
ICANN79 | Prep Week – Policy and Advice Update
Thursday, February 22, 2024 – 11:00 to 12:00 SJU

ANDREA GLANDON:

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DAVID OLIVE:

Thank you, Andrea. Welcome, everyone, to our Policy and Advice Webinar Update. In addition to the Policy Outlook Report for ICANN79, we use this webinar series to help people prepare for the meetings, giving you a high-level overview of the activities and planned work of the Supporting Organizations and the Advisory Committees at ICANN79. ICANN, of course, will feature a welcome ceremony, and this will also be linked to the presentation of the ICANN Community Excellence Award on Monday, March 4th. I’m always very pleased about this [inaudible] the Board and Community recognition. So we look forward to that. In addition, there’ll be a Question and Answer period for the ICANN Organization executives, a public forum, a public meeting of the ICANN Board, and other ways for the community to advance their policy and advice work in priority areas. And there’ll be various sessions between the ICANN community groups and the ICANN Board.

I want to thank everyone for their preparation and time today, as well as their commitment of time and effort in our various working groups and organization activities. So, we welcome you to ICANN79, be it remote or in person. I want to encourage all participants, whether newcomers or not, to be actively engaged in our ICANN Community Forum. We're also going to be showcasing some new approaches, somewhat of an experiment for the policy webinar, and some new faces who are members of our Policy Team who you may be working with on a daily basis but we want to also make sure that they're featured here today. So thank you very much. And I turn it over to Dan, who will be our moderator today. Thank you, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Thank you very much, David, for the wonderful introduction. And thank you, Andrea, for getting us started. Thank you for everyone in the chat right now introducing yourselves. I really appreciate that. That's right, Dan from the ICANN Policy Development Support Team, based in the home of ICANN77, Washington, D.C. Today, we're here to talk about what's going on policy-wise to get you ready for ICANN79 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Now, before we get into a discussion about representation in the United States' districts and territories, we should probably get started talking to my wonderful Policy teammates. For those keeping score at home, this update's going to be condensed a bit. We're down to about 60 minutes. We're going to try to squeeze in the same amount of content. Bit to juggle, but no one does it better than the Policy Team. We're preparing to juggle to support of over 75% of the 228 sessions at

ICANN79. These sessions feature the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees that participate in the multistakeholder model of policy development here at ICANN. This is a decentralized governance model that allows for a community-based, consensus-driven policymaking.

We have a regular Zoom room, as Andrea mentioned earlier. So if you have any questions, send them in the chat box in the format that Andrea already provided. Otherwise, raise your hand and we'll call on you if we have time. If we don't get to you on time, we'll follow up with your questions at the end of the webinar.

Also about to go into a chat is a resource document, if it hasn't already. I see it right there. Get around it and follow along and see what the prepared materials we have for this webinar and the meeting at large. Now, I think about it, not sure if using the word at large there was proper because I think we're going to start today with the GNSO. Our first guest is our Music City correspondent, Caitlin. Caitlin, thank you very much for joining us today. How's everything going by you?

CAITLIN TUBERGEN:

Hi, Dan. Thank you. Yes, Dan's correct. I am the Music City correspondent, otherwise known as Nashville, Tennessee. I will be discussing a little bit more about what is in store for the Generic Name Supporting Organization or the GNSO.

DANIEL GLUCK: Awesome, awesome, awesome. I've been trying to see what's going on with the GNSO and following all the different topics. There's no Prep Week webinar this go around for the Council, so we might as well jump straight into some ICANN meeting sessions, right?

CAITLIN TUBERGEN: Sure. Thank you, Dan. For the new people in the audience, I'll just quickly touch on what the Generic Name Supporting Organization or GNSO is. That is the Supporting Organization that is responsible for developing and recommending policies related to generic top-level domain names at ICANN. To that end, there are two working groups that will be meeting at ICANN79 that are working on policies.

