ICANN79 | CF – At-Large Leadership Wrap Up
Thursday, March 7, 2024 – 3:00 to 4:00 SJU

GISELLA GRUBER: Good afternoon and welcome to the At-Large Leadership Wrap-Up Session. My name is Gisella Gruber and I am the participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior.

During this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. Onsite participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Spanish. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. Also, please speak at a reasonable pace. With that, I will hand the floor over to Jonathan Zuck, chair of the ALAC. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK: That's me. Jonathan Zuck, chair of the ALAC. Thank you, Gisella. Thanks to all of you. We made it through another ICANN meeting or just about. There were a lot of excellent sessions and we were a big contributor to that. I think we put on some good discussions that were well attended by the broad community. I think we're starting to build a reputation as conveners of discussions, which is good because we sometimes are like a neutral third party to some of the tensions that exist within the ICANN community. We'll talk some more about that. I just wanted to thank you all for your work here at this meeting.

As far as the aim of this meeting, I think it's primarily to get some reports back on what people's experiences were and hopefully bring to the surface any action items that we have coming from them so that we make sure that we have those recorded and have shepherds for them so that we don't drop the ball on anything that we've committed to or that we were inspired to do as a result of some of the participation over the course of the week. That's basically the point of this meeting. So let's just dive right in. I'm going to just ask Alfredo to go ahead and take the first topic.

ALFREDO CALDERÓN: Thank you, Jonathan. I'm one of the delegates to the NomCom and I'm here to talk to you a little bit about the process and where we are and what are the next steps.

Most of you know, just so that you're aware, that the NomCom is sort of an independent body within ICANN and the members selected represent all the communities within ICANN. We work apart from the Board so we have an independent way to process things within our group. Just to let you know, during the new recommendations that we received, we had sessions last week where we met with a couple of the leadership within the communities to get a clearer knowledge of what are the skillsets that they are looking for the positions that are open. We still have a few individual people that we would like to talk to, myself personally, so that I can better understand what they need within their community so that when we go through the process of assessing the different candidates, we have a clear idea of what we should focus on.

Having said that, you can see on the screen that we have some general skills that all the leadership positions should have, and we're trying to approach this in a way that, as I mentioned, we can dive into the specifics in terms of what each community needs. Next slide please.

This year, we're looking for seven leaders in the different positions that I'm going to mention. The first one—thank you—is three members for the ICANN board of directors. Some of us, and I'm talking about myself personally, I have been approaching individually some of the members of the Board to get an insight of what, as I mentioned at the beginning, they're missing and for the next open positions they would like to have on board. There are three positions, three seats that are open that we will be appointing by the end of summer. Next slide, please.

We have two positions that will be open for this round, which is one from Europe and one from North America for ALAC. Now, keep in mind that these are staggered positions. That's why this year, there's only two open slots that we need to fill for the next year. After that, you know that if it's staggered, it might be the other three regions that need positions to be filled. Next slide, please.

There's one position that's open for the ccNSO, the country code Name Supporting Organization, that we are looking to fill as well. And as I mentioned, we also had an opportunity to meet with them and talk about some of their needs. Next slide, please.

The GNSO is also looking to fill out one position, but I want to make it clear that this position is for a non-voting councilor. That gives us certain flexibility in terms of we're looking for somebody that's a consensus builder since this person shouldn't represent one of the communities. And we are also taking into account that for the Board's open positions, we're looking for people outside of ICANN but that have some knowledge that covers all the areas that we take care of in ICANN. Next slide.

In a summary, these are the seven positions that we are looking for. Each one of them has certain skillsets that we want to look into. I would invite you to go to the NomCom website and look at the job description, if you may. Although it's a little bit general, but as I mentioned, that gives you a starting point when you fill out the application. Now, let me talk a little bit about the process so you're aware of what's coming up. Next slide, please.

In the case of the ICANN Board, there's no geographical restrictions at this point. We'll see what happens a little bit further down the road based on what things are occurring on the Board. The next slide, please.

