rights in the digital environment also needs many partners and prospectivists. I would therefore very much welcome it if we, taking into account ICANN rules and guidelines, would work together for a better and safer world for children and take on this responsibility together. Thank you very much.

KATRINA SATAKI:

Thank you very much, Torsten. Very well noted. And please keep spreading the good word about our multi-stakeholder model and invite more and more people to come and join us. Thank you. Now microphone number two.

WERNER STAUB:

My name is Werner Staub. I work for CORE Association. I have a comment that is related to what Louise Weiss said and to what Fabrizio said. They're kind of opposites in a sense, but maybe we could address this with a call for humility to ourselves as ICANN community because we tend to interpret the multi-stakeholder model as one where people are supposed to come to us and there are actually other models that are multi-stakeholder in practical effectiveness that exist that do a lot of good things and we would be well advised to rely on them. One of

them is one that I mentioned before. It is the legal entity identifier system. It was set up by the G20. It is 10 years old.

It is the answer to the one thing that ICANN pretends that we as ICANN pretend that we're unable to solve. We say that we're unable to solve the question whether somebody is a legal entity or a natural person and we say that we have trouble identifying and setting standards. This has been addressed. There are people working on this and it has been enabled by the financial regulators of all the industrialized countries. It is also available everywhere else.

I asked at some point if ICANN itself would at least identify itself based on best current practices and the answer was that ICANN felt it was not needed. I think this is just one example where ICANN we as a whole might show more humility and use more of the good work that has been done elsewhere in the internet and business registration is nowadays as good as much as as good as internet as anything. It is technology. It is also part of the tech community.

KATRINA SATAKI:

Thank you very much. Becky, would you like to comment?

BECKY BURR:

Yes, let me just say thank you. I think we strive to be humble here and to make use of all good work out there. I am not personally familiar with the details of the database that you mentioned. I understand it is a financial industry tool, but we have not invented here pride.

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- DANKO JEVTOVIC: If I may just add, thank you, Warner, for the comment. We are aware of the legal entity identifier and we evaluated, well, ICANN Finance evaluated that and we actually didn't see increased efficiency from using it at this time, but I also noted the connection in between those kinds of identifiers and our WHOIS processes and maybe there can be some connection that we should look into, but it is a different subject because the way how the GDPR identifies personal identifiable data is not the same as having a database of legal entities. Thank you.
- KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you very much. Are there any questions or hands online?
- ALEXANDRA DANS: Yes, I have a question from Jiankang Yao; ITF IDN protocols were published in 2003. ICANN IDN guidelines were initiated in 2003. This year is 2023, 20 years now. When does every board member and every ICANN participant, we have the chance to apply the IDN's international email address based on IDN from ICANN. Thanks ICANN org and board for supporting Universal Acceptance. Thank you.
- KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you for the question. Edmon.
- EDMON CHUNG: Edmon here. Thank you, Jiankang, for the question. I am very happy that ICANN has a Universal Acceptance program now and I think there is commitment to have ICANN systems and sadly you might be able to

add more to have ICANN systems be fully Universal Acceptance ready, including for board emails so that we can I can use my Chinese name in the ICANN board email address. By the time we are for the next round, I think the commitment is there. The Universal Acceptance issues, as you mentioned, is a difficult one and will require many different stakeholders to help us push it forward.

At the recent IGF, there were multiple sessions actually from myself and other ICANN staff and board members to really push this to a level of digital inclusion and also in terms of language justice. And that has been, I think, raised a lot of interest in the other stakeholders, especially from governments and civil society around the world. And I think for us to actually take Universal Acceptance and internationalized domain names forward, we need to get those stakeholders involved as well.

KATRINA SATAKI:

Thank you very much. Now microphone number two.

MASON COLE:

Good morning. My name is Mason Cole. I'm chair of the Business Constituency and I have a statement to read on behalf of the BC. The BC is appreciative of orgs and contracted parties' cooperation with regard to abuse-related amendments to contracts. As has been said by the GAC and others this week, however, we're disappointed with the lack of transparency in negotiations and that none of the community's comments were regarded following the comment period.

DNS abuse remains a persistent issue that significantly impacts the businesses and users we represent. Accordingly, we look forward to org and contracted party commitments to further refine contracts to accommodate issues like the ability to act at scale, response times, registry level mitigation, and required responses to complaining parties. The BC looks forward to this critical work.

KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you very much. Becky?

BECKY BURR: Thank you. I assume that you're talking about the contract provisions. I think we've been pretty clear and so I'll just repeat this. The contracted parties took up an initiative to change their contracts to bring this DNS abuse to provide a greater ability to enforce the requirements in the contract there. It's in the middle of voting right now. We're very hopeful that it will be accepted by the contracted parties, both the registries and the registrars, and will provide new enforcement tools for ICANN compliance.