The first is the Transfer Policy Review Working Group. That group is looking at the topic of the rules governing what happens when a registrant transfers its name from one ICANN accredited registrar to another. That group will be holding two sessions at ICANN79 and it will be discussing the rules around change of registrant or what happens when a domain name holder or registrant updates certain contact information. That group is going to be discussing its preliminary recommendations on that topic and there will be some time for audience members and remote participants to provide real-time feedback to those recommendations. That group is also going to be discussing a little bit about what happens with a 30-day post-transfer restriction, which is essentially a lock on a domain name that happens when a customer transfers its domain name to a new registrar or creates a new domain name. They'll be discussing that as well.

The second working group that's going to be meeting at ICANN79 is the Expedited Policy Development Team on Internationalized Domain Names. That group has one working session where they will be finalizing their Phase 2 Initial Report. And their Phase 2 Initial Report has topics related to second-level IDN variant management. So anyone interested in going to that session, that will be an open session as well.

Then one other policy topic I'd like to quickly touch on is not technically a working group, but many of you have probably heard about the Next Round or Subsequent Procedures. The GNSO Council, which is the group of leaders over the GNSO, they convened a small team to look at the recommendations that were not adopted by the Board related to the next round. And that team will be updating both the GNSO Council as well as the community on where those recommendations will land. And also, there will be a more detailed webinar on the work of that group later today as part of Prep Week. So if you are interested in that topic, we recommend attending that webinar.

DANIEL GLUCK:

That sounds great. Now, I guess let's go a bit deeper in some of these different subjects here. You've been working close with the different support staff, you've been working close with the Transfer Policy Review. How's that looking? Everything's going well there?

CAITLIN TUBERGEN: Yes. That working group had decided to combine all of its topics into one mega Initial Report. It used to be a phased effort. But because there were a lot of dependencies between the different recommendations, all of those recommendations will be combined into one Initial Report. That group is on track to publish its Initial Report sometime this summer. The change of registrant topic, which will be discussed at ICANN79, is one important piece of that puzzle. And the group is concluding its deliberations on that topic and hoping to wrap up some of the dependencies from that topic later on after ICANN79 concludes.

DANIEL GLUCK: I guess a bit of a different approach in the IDNs with the phases there.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN: That's right.

DANIEL GLUCK: I guess if we'd like, I could probably speak to a little bit to how the IDNs team is going along, right? Should I do that?

CAITLIN TUBERGEN: Absolutely.

DANIEL GLUCK: I guess I'll put my IDNs hat here for a second and talk about how I've been supporting that group separate from my function as the host of

this webinar. A lot of stuff's been going on since our last time we've presented on and what's going on in Hamburg, I guess. Since then, we've had a face-to-face workshop in Kuala Lumpur. That was a great experience for the team to move along on their Phase 2 Initial Report. The Phase 1 Final Report was delivered and is currently open for public comments there. That is currently on the Public Comment website. But definitely something a lot of progress has been made on the Phase 2 Initial Report. We're in the final stages of drafting that right now. And we look to get that also for public comment in the next few months.

I definitely commend the team for the hard work that they've put in the past couple of months to get us to the point where we are now. Things are moving well. We'll have our first session early in the morning on Saturday for the EPDP on IDNs, Phase 2. Thank you so much for letting me put on my IDNs hat, Caitlin. Anything else you want to talk about in terms of the GNSO at this time?

CAITLIN TUBERGEN:

Thank you, Dan, for that great update on IDNs. Another huge congratulations for the big milestone of that group in publishing its Phase 1 Final Report and the GNSO approving that report.

I just quickly wanted to touch on those that are interested in the work of the GNSO Council that there will be many public working sessions, three in fact, where the GNSO Council conducts its work face to face. For those interested in the project management tools and how the GNSO Council conducts its work, we recommend attending those sessions. The Council will also be meeting with both the Governmental

Advisory Committee and the ICANN Board. Those sessions will also be public. Lastly, as with every ICANN meeting, there will be a public GNSO meeting. There will be an open mic for folks to address the Council directly if they would like, but also an opportunity for people to see how the GNSO Council conducts its work and runs its meetings.