The deadline is the 15th of March at 23:59. Now, this is the situation we're confronting right now. We have a lot of applications that haven't been completed. Now, for us, the NomCom delegates that sort of puts us in a tight spot, because after that, we'll only have about four days to evaluate hundreds, probably, of application. Now, what happens in that process? During those four days, we're going to do a prescreening of all the applications to assess them before staff works on the documentation that we will be looking at in 23 days from now when we have the intersessional meeting in Istanbul, actually, to review the candidates that we want to move forward. That includes an assessment of each one of those candidates so that we can deal with the actual applicants that we suggest that move to the next step.

After that, we're going to have a lot of discussion so that we can work on the shortlist, do some interviews for some candidates, and set up the ICANN Board interviews which are on site. So we will be having individual interviews with them. In order to do this, we need to do all the due diligence necessary to get to that step. That means that by March 15, we need everybody that's interested in applying complete their application.

Now, we still have seven, eight days, and we're looking for qualified candidates. If you know someone outside of the community that's interested in applying, please invite them to apply if they feel they meet the requirements for the positions that are open. Either the Board or the different leadership positions in all the communities that are open in this round.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Is there basically one week left for them to do that?

ALFREDO CALDERÓN: Yes. Not basically, essentially. That's it. At 23:59, it closes. There's not going to be an extension. I emphasize, there is no extension. So please, if you're really interested, fill it out. Okay? The details are in the application form. The questions we understand that they're clear enough. All the documentation you need to support your application, most of you already have, and those that are interested in applying, make sure that you include the CV or resume. Now, my personal advice for those people that are applying, make sure your resume or CV reflects what you answer in your questions. Because the CV or resume will be used to do a deep dive and make sure that what you answer in all the questions in the application meets the requirements of what you said and what we're looking for. Next slide, please.

There you have the link to the website, the wiki page. We can look at all the details of the job descriptions for each one of the positions. Please, apply. And if you started your application, please close it by the 15th at 23:59. That's it from me. We're open to questions if you have any questions. Do you have a question or something to say? Here you go.

RON DA SILVA: Just three more interventions. This is Ron da Silva. Also on the NomCom. First, I wanted to stress the additional input we got from the ccNSO and the GNSO positions. They are explicitly looking for candidates that are outside of their domain. So someone for the ccNSO role that is not a ccTLD operator and someone for the GNSO role that is not currently active in the Contracted Party House or the Non-Contracted Party House. So two great opportunities for the At-Large community to engage in other parts of ICANN constituencies. They're looking for people who can navigate well and be effective and impact their communities, but explicitly looking for outsiders. That's one.

Then secondly, one of the things that the NomCom has discussed this year, which we believe will be something that needs to be developed in the future, is the advent of AIs becoming much more prevalent in applications. Now, the general feeling of the NomCom today is it's a tool no different than, say, spell check, where, in particular, non-native English speakers can use it to help better address grammar and provide some additional content. But still, it's important that it's their message and just using the tool to help make the message stronger as opposed to using the tool to go and get the answers and the responses from the Internet on their behalf and dropping them in there. That's going to be a challenge for the NomCom going forward and how do we discern those two uses of the tool. Then even are there things that the NomCom can do itself, using AI in some way to help with the screening process. So that's a future marketing pitch for… Yes, we've had some AIs apply, yes.

Then my third intervention is the review implementation for the NomCom goes into effect next year. What does that mean? The new delegate terms will be two-year terms starting next year with half of them being appointed as one-year terms next year, and then the other half will be a two-year term. So then the following year, the ones that were a single year will get a two-year. That way, every year, half of the NomCom will change and there'll be a two-year appointment going forward. So that provides some continuity. That's a good thing.

An unfortunate side effect of the Implementation Working Group is inadvertently decided it was good to spill the entire NomCom. Unintentionally decided to spill the entire NomCom. What does that mean? I mean, thanks to Alfredo and Leah and Sean and… Mia? No. Who else am I missing?

ALFREDO CALDERÓN: Betty?

RON DA SILVA: Betty, that's right. And Maureen, I think.

ALFREDO CALDERÓN: Yes.

RON DA SILVA: Unfortunately, you can't reappoint any of them. The rule says if you've served on the NomCom this year or last year, your NLs will be as a NomCom delegate. The At-Large community is going to have to come up with five new delegates to serve, preferably some with prior experience, but can't be experienced based on this year or last year. That's my interventions. Yes, Sébastien?