I think we've said from the beginning that this was a product of a contract negotiation between ICANN and the contracted parties. There is contemplated the possibility of many PDPs after this, and PDPs are the process by which the community is properly involved in those things. So I think we've been clear that this does not foreclose. These contract changes don't foreclose the ability of the community to participate in this discussion, and as I said, we are hoping to get closure on the contract amendments in the near future.

KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you, Becky. Microphone number one.

AKINORI MAEMURA: Thank you very much. My name is Akinori Maemura from Japan Network Information Center. We are now having quite a number of difficulties for our operation of the global Internet infrastructure, and then the intergovernmental arena's interest and concern on the Internet infrastructure is increasing, and we are having the WSIS+20 discussion. And then I welcome the new initiative of the global Internet infrastructure technical coordination meeting, which was held yesterday. That was a great starting of the discussion toward a much more established, much more organized operation of the global Internet infrastructure by the technical community.

I hope this kind of endeavor will be successful in the future, and then I'd like to contribute if I can for that kind of discussion. I'd like to remind you that this is the ICANN's 25th anniversary, and then it says that the ICANN's transition is a seven-year anniversary. Moreover, I'd like to emphasize that this is the 10th anniversary of the Montevideo Statement in 2013, which actually triggered the ICANN transition after that. So that was a really great example that the technical community can come together to have a really big influence to the society, and then maybe this new coordination meeting effort will be leading to another establishment of the technical community. I hope so. Thank you very much.

KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you very much, Akinori. And we have one hand raised in the Zoom room. Please, Alexandra.

ALEXANDRA DANS: We have a hand raised from Farzanet Badii. Farzanet, you can speak now.

FARZANEH BADI: Yes, hi. I wanted to make a comment about the public safety working group request to be granted confidentiality when using the disclosure system that ICANN is setting up. And this request and advice can have human rights implications. Not all law enforcement agencies around the globe are legitimate, and in some instances, they are outright human rights violators. They also do not follow the vigorous due process provisions that are followed in some other countries.

Oppressive regimes and nation states in conflict can actually abuse the system. I have looked at the board response to the confidentiality request, and I believe that we need to do a human rights impact assessment on this request, as well as the board response to the request, because merely we come here and we talk about respecting human rights by ICANN.

And then when we see such requests, we don't see mentions of human rights. Now, I'm a very reasonable person. I don't really expect you to mention human rights, but I think as a community, the responses that you issue, they should also consider what sort of human rights

implications they can have, and this is a concrete case of human rights implications.

And just saying that this is going to be too expensive, I can't grant you confidentiality, or in the matter of urgent requests as well, just like blindly saying that it's for urgent requests and be accommodating to law enforcement, while that there are human rights violators. And one of them is, I think, the lack of respect for human rights, and we need to address that. Thank you.

KATRINA SATAKI:

Thank you very much, Farzaneh. Becky?

BECKY BURR:

Yes, thank you, and thank you for this, Farzi. I just want to be, I think it might be useful to put a little context here. This is in the context of the Registration Data Request Service, or RDRS, and there was a request from law enforcement that the RDRS small team thought was worthwhile to take up, that law enforcement have the ability to request confidential treatment with respect to a request for registration data. There is no requirement in RDRS that confidential treatment be afforded. Law enforcement, each registrar who receives a request would be required to comply with their own laws and policies with respect to whether they grant that, including whether it is, in fact, legal, as it may or may not be, depending on the jurisdiction.

So there is nothing in this system that mandates that the registrar agree to confidential treatment, and all of that is being considered as, if law

enforcement comes forward, makes the case that there is a good reason consistent with law and applicable policy. For doing that, it is up to the registrar to decide whether they are going to comply with that request. But I also want to say, your point on thinking, articulating consciously, articulating the human rights issue, implications of all of this is well taken.

KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you. Microphone number two.

JORDAN CARTER: Thanks, Katrina. Good morning, everyone. My name is Jordan Carter. I'm from the .AU Domain Administration. I wanted to just thank the board and the organization for convening.

KATRINA SATAKI: I'm sorry, could you please speak slower for our interpreters? Thank you.

JORDAN CARTER: I was just thinking that. I will try to speak slower. Thank you for convening the discussion yesterday, Tripti and CK on the technical community coordination. It's only by discussing the issues that we face in the global digital compact and the WSIS+20 review together that we can learn from each other and develop our understanding and perhaps develop some shared messages or arguments to take forward into those forums. And we have to take them into those forums. I agree with

Harald's point earlier that we're not isolated from the politics and the governance that's going on, but we do have to be effectively present in it.

And I think if ICANN is prepared to step up and help to create the space for those dialogues, then we shouldn't wait to establish a perfect consensus about whether we need to do that. We just need to keep going because the GDC and the WSIS are going to happen whether we've decided we like it or not. So we actually have to have something to say. Working together in a genuine multi-stakeholder way is our way of developing that say.