I think that covers things in a fairly quick manner. I know there are some other colleagues that would like to speak to the work of their groups. But I'll turn it back over to Dan in case he has any more questions.

DANIEL GLUCK: I appreciate that, Caitlin. I also don't see any questions in the chat right now so I think we'll move on to some of those other colleagues. Thank you so much.

CAITLIN TUBERGEN: Thank you, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK: All right. Next up, we move to another Supporting Organization. We're going to talk about the Country Code Name Supporting Organization, and Joke is here to join us. Joke, how are you?

JOKE BRAEKEN: Hi, Dan. I'm good. I'm in a sunny mood, even though it's very raining here in Germany today.

DANIEL GLUCK: Well, the lighting you had last week when we went through our run-through was just great. But unfortunately, I guess we're not getting to that today. Let's hear what's going on with the ccNSO.

JOKE BRAEKEN: A lot of things are going on with the ccNSO. You'll be able to read all about it in the resource document that colleagues have been posting already in the chat. But I thought that it might be interesting for us to talk about the Tuesday afternoon in San Juan, which is fully dedicated to policy. Do you agree?

DANIEL GLUCK: Absolutely. Love hearing about a Super Tuesday, so let's get into it.

JOKE BRAEKEN: Good. Maybe we can start with the gap analysis sessions. You might know that the Country Code Name Supporting Organization is really the authority when it comes to how IANA relates to ccTLDs in the root zone. A recent case showed that there are some gaps or potential gaps in the ccTLD post-delegation processes. A small team of councilors started exploring those gaps and see if there are any other gaps and try to identify them and also discussing ways to address those gaps.

What will happen at ICANN79 is there will be a very interactive session with the ccTLD community, making sure that ccTLDs are aware of what is happening. It will be a very phased approach, let's say, so it

won't be presentations. We will introduce the topics in a very gradual manner, make sure that everybody understands them. And also understand that there are various topics to be addressed there. Are those gaps in policy? Are they gaps in implementation perhaps? Are there any future unknowns? Because all of that requires perhaps a different tool to address those gaps, and that is what the community will explore in ICANN79 and will also be followed up in Kigali, of course. That's in terms of the gap analysis.

DANIEL GLUCK: That sounds great. I thought I saw a question but that was just Andrea posting our format in the chat again. Sorry. Joke?

JOKE BRAEKEN: Okay. That's useful. Would you like me to talk about other policy matters on Tuesday afternoon?

DANIEL GLUCK: Yes. We already talked about it with the GNSO or IDN PDP. I guess let's talk about something that's sort of similar going on in the ccNSO. Let's talk about the ccPDP4 if you have a second.

JOKE BRAEKEN: Of course. ccPDP4, Country Code Policy Development Process, the fourth one, is addressing the IDN ccTLD string selections. These recommendations, once adopted and once implemented, they will eventually replace the Fast Track Process. The working group has

been working very hard for several years on developing these recommendations. Well, now, the ccNSO will kick off its decision-making process so the draft or the final recommendations are ready for consideration by Council. If Council adopts them and recommends to the ccNSO Membership to adopt them as well, there will be a ccNSO Membership vote after ICANN79, and then there will be a report about this vote. It will go back to Council. There will be some further reports being drafted before being submitted to the Board for its consideration. So it's an important moment in time for the ccNSO. There's also a quorum related to this Membership vote so you will understand that it's important that the ccTLDs are aware about the details of the proposals, and that they can make an informed choice when they participate in the vote.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Sounds great. I really appreciate from the EPDP and IDN side, there's been a good amount of coordination, especially recently with the ccPDP4 team. It shows the interoperability and interaction between the different Supporting Organizations when trying to harmonize different policies. I think that's been great to see firsthand. So I appreciate definitely all the efforts there and I've been enjoying reading about all of the policy from ccPDP4.