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you. Two short points. Thank you, Ron, for your additional points. Just to be more granular on what you say. For the ccNSO, you can't be a Board member of the ccNSO either. Therefore, some of us are, and therefore we can't apply to the ccNSO. It's not just one running the ccNSO. It's also the one involved in the governance of the ccTLD.

The second point, it's your last point, it's very critical and very difficult to accept and to take into account. Because that means that some of those people will not be able to apply to other position within the RALOs. They can't be applying for the ALAC because they are a member of the NomCom. And for the other seats, it was done at the same time. Therefore, during one year, no seat available. That's something we didn't expect. And when we put new people into the NomCom, it was to allow them for two times. Therefore, I hope that something will change on that. I heard that there are parts of ICANN who have decided not to care about that. So maybe we don't care either. Thank you.

ALAN GREENBERG: Thank you. Alfredo, I think I heard you say that for the Board positions, you were looking for people outside of ICANN. That's an interesting statement, given that two of the outgoing Board members are from within ICANN, including the current Board chair who apparently are therefore not eligible. Thank you. Interesting.

RON DA SILVA: I think, Alan, that was a general statement regarding consideration for Board seats. The NomCom has a unique position in the appointing process to consider outsiders. I don't think Alfredo meant all three will be outsiders. That's not a criteria that we're using in our decision process. It's a generalization that there's always a desire to have independent directors. And a good way to get them into the consideration is to invite them to the Nominating Committee process.

ALAN GREENBERG: Just to be clear, I understand that. And if he had said we are interested in finding people outside, that was very different to say we are only accepting people from outside.

ALFREDO CALDERÓN: I'll clarify, that's not the case. We would like to see somebody from outside of the community, but not that we're going to appoint people all three seats from outside. I hope that makes it clear.

ALAN GREENBERG: That has been done in the past.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you very much. Sticking on a dusting off a hat. We've had something to do with this now dreaded review of the Nominating Committee and all its unintended consequences. Let's just reassure people going forward once in fact the—what if we wanted term unaffiliated director proposal is in where there is an encouragement for certainly as, if at all possible, a minimum number of external to ICANN directors being appointed. It will not affect sitting Board members. We made it very, very clear that being on the Board and being able to reapply because you're not termed out didn't mean you were suddenly seen as "affiliated". So whilst you're sitting and you are able to reapply in terms of your term limitations, your example of Tripti not being able to reapply, we did take that one into account. Thanks.

JONATHAN ZUCK: All right. I think that's it for questions and comments. Exciting update. I think one of our action items is going to have to be to get together and whiteboard all the things for which we're going to need people. There's a lot of conversations going on about a lot of groups forming that are going to require our large volunteers. So it's going to go deep into our bench to figure out continuous improvement, ATRT4, Pilot Holistic Review, the NomCom. There's a lot of things at once that we're going to have to dig deep for. So start thinking about what you might like to do as a side thing, as a hobby.

CHERYL LANGDON ORR: Another full-time job.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Exactly. As your second full-time job. That's right. Okay. Thank you, NomComers. Thank you for your updates. Then let's go ahead and do the session reports. We have a couple of liaisons that are still in the closing sessions of those groups so we're going to try to push the liaison reports to the end. But let's do session reports next if we can. I guess with that, I'll go to Hadia.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Jonathan. We will start with the first session on the 2nd of March, which is the IDN EPDP Work Session. Satish Babu will report on this.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Hadia. For convenience, I'll talk about the EPDP on IDNs and then follow on with Universal Acceptance.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: I have a process issue here. If we go through all that, we don't have time. Therefore, may I suggest that we ask each one of the reporters just to say what its concern for At-Large, what we need to do, and not a report of all the meetings? Because we were supposed to have 40 minutes, and we already don't have. And I will stop here.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Great suggestion. We're only really interested in the topics of interest At-Large and action items, for sure. That's what we really want to capture most is action items for this group.

SATISH BABU: For EPDP IDNs, we had one session this week. There's nothing that we need to do right now. We'll have to wait for the work to be complete by the third week of March and then respond to the Phase 2 Report draft.