So please keep resourcing it. Please make some space available in the meetings to come. And please keep reaching out to the other organizations to encourage them to take an interest. And the message for all of us in the community is to be doing the same thing in our home countries and in these forums to be engaging and thinking about these issues. So thank you.

KATRINA SATAKI:

Thank you very much. All noted. Microphone number one. Hi.

JEAN-FRANCOIS QUERALT:

Thank you for the opportunity to the board to be able to express our opinions. My name is Jean-Francois Queralt and I'll be sort of wearing different hats all across the comments and requests I'll be making partially NPOC, as well as my organization, the IO Foundation, and somehow as well as a parent. I'd like to start echoing Jordan's concerns

about what's happening and the way the technical committee is being treated and I would like him to find a solution to be able to sometimes provide some unified messaging just to make sure that certain things that we all have in our minds that we somehow don't want to verbalize may not happen.

I would like to, from a logistics perspective, I would like to request that in future meetings we start looking into the possibility of having one single room with different islands of tables for each of one of the constituencies or stakeholders instead of what we have right now of having to request on the spot if there's a free room somewhere to be able to have an ad hoc meeting for the constituents.

And I'm talking about someone needing a proper space to for their own work, but if you need to organize something with your own constituency, it would be nice to be having a place that is already established, even if it's with some turns or whatnot. Because, for instance, at some point we needed a place for NPOC and we only had 30 minutes allocated somewhere in the building. And just the time to place and to find the room, we already wasted some time.

I would also request the board to look into drawing from the experience that IETF has with their data tracker to be able to have more information about participation and both in the constituencies, but also the mailing list and so forth through an API or any other model to be able to have access to that information and be able to analyze a little bit more the dynamics inside of ICANN and, if ever possible as well, merging that data with other SDOs, what are the dynamics inside the SDOs themselves. And finally, no, no more time. Thank you.

KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you very much for your ideas and Sally will be happy to talk to you offline. Thank you. We have a comment online.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you, Katrina. The comment is from Ali Bashar from Saudi Arabia. Congratulations to the ICANN board on ICANN's 25th anniversary. I'd also like to thank the entire UASG and ICANN for organizing informative Universal Acceptance sessions at ICANN78. Listening new leadership members, especially Nitin Walia in all sessions gave me the definite impression of his considerable experience and passion to address UA issues, my warmest wishes to him.

I'd like to call on ICANN's whole board of directors as well as the board chair, the CEO and president to step forward and help UASG group in doing something together and addressing the important concerns before the next round with big tech companies. Also, the global Universal Acceptance Day concept is wonderful and ICANN should celebrate UA Day at the ICANN March meeting to support UASG. Thank you.

KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you very much. A brief comment from Edmon.

EDMON CHUNG: Edmon here. Thank you, Ali, and thank you for your comments. Certainly, the UA Day initiative is something that is very important for

really promoting Universal Acceptance and internationalized domain names. I also would like to add that this year the UA Day has successfully included many of the ALSs, the at large structures, to be part of the activities for UA Day.

I think that I'd like to point out to Jonathan and Maureen's team and the at large community that their participation has really added to the UA Day. But I also want to emphasize that of course the UASG is a great organization to work on this particular topic, but I think we will need to work with more organizations, as Ali you have mentioned, not only big business, but also UNESCO, ITU, and others.

This actually, the topic of Universal Acceptance and elevated to a multilingual internet and digital inclusion gives us an opportunity, gives ICANN the opportunity to work with the world, to work with the multilateral world as well. But I think this gives us the opportunity that we should take advantage of, and thank you Ali for bringing it up, and I think going forward UA Day is an important initiative that we can bring different stakeholders together to push for something that it's really meaningful, which is the multilingual internet.

KATRINA SATAKI:

Thank you very much. Microphone number two.

AKIMBO ADEBUNMI ADEOLA: Thank you. Akimbo Adebunmi Adeola. I'm an ICANN78 fellow and recipient of the Paul Muchene Fellowship Award. I'm grateful for the fellowship, and I hope to use it to continue engaging Africans as DNS

Africa Media and Communications. While I'm fortunate to have met Paul Muchene, we keep running, we will keep running the DNS Forum, DNS Africa Academy in honor of Paul. We had the first time in Africa last year, and we are hoping to do the second one very soon. The academy was created to educate Africans in the business sector on DNS sake and help support government decisions, policy development, and influence signing the road zone by related parties across Africa. Training and engagement is very, very key and important to us.

My concern is closed meetings on security by security or road related working groups. I advise that more effort should be put in place to engage prior to ICANN meetings to ensure that absorbing interested parties is possible to such closed meetings. We all understand that Africa does not have nine route service. If our route could help, it would go a long way in creating a path for the next generation, and this would really, really help us make more advances in Africa. Sally, I was able to send you a mail on the ICANN passport, and I hope we will be able to do something about it. Thank you very much.

KATRINA SATAKI:

Thank you very much for your comments. Sally, could you please?