JOKE BRAEKEN:

That was also one of the requests from the Board, that there was indeed coordination between ccNSO and GNSO policy development efforts. That was especially regarding variant management, that there

was this mutual coordination. Both groups appointed also liaison to each other's groups. This was one of the sub topics being addressed by the working groups. They also focused on confusing similarity or on the de-selection of IDN ccTLD strings and variants.

DANIEL GLUCK: Absolutely. Which other topics should we be looking forward to from ccNSO? Any other sessions that we should be looking into?

JOKE BRAEKEN: Well, over the weekend, there will be various ccNSO working groups that will meet. They will hold their working sessions. New committee, for instance, focuses on Universal Acceptance. There's also the Internet Governance Liaison Committee focusing on Internet governance, as the name already says so. They will organize a session on Internet fragmentation, that's very relevant, very timely. There will be ccTLDs calling for action in defense of the multistakeholder model. All of that and much more will be happening. There's Tech Day on Monday, very interesting always. Open to all with an interest in DNSSEC, security and related topics. So looking forward to that.

DANIEL GLUCK: Awesome. I guess related to the IGLC, there's always the geopolitical update later on, and then that's going to also dial into that topic of fragmentation and the upcoming WSIS+20 review. I definitely recommend, if you have time at home, if you have time to check out a meeting, definitely check out. The ccNSO is going on. Policy

Development Support Team there has been doing a great job mixing up methods and trying to make sure that there's great interactions between the community and... I think it's just going to be another great meeting. Thank you very much, Joke.

JOKE BRAEKEN: Thanks.

DANIEL GLUCK: All right. Now I don't see any other questions or hands in the chat. I think it's time for us to take our first mini commercial break of the presentation. This is brought to you by our friends at Community Recognition.

OZAN SAHIN: Hello, Dan. Greetings from Izmir, Türkiye. Today, I'd like to talk about the Community Excellence Support that David mentioned in the beginning of the webinar. This may come as a surprise to some of you as the Community Excellence Award has been presented during the Policy Forum in June since its launch in 2014. But this time, we are moving the presentation from the Policy Forum to the Community Forum in March, so this is a major change. We are hoping to leverage the nice logistics of the welcome ceremony.

What is unique with the Community Excellence Award is that it is an award given to an ICANN community member by the ICANN community. Due to the adjusted timeline this year, a Committee Selection Panel was convened in December 2023. So, 11 members

were appointed from the ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, the ccNSO, GNSO, GAC, At-Large, RSSAC, and SSAC. The Selection Panel started reviewing the nominations in January 2024. Most recently, the Selection Panel made its decision on who the recipient of 2024 Community Excellence Award should be. The presentation will be conducted during the welcome ceremony on Monday morning. And if you'd like to find out who the recipient is this year, please come join the welcome ceremony. Thank you.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Thank you so much, Ozan. Looking forward to that. Of course, I think I probably made this joke last time as well, but if we could be winning those awards, that would be great. I would love to put something else on my mantle.

Now, before we get to the last Supporting Organization, we're going to take a quick detour into the land of Advisory Committees. There are definitely differences there between the two. If we had more time, we'd probably get into them. But first, I think we should just get into the At-Large. I see Andrew has joined us here. How's everything going?

ANDREW CHEN:

Everything's going well, Dan. How about yourself?

DANIEL GLUCK:

Doing okay. I think we're doing well on time. And that's what I'm keeping an eye on. But we're also keeping an eye on a lot of things that are going on within the ALAC. I've been going through some of the

sessions they have. And that seems like, as always, they have a lot going on.

ANDREW CHEN: Yes, for sure. What questions do you have about the ALAC? What can I tell you?