On the Universal Acceptance, there are a couple of issues. We were trying to enhance the governance aspects of Universal Acceptance. Today's public forum, we saw some chatter in chat which was not very wholesome. That's the reflection of the fact that we're trying to clamp down on, what shall I say, trying to enhance accountability, trying to ensure that there are no multiple people who are anonymous, who are trolling the system. Even to the extent that it can be called as capture because you don't know who the people are voting and how many votes do they have. So we're trying to set that system right.

So we had a meeting with the Board, IDN Working Group. Edmon was here. We're trying to ensure that these kinds of things are taken care of and that will take some time. Perhaps, it will create some dynamic which we might face in these kinds of situations. Also in the UA Day, we had hit a hard ceiling on the ability for the ICANN contracting services to manage contracting of these projects. The maximum was about 50, whereas we had much more than that, 65 to 70 valid, good applications. So we could not service them. Even those that had zero budget, there was a kind of contractual requirement if they wanted to use the ICANN logo. That had actually created a big bottleneck. There were a lot of complaints or feedback from different parts of the community saying that we had given good proposals but we're not able to get funding for that.

We put in a constraint saying that one country, one proposal only. But even then, we could not do more than 50 plus countries. There are totally about 65 countries which are applied. So this is actually a problem and we are trying to see how we can address this. We have communicated this to the Board Working Group and that is what it is. I'll stop here. Thank you very much.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Satish, for this update. Now we go to the SubPro Implementation Review Team Work Session. For that, we have Bukola, Tijani, and Justine. I'm not sure who's going to take the mic.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay. Thank you very much. First of all, I would like to thank a lot Bukola for volunteering to report because she is new and she volunteered and she attended each and every session. So thank you very much. This is a project of a very good leader.

This session was about the implementability of Implementation Guidance 25.3 of the SubPro. This guidance said that the applicant for a string can be processed up to, but not including, the contracting, even if the script is not yet integrated in the root zone Label Generation Rules. The staff, the ICANN Org, thinks that this is not implementable because of several things. One of them is the IDN EPDP Phase 2 Final Report recommends restricting the applied-for gTLD string to those which conform with the Root Zone Label Generation Rules. Because also when it goes through the review, this application may be rejected by the DNS Stability Review Panel because also it wouldn't go through the String Similarity Review process since there is no variant, it is not in the generation label, etc. Even those who put this guidance agreed that this is what we have to do. We don't have to implement it. It is not implementable as it is.

The second question that was addressed in this meeting was about the Quick Look Mechanism regarding the objections. This mechanism is designed to identify and eliminate objections that are manifestly unfounded and/or are considered as an abuse of the right to object. Two main cases were discussed. The first one is multiple objections on the same ground filed by the same or related parties against the same applicant, and this is considered as harassment for the applicant. The second case was about the objection that criticizes the applicant solely on grounds beyond the evaluation criteria rather than the applied-for string.

Several discussions were made about the first point because if the objection is relevant, perhaps even if it is made several times, even it is by the same party, it might be something that we have to consider. It might not be considered as harassment. And the most obvious case is multiple objections by multiple objectors. This is a confirmation of the objection not harassment. I think this is all for this session. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Tijani. Bukola, would you like to add a few words?

BUKOLA ORONTI: Tijani has said it all but the thing that was concluded during the outlook flowchart was that there were lots of discussions around it and so the conclusion was that it would be revisited by the team, and then we'll come back to discuss it later. So that was the conclusion. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Any action items for us? I think that's the key thing. Is there anything we need to do in between as the At-Large?

BUKOLA ORONTI: For now, we just need to monitor the meetings as it goes. Then once there's a conclusion, we'll get back to the team. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Bukola. Now the Transfer Policy Review PDP Working Group. Shah?

SHAH ZAHIDUR RAHMAN: I will only give the action points, right?

JONATHAN ZUCK: Yes.

SHAH ZAHIDUR RAHMAN: Okay. There are many discussions. As you know, there are PDP's recommendations and lots of discussions also happened. But I find out during the discussions that one is the working group is in discussion and facing the challenges sorted out that mechanism for the suitable part of the research on that TEAC and TDRP pros and cons. If any consumers and the end user might face that is stolen or their data at the dispute resolution, so they are looking for more comments from us. There were no such comments came from the end user's perspective so they are open to get that comments from us that was identified. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Shah. I see that you wrote here two points which is creating a new standalone dispute. We need to report on that, we need to provide feedback on that?