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you very much. Thank you for our conversation. Thank you for your email, which I've had a very intriguing idea. So I wanted to just comment on the broader point that you or I already discussed, which I totally agree with, that I wanted the community and you, but I think this, but the wider African community to be aware that we will continue

to increase the amount of regional engagement meetings and activities online, offline, and hybrid that we do around topics and themes that our community wants to talk about, and we have a staff team inside ICANN who are dedicated to that work and will continue to work with you, and of course, Paul was a member of that, and that's very much, it's very dear to our heart.

Separately, as many of and it's also in my CEO goals, we are continuing to grow and build the Coalition for Digital Africa in partnership with many large African organizations. It's growing in strength and interest, organizations bringing programs together in a coalition, and many of them are about capacity development, and how do we bring, how do we coordinate that so that we don't duplicate, but we absolutely address educating and bringing online the people who really need it. So thank you for your leadership, and I look forward to working with you on that over the coming year.

KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you very much, Sally, and we have one more comment from Jim.

JAMES GALVIN: Thank you, Katrina, and thank you for your question. I want to pick up on one specific detail to comment on. You made a comment about security meetings being closed, and I did want to highlight for the community At-Large, at this meeting, SSAC, as SSAC's liaison to the ICANN board, we opened up our meetings at this meeting, and we will, going forward, have a position of meetings open by default. So if you

didn't avail yourself of that this time around, rest assured that will be true going forward. So thank you.

KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you very much, and just my colleagues helped me to extend my time running the meeting. Danko.

DANKO JEVTOVIC: Thank you, Katrina, very briefly on the root service. So the root service system is in discriminating ways serving the users worldwide, but I briefly checked now on the rootservers.org, there's 190 instances of root service in Africa. There are obviously 14 letters, and they're a recommendation, but SSAC is to have three or four root servers nearby, and the ICANN, with our ICANN-managed root server, root L, is doing a lot to increase the presence of our large root server instances in Africa, but I think we all strive to serve the internet users worldwide very well, but I would just like to take this opportunity to congratulate the root server operators on doing a fantastic job worldwide.

KATRINA SATAKI: Thank you very much, Danko, and with that, let me hand it over to Matthew Shears.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Thank you very much, Katrina. We really value this exchange and your questions, but I'm afraid to say that we have to close the queues at this

point, so Philippe and Nigel, you're the last in the two queues. But before we go there, we're going to go for an online question.

ALEXANDRA DANS:

I have a question from Azzam Al Ahmad; what is ICANN's role in preventing confusion between global domain names and blockchain domains? Currently, accredited registrars are selling blockchain domains, which can be confusing for registrants. They may register a blockchain domain only to discover that it doesn't work for their traditional websites and emails. Why is the term domain name used, which is associated with traditional DNS? Blockchain domain is actually an identifier, so it's better to use another name. Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS:

Sally, I think you're going to answer that.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you. Thank you very much for the question. I'm going to ask John Crain, who is ICANN's CTO, and I'm just -- There he is. John, would you mind just coming to the mic and answering that? Thank you so much.

JOHN CRAIN:

I'm not as tall as I thought I was. Thank you very much for the question. Emerging namespaces is actually quite a diverse and complicated subject. ICANN is very much aware of these emerging namespaces. We have published some documents, actually, that you might want to read

in the OCTO document series about some of the challenges. Further to that, we do actually have dialogue with the producers of those technologies.

In fact, this very week, there was a session where we had some of those engineers and business people in a room. The question of why they chose to use the term domain name, they, of course, chose it, not us, was posed to them, so I would point you to the records of that. If you read the documentation, the issue of confusability is indeed one that we have raised, and we will continue that dialogue with those people, and we are seeing more and more of them coming towards this multi-stakeholder community and participating, and I think that's a good thing, so the dialogue will continue with those organizations and businesses.

MATTHEW SHEARS:

Many thanks, John. Edmon, I think you wanted to add?

EDMON CHUNG:

Just adding to John a little bit, from the board's direction, at the Board Technical Committee, we are paying very much a lot of attention on this particular topic as well, but I did want to point out two things. One is that the DNS as a technology does allow different implementations, and there are implementations that would allow non-confusing usage of the DNS technology in good areas like RFID and some other places, but when it comes to confusion, that is certainly something that we care about at ICANN about consumer trust to the DNS. The other thing I want to add is that I think the IETF has also done work on a .ALT

implementation that could provide an avenue for such innovations to happen as well.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Thank you, Edmon. Back to microphone one.

ABDULKARIM AYOPO OLOYEDE: Thank you very much. My name is Abdulkarim. I am representing myself. Let me start by first of all congratulating ICANN on its 25th anniversary, and let me also start by sympathizing with Geoff on how he felt, and I hope that ICANN will continue to be a technical organization and isolate itself from politics. I also hope that the statement that ICANN org will be issuing would have a general rule so that ICANN would not engage itself in political wars and also political issues. I know it was quite tricky with the Russia-Ukraine, however, I hope that ICANN will learn and would not pick and choose the rules as to be general.