DANIEL GLUCK: I don't know. Let's say I'm an end user. Let's get into what is the ALAC? What does that mean? At-Large? ALAC? Can you help me resolve some of my confusions?

ANDREW CHEN: The ALAC is the primary organizational home for the voice of end users, representing the ALAC in the At-Large community in general. It consists of the At-Large Structures, the Regional At-Large Organizations, and the ALAC itself. Some people don't understand that the ALAC is actually a 15-member body. They consist of two members from each of the five Regional At-Large Organizations, and five members appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee. They're involved in the community in a variety of different ways. Some of them are appointed by the ALAC to be liaisons to different Advisory Committees or Supporting Organizations, while other members of the ALAC are involved in the different PDPs and working groups.

DANIEL GLUCK: That's right. That's right. On the IDN's working group, we had our wonderful vice chair. We had our vice chair, Justine, who was part of the ALAC. And a few others like Hadia and Satish. That's been great to get involved with them in the policy development processes. And I'm sure they're in other groups as well.

ANDREW CHEN: For sure. I mean, Justine is involved in a lot of different next-round related things, along with Cheryl and a couple of others. Then the involvement of different public comments at this point in time.

DANIEL GLUCK: There's always continuous discussion there. They're always in the policy discussions and their voices are represented.

ANDREW CHEN: Yes, for sure. A lot of these things, a lot of these policy issues are discussed in the CPWG Working Group, stands for the Consolidated Policy Working Group. They talk about everything from the NCAP study that was recently published, the draft report that was recently published, to the proposed TLD string for private use. They're also talking about the Applicant Support Program Handbook and the String Similarity Review Guidelines. Those are all things that will be discussed throughout different Policy Forums here.

DANIEL GLUCK: Thanks for saying that. Thanks for also for mentioning the public comment. That's a really great resource for people to get involved in the policy discussion without necessarily being in the PDPs right now. There are six proceedings that are open on the Public Comment website, icann.org, go to the Public Comment tab. Thank you, Andrea. We always love hearing from you. And that's something that the Policy Team takes care of on the public comment side. Do you want to continue on maybe a bit? Is there any specific policy sessions you would recommend people checking out for the ALAC at this meeting?

ANDREW CHEN: Yes. The ALAC, as you mentioned earlier, is holding a variety of different sessions. One of the sessions I recommend people going to is the Policy session. They'll be talking about the Applicant Support Program, along with the Transfer Policy Review that Caitlin had talked about earlier. I also recommend going to the Governance sessions that they're having, where they will be talking about the Strategic Plan and the Continuous Improvement Program. The ALAC is also holding joint meetings with the GAC, the SSAC, and the ICANN Board to discuss issues of mutual interest. I also recommend, if there are end users out there who are interested, to check out the different Regional At-Large Organizations and see how they can get involved in that way.

DANIEL GLUCK: Any major updates with the Regional At-Large or RALO organizations that we should know for this meeting?

ANDREW CHEN: Well, the Regional At-Large Organization that we'll be working with this time around is the North American Regional At-Large Organization. They're going to be having three different events at this ICANN meeting, which includes a roundtable focusing on issues related to DNS abuse in the digital economy, a Town Hall to discuss outreach activities, along with a networking event that we'll meet with different Fellows and NextGen participants.

DANIEL GLUCK: Awesome. Thank you, Andrew, for putting that link in the chat just now. The best way to find these sessions and all the other ones, go to that link on sched.com and definitely just scroll around, see what's going on. There's a lot of different sessions. Again, over 200, as I mentioned before. Find some of that suits you. Especially for newer folks to these meetings, just popping into different rooms is always a really good method. Anything else we should talk about, Andrew, in terms of the At-Large?

ANDREW CHEN: No, I think that's it for now. Again, I recommend everyone visiting those different sessions.

DANIEL GLUCK: All right. Well, I appreciate you so much for your time, Andrew.