SHAH ZAHIDUR RAHMAN: This was my point I was likely to more discuss, but the action point is I find out this one.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Okay. Thank you. And now we go to the DNS Abuse Standing Committee Community Update. Aris?

ARIS IGNACIO: Hello. Good afternoon, everyone. For the DNS Abuse Standing Committee, some of the action items that the session has come up, because they had this draft report and they are recommending in a way that At-Large can be on this would be we can review the Committee's draft report and we can provide feedback up to the end of this month. They do have that online form and even through e-mail. Also, it would be good to engage with the Committee and also other stakeholders in the topic of DNS abuse, more on an awareness level through webinars, mailing lists, and even through meetings. Lastly, maybe we could advocate for the interests and perspectives of individual Internet users in the DNS abuse debate and also promote a safe and secure learning environment. That would be all. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you so much, Aris. I think the most important and timely point is point number one which is reviewing the Committee's draft report and provide feedback by March 31st. Now, we move to the Transfer Policy Review PDP Working Group. Shah, do you have—or is it the same update?

SHAH ZAHIDUR RAHMAN: No. This one is another update. Actually, the second part was discussion on that domain transfers that is within the 30 days of why it is now flexible and possible. I identified one of those recommendations that is relevant to that end users is on establishment of relationship. Working group discussion has questions for the end users. What exemptions should customers with an established relationship could be provided? There was a discussion between the registry and registrar relationships. On that resistance part, what, from our end, could be the relationship suggestion we can give. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Shah. We move to the ICANN Grant Program. For that, we have Lilian, Claire, and Bukola.

LILIAN IVETTE DE LUQUE BRUGES: Takeaw ays and, actually, things more. Being a global and competitive program, the community at large must be sufficiently informed so that the greatest numbers of organization members, present projects that are in line with the ICANN mission. We must also identify why types of projects proposed in the program objectives are those that can benefit our region the most and encourage the application of this proposal. The different RALOs must promote and encourage the participation of their ALS members in this program, carry out a new training cycle of this program for the community, keep the community informed of any updates on this program, especially about deadlines. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Lilian. Any additions from any other group? Okay. Good. Now it's you Jonathan and the Contracted Party House DNS Abuse Community Outreach.

JONATHAN ZUCK: I think the key takeaway is going to be finding a balance from that session. A balance between increased enforcement on the part of ICANN Contracted Compliance using the amendments and making sure that we're not unduly changing the behavior of the good actors such that due process is being trodden upon. Justine has actually suggested that starting with ICANN80, start having a standing session about how that is progressing. I think we may try to look into that for ICANN80 to convene folks and convene a discussion about how Contracted Compliance's progress is taking place. I think that's our big action item there.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Jonathan. Now we move to Sébastien. Address Supporting Organization Work Session.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Okay. Thank you. I was just the first one of the 12. Obviously, it was not possible, but to be too old. What is important is that they are working on rewriting the IPC2. That means how we create a new registry for IP addresses and also how we close one. That's something who concerns us about what is happening in AFRALO but who could concern us in other regions in the future. Therefore, I think we need to follow even if it's from far this work. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: I see, Sébastien, also that you mentioned participating at the level of the Regional Internet Registries. You're suggesting that At-Large participates at the Regional Internet Registry level?

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Yes. But they didn't come on that because almost all the RALO have an MOU with Regional Internet Registry. Therefore, it's obvious that we need to do that. But yes, specifically on IPC2, I will not answer, but there were three IPC, 1, 2, 3. One is about IANA, one is about ccTLD, and one is about IP addresses. That was at the beginning of ICANN. And therefore, it's the first time one group tried to rewrite one of these fundamental documents from ICANN. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Sébastien. Now the SubPro Implementation Review Team Work Session 2. I don't know if you have an update for each or maybe you can make all the update for all three sessions. Bukola?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay. This report was done by Justine. My name is Tijani. ICANN Org provided an update on the next round Implementation Plan covering implementation of the 126 Subsequent Procedure Recommendations adopted by the Board with the 10 recommendations still pending revision by the GNSO Council as well as the other pending dependencies. The second point is how the IRT undertake its work and timelines for the May 25 completion of the Applicant Guidebook text. The third point is a timetable of the three public comments for parts of the Applicant Guidebook. The last point is the draft Applicant Support Program Handbook. Justine wrote what are the At-Large specific takeaway. At-Large should follow progress of IRT work, paying particular attention to topics of importance for us. And what are the At-Large specific action items? At-Large should participate in the Public Comment as needed and note that there will be no extension for the Public Comment. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Tijani. I guess since Justine wrote the report, there is nothing to add from Bukola. Satish, you wanted to say something here?