Therefore, I hope that the statement will be issued by the board will be general and stick to in future no matter who or which country is involved. Furthermore, during the Russia-Ukraine war, I can invoke the Section 3751 of the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement to help those who have their domain names registered in Ukraine. My question is, will the same be done for Palestine now or even Israel that was attacked by Hamas? Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Thank you very much for your comment.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you very much for your question. We will be publishing some guidelines on this issue on the ICANN org website, and our intention is to have something, a statement up there permanently to address this specific issue in these kinds of situations, so please keep an eye on that. Thank you very much for the question.

MATTHEW SHEARS: We're going to go to an online question.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you, Matthew. The question is from Monika Ermert; how will ICANN deal with potential non-DNS applications in the new TLD round? Will it just allow to register DNS TLDs for the very non-DNS strings in use outside of the DNS route, or will it allow alternative applications and delegate TLD strings for non-DNS applications? Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Who would like to comment on that?

SALLY COSTERTON: Yes, John, I'm sorry, could we ask you to come back to the microphone? Keep him busy.

JOHN CRAIN:

Hi, Monika, this is John Crain for the record. I'm just trying to distill your question. So I think you're asking similar questions to the gentleman before, but this is about the strings in those namespaces. We have an ICP document as one of the only documents we have on the issue of alternative namespaces and strings in other areas, and that has been discussed within this community. I don't think there is any other statement out there. I think, Monika, maybe you and I should go offline and you can ask your question to me directly and I can give you an answer that's more clear, because I'm not sure I really understand your question, sorry.

MATTHEW SHEARS:

Thanks, John. We're going to go back to microphone two, please. Hello, everyone.

ROMIA LASMIN:

My name is Romia Lasmin. I'm a former NextGen and current ICANN78 fellow from England. My question is from a technical aspect. So I have been working with a bank for many years now. So most large banking organizations, including ours, do not fully use DNS security. Research from DNS Security Institute has indicated that only 35% of most large banking organizations use DNSSEC technology for verifying their domains, but the data hasn't been altered yet. So my question to you is, does ICANN have any action plan regarding this, especially for financial institutions? Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you. What a very good question. I'm going to ask my team whether, because the short answer is I'm not sure, but can I make a suggestion that we come back to you with an answer on that, unless anybody on the team would like to answer now. Oh, John's coming back again. John knows. John, you need to sit closer to David.

JOHN CRAIN: I'm going to go and sit over there near the microphones, I think. This is John Crain for the record. We do not have a DNSSEC set of outreaches, et cetera, specifically focused at the finance industry. We do have a lot of work going on about deploying DNSSEC, training, et cetera. There are others in this industry that focus on the banking industry. There's a specific TLD that are focusing on a lot of security issues for banking, not just DNSSEC, but also things like DMARC, et cetera. But that is something we can take a look at and see if there is a mechanism for us to approach that specific industry around DNSSEC, because obviously we would like to see DNSSEC everywhere, and the financial industry is, of course, part of everywhere. So thank you for asking.

ROMIA LASMIN: Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Thank you, John. Don't disappear that way. We're going to go to an online comment.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you, Matthew. The comment is from Donna Austin; it seems that Sally Costerton, as the interim president and CEO, has doubled the goals of the previous CEO. Giving the importance of these goals, and that many of them are time sensitive, I trust that the interim CEO has the same power as an actual CEO to enable the fulfillment of these goals. Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Tripti, Sally?

TRIPTI SINHA: Yes, thank you very much for your comment. Indeed, Sally is empowered to do everything that is in her CEO goals, otherwise it wouldn't be a goal for her. Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Back to microphone one, please.

DOCTOR NANAYAA PREMPEH: Thank you very much, Matthew. My name is Reverend Doctor Nanayaa Prempeh, probably the unofficial chaplain of ICANN. I want to thank you for this opportunity. On Monday, I raised an issue of re-delegation, and Sally asked me to say it today, because this is the most appropriate place to talk about re-delegation. I am the GAC representative for Ghana, and I have a mandate as the chair of the board for the Ghana Domain Name Registry. I'll be mandated by my president to ensure that

Ghana moves forward as much as we can and as fast as we can when it comes to internet space. And that's all I'm doing.

My issue on re-delegation is not personal. I'm not here to attack any individual. I'd like to state for the record that I respect the current manager of the registry. He has done too much for Ghana, and I salute Professor Dr. Quaynor, because what he did when we were not around to do, we cannot under-appreciate him. That is for the record. As a mother of four, when you give up a baby for adoption, and your baby comes crying to you that my adopted parents are not taking good care of me, or I need more love, you cannot turn your back on your child. This is what I'm telling ICANN. When you delegate to individuals, to schools, to facilities, to manage a registry, and the government, the state, the entire nation is crying to you, you cannot turn your back on them and say it is not for ICANN to do.