ANDREW CHEN: Talk to you later, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK: See you later. All right. And now we move on to another Advisory Committee. We're talking about the Government Advisory Committee. Fabien is here, fresh off of the face-to-face meeting with GAC leadership in Brussels. How's everything going Fabien?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: All good. How's everything with you?

DANIEL GLUCK: Everything's doing well. Everything's going well. There was a session just before this between the GAC and the contracted parties. Things are always moving with the GAC and definitely been having to be a little bit a part of the support team the past couple of months. Let's dive into it. What's going on with the GAC? What are the important issues that are going to be discussed in San Juan?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: What you're talking about is interesting because this meeting at the GAC, it's not really a meeting but it was an introductory webinar by the contracted parties to the GAC just before this. It's actually part of this continuation of the GAC's increasingly engaging with the community. In preparation for this meeting, we've had this webinar with the CPH. There's been bilateral meetings with the leadership of the GNSO, as mentioned before, with ALAC as well. The purpose of those calls, really, is to prepare those discussions between the groups during the meeting that have a bilateral. And some of those themes that might be

interested to participants of this webinar are the usual suspects, I suppose, the New gTLD Program, DNS Abuse and potential policy development there, the urgent requests for disclosure of registration data, privacy/proxy, accuracy registration data. I mean, all those are the themes that we're used to seeing being discussed between those groups.

One innovation this time around in terms of community engagement for the GAC is going to be an open mic session where all participants and groups in the community are invited to come to the GAC and share comments, ask questions, make statements. For this session, I think my colleagues are going to share in the chat a link to the forum that we asked that people use to sign up and identify themselves and provide their topic and questions and statements. That will help us organize the session and distribute the time accordingly. So please do follow that link that you now have in the chat. That's about it for these meetings in terms of community engagement.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Well, there's definitely been a concerted effort from GAC Support, definitely the Policy Team itself, to keep members informed in between meetings, keep the level of engagement high so that we can roll between meetings and get things done. Can you tell us a little about those efforts in terms of just keeping everyone up to date on the relevant policies?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

Right. I think certainly that's one of the objectives of the GAC Support Team, obviously, as it collaborates under the leadership of the chair and vice chairs of the GAC, is to make sure that participants are aware and informed and have the information they need when they come into the meeting, but as well as have the proper level of information provided to them. That's why we've seen over a number of meetings now a Capacity Development Workshop that has been organized usually on the first day or two days of the meeting where those sessions are geared towards really providing walking GAC participants through various technical policy issues and ensure that as the GAC considers ICANN processes, they can indeed follow and provide a timely and relevant input. That's actually going to be one of the strategic objectives of the GAC. You may have seen on the agenda, the GAC will be having a discussion on strategic planning for the GAC. So we're expecting the GAC to discuss and potentially adopt eventually the strategic plan. That's going to be interesting from the community perspective, the extent of that strategic plan is meant in part to help the GAC communicate its priorities with the community. So that's going to be a development to follow.

In that same realm in terms of the informed participation of GAC members and informing the community of the GAC and vice versa, in a way, for GAC members to be have a good understanding of the community, you may recall that the GAC has been working to prepare its high-level government meeting that's going to be scheduled for ICANN80. So this is not yet in San Juan, that's going to be in Kigali for the next ICANN meeting. But in this meeting in San Juan, the GAC will start discussing its agenda for that high-level government meeting.

You might recall that the objective of those meetings is to not only reaffirm the role of governments at ICANN, but also to increase the exposure of higher levels of governments to ICANN and to what is done at ICANN in addition to specific topical discussions and policy discussions at that senior level. Expect that to be another highlight of the GAC's agenda.