SATISH BABU: Just for the information of At-Large, At-Large is done pretty well in the UA Day submissions and the proposals. We have about 66%. You're going to repeat that? Wait a minute. Hadia will give you the details of this. But the other thing that there was a controversy is about the Global UA Day celebration, last year it is in Delhi, India. This year, it is in Serbia. And we have had some pushback from the community as to why we are doing this in a country which is aligned with Russia, especially from friends of Ukraine.

The person from Belgrade, Serbia who had come here, he had made a presentation. First of all, we had only one proposal and that is from Serbia. We didn't have any alternative proposals. Secondly, it turns out that this is an independent tech research organization and it's not connected to the government. They manage two IDN domain names and they have already some 3500 IDN domain names registered. They promote a Cyrillic script online. So they have made it very clear that they are not aligned with the government. The Board has taken the decision much earlier before this controversy came up. The letter to the Board came after the decision was announced. But ICANN has seen fit to go ahead without any change whatsoever. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Satish, for this further information. And now we go to the GAC. Yes?

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you. It's difficult to see. Just to inform you that as it's happening in Europe, we will have somebody going to represent At-Large at this event in Serbia and it will be Roberto Gaetano. Therefore, if you have information that you want him to deliver in his presentation during the session in Belgrade, please do so. Send it to staff or directly to Roberto. Thank you very much. We are very happy to have somebody going there. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Sébastien. We are still going to talk about this during the Universal Acceptance Outreach session. We go to the GAC Discussion on DNS Abuse Mitigation. This is Joanna and Amrita, but Amrita is providing the report.

JOANNA CHOUDHURY: Thank you, Hadia. I will not go into the details. It's mentioned there. DNS abuse was discussed. Mitigations were discussed. What is of interest to us is everyone agreed there is need for more consumer awareness on DNS abuse types of abuse, the different threat actors, also how to make people aware of the reporting mechanisms. That's something which is very important. People are not aware.

Things to observe is how can we emphasize more on the consumer awareness outreach part and how we can get the registrars, registries to actually work with us. And also, since the CPH reports on DNS abuse are going to start being enforced from April 2024, they are expecting at least in the next six months a report to come out and then every quarter is something which GAC is expecting. Looking at the reports, the rates and how the trends and the main threat actors would be of interest to us also. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Amrita. Then the next session is the Universal Acceptance Steering Group Governance and Plans Working Session. Satish already has provided an update on that. Now we go to Bill Jouris and the New gTLD Program Next Round Planning for String Similarity Review Work Session. Bill, the floor is yours.

BILL JOURIS: Basically, they were making a presentation about the document that is currently open for public comment. The takeaways for us are all of the things we've griped about for the past three years have been addressed, almost. So I think we need to get a public comment out to commend them on getting all of those things right, and also to raise the one remaining detail that they haven't considered which is underlining of domain names, which happens automatically in web browsers and word processing software. I mentioned that in the meeting and they went, "Yeah, right. Put a comment and we need to know about that." So we need to do that. The deadline for all of this is coming up, 27th, yes. So the CPWG will have to make haste.

JONATHAN ZUCK: We have a meeting coming up this Wednesday, even though I think it'll be without interpretation. But we do have enough to discuss that. We're going to go ahead and have one. So much for taking a week off.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Bill. And now we go to the Universal Acceptance Day 2024 Overview Work Session. This is me and Laura. I'm going to be providing the update.

Basically, the shortlisted proposals are 56 proposals, and 51 national events and five regional. Out of those 56, 37 events are actually from At-Large. So, we did pretty well.

Then also linked to the report here you is the support material available, which is provided by the Universal Acceptance Steering

Group. There are also some points on how to promote your Universal Acceptance Day, some a strategic approach.