So please, I want you to take a bold step and take care of re-delegation issues, because it's not going to stop coming. If you started with me, I'd like to appreciate Kim, John, and all those who met with me yesterday. I'm truly grateful. Let's move it forward, because more are coming. For love's sake, please tell Germany we need some meat. The bread is too much. We've had too much bread. Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS:

Thank you very much for your comment. Fabricio, over to you.

FABRICIO VAYRA:

Thanks. We understand perfectly what you're saying, but from the point of view of process, currently there is no request that's been received by ICANN/IANA for the transfer of the management of .GH. If such requests were to be received, there is a process that gets triggered and an analysis that's made. In particular, it's very important, and from what I hear, it's likely that you could reach an agreement between all the parties involved. That's what's been the first rule since the times of John Postel. If such an agreement is reached, ICANN will be ready to help it get into the IANA database, but before, there has to be an agreement. There are alternative scenarios that could happen also, but as I say, nothing of that will happen or start to happen if there is no request as the current situation.

MATTHEW SHEARS:

Thank you, Fabricio. We're going back to microphone two, please.

NAIMA AWAN:

Hello, everyone. I'm Naima Awan. I'm a first-time ICANN78 fellow from Pakistan. I have two very brief questions. I'm really interested to know what is ICANN's approach to adapting to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence? And secondly, I am aware that ICANN is a technical organization, and recommendations have been made to ICANN to operate as a technical organization, but I am interested to know that have there ever been discussions among ICANN to dwell into the world of Internet content and to address issues related to it, or ever in future would ICANN look into the Internet content? Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Who would like to... Becky, please.

BECKY BURR: So ICANN has a set of bylaws, which is essentially ICANN's constitution. It was the product of a long community consultation in connection with the IANA transition, and reflected the work of a cross-community working group on accountability for ICANN. The community elected to be very clear at that time that ICANN does not have the authority to regulate content on the Internet. That was not a change. That has always been the case since ICANN was created. It was initially in the contracts with registry operators, but was carried over into the bylaws. So ICANN's remit does not cover regulation of content, and that is a bright line test for ICANN.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Thanks, Becky. There was a second part of the first part of the question about AI. Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA: So, yes, AI is certainly on the rage right now, and inside ICANN organization, OCTO is indeed looking to see how AI could be applied to within ICANN's remit. So there are studies being done on that. Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Thank you, Tripti. Microphone one.

PAR BRUMARK:

Thank you. My name is Par Brumark. I'm the Special Envoy of the Government of Niue and a GEC representative of Niue. I want to speak about the re-delegation issues, but first I want to see if everyone here agrees that national law supersedes ICANN bylaws, because that is in the bylaws. So, something is very, very wrong here. We've been working for three years, we're in court in Stockholm, we're in court in Niue, and we will be probably in court in Los Angeles too.

Because somewhere on the way, I don't even know if this, it was mentioned that it doesn't reach the board, because somehow IANA, PTI IANA doesn't complete, doesn't want to complete the, especially the revocation questions. So I don't know if you've ever heard about .NU seeking re-delegation. We've done it basically for 20 years because there's a law in Niue, so it's protected.

The same law, similar to the French law, et cetera. But we cannot reach above IANA, it gets stuck there in PTI IANA. They refuse to, I think they have a hundred pages, we have proof of everything. We have a technical solution together with one of the largest companies. The domain was taken very early on during the internet cowboy years when people were running around taking domains. But this has to be looked at before, because this is discriminatory, it is, I don't know what to call it. Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS:

Thank you. Thank you for your comment. We'll consider it, thanks. Back to microphone two.

MARGIE MILAM:

Hello, I'm Margie Milam with Meta Platforms Inc. I'd like to acknowledge the hard work done by the ICANN and the contracted parties in coming together on the RAA amendments, but I'm here to help focus attention on the next steps for DNS abuse, because of the high level of DNS abuse that so many major brands and platforms face. For example, in 2023, Meta has reported and removed more than 6,000 abusive domain names, and that was just through April 2023, targeting the Meta brand. In 2022, we helped take down 140,000 phishing sites off our platform. This was a substantial decrease from 2021, where we took down 265,000 phishing sites off platform. You can see at that kind of scale, it's very difficult to address DNS abuse, but our experience is not unique.

I'd like to draw your attention to the Meta Adversarial Threat Report that we published at the end of August. In it, we share some of our insights on takedowns and various threats, with the hope that it will lead to further investigations and removals of what we see as a persistent influence operations across the internet. The report highlights a specific type of abuse called coordinated inauthentic behavior, or we call it CIB, which is essentially a coordinated effort to manipulate public debate for a strategic goal in which fake accounts are central to the operation. We see cyber squatted domain names target news organizations and media outlets to publish fake news.