I think it's interesting because it helps us and participants in the ecosystem to understand the perspective of governments as they come into ICANN discussions. For instance, you will not hear about PDP or at that senior level about PDPs or small teams or those detailed processes of ICANN. But you'll hear about Internet governance and digital inclusions and digital divide. That really helps understand how the work at ICANN fits into the priorities of governments.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Absolutely. If I may go through this for a quick second, it's been great to be involved in the different discussions around the HLGM. Because I think it truly shows how the GAC as a body works together to figure out what their priorities are and how they can discuss and how they can best prioritize their efforts. Seeing how the government's been involved in this process, how all the different ICANN teams internally are, it's been really fun to take part in from the support side. That's one way that governments can participate, but they are involved in some of the PDPs as well. There are liaisons to the different policy programs, right?

FABIEN BETREMIEUX:

That's absolutely correct. In fact, that's part of one of the evolutions we've seen over the last few years of the GAC number of years now, where GAC participants, GAC representatives do take part directly in the PDPs, in scoping teams, in small teams. There's certainly a number of GAC participants and representatives that are closely involved in those processes. I think that will show in some of the discussions at ICANN79, in particular around new gTLDs where we'll most likely hear a lot of discussion about the Applicant Support Program. That's one of the high priority areas, high interest of the GAC. And that's connected to those government priorities I've mentioned in reducing the digital divide. The New gTLD Program and its Applicant Support Program is seen as an instrument to work towards those objectives. So that's going to be a topic of high interest. Participants to this webinar may be aware that as part of that program, the Applicant Support Program, the GAC is interested in expanding the financial support, eliminating application fees, ongoing registry fees, but also providing all kinds of training and awareness building, and support for backend services. There's a range of solutions and services that the GAC is interested in seeing being rolled out as part of that program. That's one theme.

The other one theme that I want to mention is the cost-benefit analysis of new gTLDs. You may be aware that the Board has recently responded to the Hamburg communiqué on this matter, providing a summary of analyses that have been conducted in that realm. The GAC seems to be interested to be looking further into this. And this dates back to the Helsinki GAC advice. That was ICANN56 in June 2016. We were all younger then. Actually, I was thinking then, where were you at

that time? Sounds like freshmen, maybe. Were you hearing of the GAC and ICANN in your policy studies?

DANIEL GLUCK: Let's just say sure, but not even close. But I'm happy to be here now and I'm happy to hear all these different discussions with the HLG. I'm looking forward to attending the open mic session and everything is going on in this meeting. So centering it back around and deflecting from actually answering that question is where I am but—

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: We're happy to have you, Dan, and taking you along.

DANIEL GLUCK: I appreciate it so much, Fabien. I think that's pretty much all the time we have. Anything else we want to mention quickly? I mean, the open mic is going to be pretty big.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: We're certainly looking forward to that. So please use that form we've provided in the chat and identify yourself and you'll get us up.

DANIEL GLUCK: Awesome. I appreciate it, Fabien.

FABIEN BETREMIEUX: Thank you.

DANIEL GLUCK: All right. Now we're going to hit our second commercial break of the afternoon. Stay tuned. Don't flip the channel. No flipping. And we're going to hear from Alp.

ALP EKEN: Hello, everyone. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. I am Alp Eken from the Policy Team. I am excited to share our work in Strategic Policy Management and Planning today. We are focused on working on creating and aligning with ICANN Strategic and Operational Plans. I want to emphasize planning, cross-functional collaboration, and tool development for both our community and staff in the context of strategic planning.

Like I just mentioned, our efforts inclusive with ICANN's plans, prioritizing community readiness and coordination for effective policy development and advice activities. In addition to these activities, we are working on reviews, implementation of non-policy recommendations and other processes from the Policy Team and the community's perspective. We are also dedicated to addressing strategic challenges and fostering collaboration. We understand the importance of effective tools in supporting ICANN's policy and advice development work.