Then also there was an update about Universal Acceptance Day 2024 Keystone event. As Satish said, it's an event marked in Belgrade, Serbia. It's on the 28th of March. Registration is currently open. It's initiated by a Universal Acceptance local initiative in Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern Europe. Again, the registration is open.

What are the At-Large specific action items? As I mentioned, we have 37 proposals from At-Large. So each RALO needs to actively help and promote its Universal Acceptance Day approved events for wider participation from the community and the Universal Acceptance Day. So basically, this is the message to all the RALOs. Sergio, yes?

SERGIO SALINAS: I'm missing in that report. I was part of the report with Laura, and I didn't see my name in the report. I wish that I had been able to share the report as well.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: I must say that I'm in the report. So if your name is missing—but it's okay. Laura told me that she had the same exact information. So we are happy to put your name as well, for sure. Okay.

So, now we go to the Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group. Sébastien, Harold? I put like two bullets. Sébastien?

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Harold, please go ahead.

HAROLD ARCOS: Thank you, Sébastien. Hi, Hadia. Okay. As we know, the CIP group is developing a framework there and over to the Holistic Review pilot.

Okay. Basically, the CIP held this monthly meeting #4 during ICANN79. In this case, At-Large will be interested in answering questions about the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the AC/SO and NomCom and if you feel that you are doing your job well, then what process would you improve further?

And the same idea, At-Large will be interested in organizations and members of their structure being informed of these criteria exercises to make bottom-up contribution that enrich the construction of the framework that will define the continuous improvement process for AC/SO and NomCom in the future.

About the next steps, after ICANN79, CIP volunteers must coordinate with the leadership of their home groups to locate a recurring space which they can update their organization and request contribution for the execution and [inaudible] takes place in CIP [inaudible].

From our monthly ALAC meetings, we can report this [inaudible] is EIP. And finally, we consider that it's through [inaudible] who worked on developing [inaudible] to measure three topics that measure. If it [inaudible] purpose, basically on the purpose as defined in the bylaws, if doing things effectively, and if it is doing things efficiently. These were the three key points in this. Maybe Hadia, Sebastien, do you want to add some more?

HADIA EL MINIAWI: I have nothing to add. Sebastien?

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: It's okay with me.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you so much. We move to the next topic. Maybe we could mention the five principles being discussed quickly so that the RALOs know what's being discussed and think about it. So the five principles, basically, the objectives of the Continuous Improvement Program principles are purpose effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, and collaboration.

Now we move to the GNSO SubPro Supplemental Recommendations Community Consultation. Tijani?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: The meeting was canceled.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you. Okay. Now we go to the Registrars and ICANN: Validation, Verification, and Accuracy. And for that, we have Eduardo.

EDUARDO DIAZ: Oh, my.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: I skipped that.

EDUARDO DIAZ: That was a different meeting from an At-Large meeting. But there were basically the complaint about how much it costs to validate and certify, people that buy domains. Some of the recommendations, we should participate in some of that so we can help them reduce the price, because that price will eventually reflect into how much the domain costs. Let's see what it is. This was a meeting also of capacity building for registrars. They want to get some of the registrars to join this constituency. It's not funny, but very strange meeting. These things that we're doing about action items, I think we should prioritize them because this is very low in the food chain. And the other thing is if we're going to take the time to make action items, we should follow them. But there's some action items there, they're farfetched like do all this, and I don't think we have enough time or resources to do it. Thank you.

JONATHAN ZUCK: It's okay not to have any action items from the meeting.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Eduardo. Now we go to Claire and the FY26-30 Strategic Plan Development Community Consultation.

CLAIRE CRAIG: Hi. Just one action item I would like to highlight and that is that we need to find ways to ensure that the information for the development of the Strategic Plan is communicated to our end users, particularly to the RALOs, and encourage them to let their voices and views be heard so that they can help to shape the new Strategic Plan. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Claire. The ICANN Grant Program, Lilian, Bukola, and Claire. So I don't see a report in front of me. But if you attended the session, would you like to comment on it?