The report highlights other things that relate to DNS abuse, and we bring it to your attention because the current definitions of the RAA just simply don't cover this kind of abuse, and so we're seeing that more novel solutions are needed. Indeed, this kind of abuse requires collaboration and mitigation across many platforms and infrastructure,

and we're looking forward to working with the ICANN community on the next steps for tackling this kind of abuse. Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS:

Thank you, Margie, very much for bringing this report to our attention. Back to microphone one, please. If you could be very brief, because we are running out of time, thanks.

OSCAR GIUDICE:

Good morning. My name is Oscar Giudice. I'm going to speak in Spanish. Oscar speaking. First of all, let me thank you for this wonderful event and for the opportunity to be here. This is my second time as a fellow. This year we heard about UA and IDNs in this very same space, and on many occasions I was able to participate in online working groups, and I see that they're only in English. I requested translation, but I was told this was not possible, and I asked for the possibility of having subtitles, because I can read English. I find it difficult to understand English, but I can read English very well. And I was told that this was not possible, that this was done in English, and that was the end of the story.

I offered myself to translate the webpage, and I was told that this was not of interest. I felt really frustrated, and I stopped participating in the meetings, and I would like to say that I am speaking in my own capacity, but this is a sort of double speech at ICANN. So my question is, whether ICANN is interested in Universal Acceptance and in IDNs, then why can't you offer resources for more people to be able to participate? Thank you so much. That was my question.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Thank you very much, Leon.

LEÓN SÁNCHEZ: Leon Sanchez speaking. Thank you very much. As a Spanish-speaking person, I share your concern. It would be natural to think that in a group that is intended to be inclusive, these resources are available. However, there are many resources available for the community in terms of interpretation and translation of documents and even subtitles. Let me be honest. With you, I am not joining these calls that you're mentioning, and I really don't know whether the Zoom tool has the closed captions option enabled. This is something that we can solve easily, and I am sure that the organization is listening to us. So for the future, it would be natural to at least have the closed captions options.

Now, in terms of interpretation and translation, this is a more complex issue, but this is not impossible. So I think it is this topic that you mentioned is important. Thank you for your comment, and this will help us to improve the tools that we offer for an inclusive participation.

OSCAR GIUDICE: Thank you for your reply.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Thank you Leon, and my apologies to everyone in the room. We are going to run over by a minute or two. Yes, next microphone, one, please.

LUCÍA LEÓN PACHECO: Hello, this is Lucia for the record, and I'll be speaking Spanish for their understanding. Lucia speaking. I was able to observe and research about the most relevant topics in the agenda, and the Global Digital Compact caught my attention. I do believe that establishing a model reduces the space for the ecosystem and for our participants that have been always recognized in the Internet's governance ecosystem. So the ICANN community and the organization should work together to guarantee that the multi-stakeholder model keep open spaces and not the other way around. A tripartite model, as it is the one proposed by the Global Digital Compact, closes spaces and goes against the multi-stakeholder model. And to make a point of clarification, I am talking in my personal capacity. Thank you very much.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Thank you very much for your comment. I do believe that some of your concerns that you raised are shared by the Board. Yes, could we go to Nigel and then come back to Jonathan.

NIGEL ROBERTS: Thank you, Matthew. My name is Nigel Roberts. I'd like to offer some observations on 25 years of ICANN, which is a corporation, nonprofit corporation and a community, a community which every person in this room is a member. I myself became involved in the community in 1997, first as a signatory to the original gTLD MOU, then as a participant in the IFWP from which ICANN arose. I've served in various organizations within the community, finishing up on the ICANN Board, which I left a

couple of years ago. I don't mention this for the purpose of self-promotion, but to highlight how I've been part of ICANN's journey since, as CS. Lewis wrote, the magic from before the dawn of time. With that in mind, I want to congratulate each and every one here and those who have gone before.

It's incredibly hard for recent entrants to understand the deep suspicion and lack of trust that ICANN faced when it was created. This was not helped by an attitude of, here we are, now we're in charge, both prior, here we are, now we're in charge. I shan't summarize every development over the last 25 years, but to say from my own perspective there was a sea change and a tipping point around the time of the ICANN transition six or seven years ago.

Now, nothing much happened really in reality, but everything happened in our perception of reality. ICANN really came into its inheritance in that year, or immediately after, resulting in the collective understanding that we seem to have today. Mark my words, this is not the end of the work. It's just, as a former Prime Minister of the UK said, the end of the beginning. Thank you for all you've done and for everything that you and those who have to come after are to do.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Thank you, Nigel. Much appreciated. Jonathan.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Yes, thank you, and happy anniversary. It is also the 20th anniversary of the ALAC, and so there's been a number of questions about the origins

of the ALAC, and so if you'll indulge me, I'd like to read you the story of the creation of the ALAC, the little engine that could. The land of ICANN users stood here, a land across, but they felt fear. Over the hill looked safe and sound, but on the ground hazards abound, how their hearts did pound. To the business engine they first did plead, please take us over the hill, past the hazards we see. That hill's too high, the engine replied, but good for business is good for you. The user sighed, we're not sure that's true.