CLAIRE CRAIG: Hadia, Lilian commented on it already.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Okay. So that's the whole thing. Okay. Because there was another one. The SubPro IRT Work Session, are you commenting again? You've already done that. That's the third session? Yeah. Okay. We're good. Were there new items on that one?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Yes. It is about the Application Change Request, which is a process to allow applicants to request changes to application materials that are reviewed by the ICANN Org against the change request, make a determination criteria and subject to the approval of the ICANN Org. The determination criteria are about explanation, evidence that the original submission was an error, the cause for change, precedents, impact on third parties, materiality, and timing. For the record, the request may be done throughout the application process and evaluation and during the contracting process. Some requests change may require a 30 days comment period or reevaluation, or both. So this is what was discussed.

For At-Large, I think, for all this IRT work, we need to continue to follow, especially the issues that are of importance for us. I want to say that everyone, in my point of view, should participate in the Public Comment. We have a lot of things that we can impact if we comment during the Public Comment. Thank you.

HADIA EL MINIAWI: Thank you, Tijani. I guess when we summarize the action items, we can highlight those important points. You have the floor again for the GNSO Council Small Team Plus SubPro Supplemental Recommendations Work Session, and this happened today at 9:00 am.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: This was the one that was canceled. The other was an informal session. It was a session between us, between the members of the small group, just an informal to prepare for the session that was canceled this morning. It's not our problem. It was because we didn't receive any comments, any feedback.

JONATHAN ZUCK: I'm going to just take the microphone back over because we're toward the end. I just wanted to give people the chance who had gotten these assignments to speak up and to participate. We have written action items which the staff will collect and we'll sort of parcel out to the appropriate working groups that we have so we go through them. And we have some action items from our face-to-face meetings, including with the SSAC and the Board. We're going to revisit our comment on contention resolution, and I think get back into trying to get the GAC on Board with our proposal there. So we've got a lot to work on. In the very near term, it's only 13 weeks until Kigali. So, this is always a short turnaround time. Is it critical?

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Yes, because we missed one report, and this report is about ATRT4 and Holistic Pilot Review. Therefore, we will have to work on that. We will have to answer the letter. I will stop here. But it's an important topic for all of us.

JONATHAN ZUCK: It is. You're right. So that's going to be coming up via OFB. But we're going to have to answer the letter. I already gave an initial response to some of the people on it. But we're going to have to get specific about what we want to do there and how we want to scope ATRT4 more narrowly and there's lots to discuss there.

I was hoping to leave time at the end for the liaison reports. But we're at the end, so we'll read them, and again, extract action items from them. We're about to lose our interpretation and things. So please join me in thanking the interpreters for working so hard for us.

CLAIRE CRAIG: I haven't seen it in the list, but we need to remind persons that we will be having meetings next week. We normally don't have meetings the week after an ICANN meeting, but there will be an OFB meeting on Thursday. So look out. I'm not sure the rotation time because of that critical item that Sébastien just spoke about, the ATRT4. So there will be an OFB meeting and we look forward to seeing you all there.

JONATHAN ZUCK: And the CPWG meeting. I expect to see everybody on them because this is an all-hands-on-deck time with all of these groups forming and volunteers needed and positions needing to be taken. So let's get on it. Don't skip those meetings.

The other thing we decided to do is to do a special call with the NextGen and Fellows because there's always this disconnect once they get through their meeting, how do we keep them and how do we reengage them? I got questions at the DNS women's event last night, "What do I do next?" So I think let's just explicitly have a call where we invite the Fellows and the NextGen that are interested in At-Large to come on, take their questions, share their observations in the meeting, and also get explicit about how they can get engaged in OFB, CPWG, and the new community engagement workgroup. So I've talked to Denise about it. I won't invite you to speak now because we're out of time. We're going to do a dedicated call with both of them.

DENISE HOCHBAUM: So we are having one for the monthly call, which we have on 20th or 21st. We are inviting all the APAC fellows to come and share their views.

And we have a read-out where Shah, one of the Fellows, giving their experience in our region.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: We will have three Fellows in our read-out.

JONATHAN ZUCK: That's great. That's excellent. We're also going to just do a general call with all of them if we can so that we make sure and capture everyone.

All right. Thank you all so much as your time here and your continued efforts. There's lots of work ahead of us. And go to the Board meeting. It should be very exciting. All right, thank you.

GISELLA GRUBER: This meeting is now adjourned. And I'd like to once again thank our tech staff and interpreters with whom these meetings would not happen. Thank you again.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]