Next the government train so grand, will you help us cross the land? The engine shook its head dismayed, too much red tape to lead the way. We'll find the way around, our plan for you is safe and sound, good for us is good for you. They answered, we're not sure that's true. Next the train of civil society, the engine spoke with all due piety. That hill is far too high to climb, it's rights not interests, we must mind. Good for registrants is good for you, it shared, with compassion and care its intentions bared. The users exchanged a doubtful view, we're not sure that's true, they whispered too.

Lastly, they asked the registrar crew, can you take us over, can you help us through? Our margins are narrow, our choices are few, there's just no way to carry you. Good for us is good for you, it voiced with a tone that left them feeling poised. The users exchanged a doubtful view, we're just not sure that's true. Just as hope started to fade away, a purple train arrived at the break of day. It wore the colors of ALAC so bold, a friendly smile never grew old. The purple train said with a helpful cheer, I'll give it a try, there's nothing to fear. With determination we'll reach the peak, together we'll overcome what seems so bleak. And ring, ring, ring goes the bell. I think I can, they

chanted in glee, as the purple train climbed wild and free. Higher and higher they reached the skies, with each passing moment their spirits would rise. I know I can, they shouted with delight, as they conquered the hill, bathed in the light.

The At-Large community had shown them the way, together they'd triumphed and come a long way. With hearts full of joy, users came round on the other side, safe and sound. We thought we could, they all agreed, for the At-Large community had met their need. I know I can, they declared with pride in this journey, they'd found a guide. With unity and strength they'd won the day, in the world of I can, they'd found their way.

Digital copies are available from At-Large staff, but I'm leaving two hard copies for Tripti and Sally here at the table. And I also just, I know I'm out of time, but I just wanted to thank Aubrey for her service, which while short, was incredibly effective, and your presence will be missed.

MATTHEW SHEARS: Philippe, please, and thank you for your understanding, everyone.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART: Thank you, Matthew, and how can I possibly follow this? I'm Philippe Fouquart, I'm the ISPCP Chair, speaking in my personal capacity here. It's more of a comment. I wanted to share a thought that we discussed over dinner. I will do this in English since I'm merely the messenger here, and was voluntold to do so. As you would expect after a couple of

classes, this thought is both trivial and profound. There's a need for collective corporate memory in this organization.

Despite the Hotel California syndrome, it's the fact that people leaving ICANN will change positions. We have to make do with this. Nonetheless, after a success story of 25 years, there's certainly a need to foster and capitalize on collective memory experience, individual memories, and at the very least, record agreements and understanding whenever we can.

The ongoing work in the SubPro, IRT, and the IDN, EPDP constant, mine is good examples of using people's experience and avoid reinventing the wheel, counter examples on the other hand include the appointment of the NCPH's seat this year, the excruciating procedure we had to go through, and the most unpleasant consequence for those impacted. So that's just food for thought, resulting from a very pleasant evening rather than hours of hard work, but we thought it would be worthwhile sharing. Thank you.

MATTHEW SHEARS:

Thank you. With that, I'm going to hand it back to Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Thank you, Matthew. Before I close, I wanted to go back to a comment that was made by the gentleman from Afghanistan. Thank you for highlighting the number of women in leadership roles today at ICANN, and regarding the situation in Afghanistan for women, it is very

disturbing and pulls at all our heartstrings, and it's very concerning that in 2023, that women are subjugated the way they are being subjugated.

But if this is of any comfort to you, I and many of my colleagues when we give our speeches emphasize that we firmly believe that internet is a fundamental human right. It is a global equalizer, and the ICANN supports the multi-stakeholder model, which includes all kinds of stakeholders from governments to civil society, and we all are huge supporters of equal access to the internet and rights for all humans. And ICANN takes its responsibility towards digital inclusivity very seriously through our efforts where we're pushing Universal Acceptance and IDNs and so forth.

And we hope to partner with United Nations where they have their SDG goals to bring broadband connectivity to countries, but again, our heart goes out to what's happening in Afghanistan, and it should not be happening in 2023. Should never have happened, period. And with that, I want to thank everyone who participated today. If you didn't get a chance to ask your question, please email it to publicforum@icann.org, and we will respond to you via email. And to my colleagues on the board, thank you for this discussion, and I'd like to give you my appreciation to our language services professionals for your exceptional support during this session.

We will see you next at the ICANN board meeting, which is going to be held in this room at 4 pm Hamburg time. This session is open to all. We look forward to your participation at ICANN79 Community Forum in San Juan, Puerto Rico, whether you plan to be there physically or attend

virtually. And again, thank you for being here and sharing your questions and comments with us. The meeting is adjourned.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]