To meet this objective, we have been collaborating on a set of program management tools with staff teams supporting each SO/AC group to help them manage their workload and prioritize their work. Additionally, within the Policy Team and with ICANN Org's Engineering

and IT team, we are actively working to make sure our present tools are better and introduce new and tailored tools to meet the evolving needs of the ICANN community. We anticipate that the work of the Policy Team with the help of these tools will empower the ICANN community to better manage their workload, identify participation trends, anticipate future work for each community group and streamline processes and foster consensus building. Thank you so much. Over to you, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Thank you so much, Alp. That's great to hear. We love that. But if I could only get one Larry Sanders Show reference into this meeting, I'd be really happy. But it's hard to contain my enjoyment because I'm about to speak to Steve. I always love hearing from Steve because he's just—the wealth of knowledge, it's overflowing. And I really hope you can share some of that today with us, Steve, on the ASO.

STEVE SHENG:

Thank you, Dan. I think you are too kind. One thing I learned is the more I know, there's so much I don't know, even when it comes to the ASO.

I'm going to provide a quick update on ASO. For this audience, let me quickly state what the ASO is. The Address Supporting Organization is one of three Supporting Organizations at ICANN. The ASO has a particular remit. It really focuses on reviewing and developing recommendations on Internet protocol address policy. If you recall,

the second N for ICANN stands for Numbers. So I think this community and the work of this community is very important.

Now, the ASO was established through a MOU between ICANN and the world's five original Internet registries, RIRs. And in that MOU, it says the Number Resource Organization as the coordination body for the RIRs fulfills the role of the ASO. There's a specific setup for how things are done for the numbers community. To that extent is to take the broader regional Internet community's inputs on these policies. So that's a quick update on ASO.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Awesome. We've been following along from the outside. I was wondering if you had any updates on the ICP-2 initiative?

STEVE SHENG:

Yes. Thanks. That's a very important initiative. As a way of background, ICP stands for Internet Coordination Policy. These are sets of policies that was developed at the founding of ICANN. There were three ICPs. And ICP-2 speaks about accreditation of new Regional Internet Registries. It was adopted by ICANN Board in 2001. Since then, two Regional Internet Registries were accredited. As you may recall, this is already 20 or so years since the adoption of that policy and it needs to be updated. So from the RIR community's perspective, they believe ICP-2 requires strengthening in order to better represent the accountability of the RIR system to the Internet community.

This is the work that the ASO and ASO-AC are working on. There are two efforts. One is drafting ICP-2 implementation procedures, and the second effort is updating ICP-2. Those are actively ongoing. In fact, at ICANN79, the ASO-AC have 12 working sessions. And a vast majority of those will be dedicated to the ICP-2 related work.

DANIEL GLUCK: This is the one meeting of the tri-annual ICANN meeting that the ASO meets, right?

STEVE SHENG: Right. The ASO-AC meets usually in the spring ICANN meeting. In this case, there'll be meeting in two weeks in San Juan, in Puerto Rico.

DANIEL GLUCK: So I would recommend people check it out if they have some time for the open sessions. Anything else we should know about the ASO, Steve?

STEVE SHENG: The other thing that the ASO-AC is working on is Board Seat 9 selection. As you recall, there are two seats from the ASO to the ICANN Board, Board Seat 9 and Board Seat 10, and that they are currently in the process for the selection of Board Seat 9. There were five candidates received by the deadline end of last year. And they are currently in the interview phase with an announcement of the selected candidate expected around May this year.

DANIEL GLUCK: All right. So cool. I think that we are settled there. I appreciate everything that you just told us about the ASO and ASO-AC, Steve.

STEVE SHENG: You bet. Thanks.

DANIEL GLUCK: Cool. Now, we're going to move on to another member of the technical community here in terms of our SOs and ACs. And we get to hear again from our friend, Ozan, this time not about community recognition but about the RSSAC.

OZAN SAHIN: Hello, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK: It seems like you're going well based on what you said just about 10, 15 minutes ago. So let's dive into it. Let's talk about what's new with the Root Server System.

OZAN SAHIN: Sure. RSSAC members will be participating in ICANN79 to advance their work items and continue to track the work of the Root Server System Governance Working Group. So hopefully, you'll have some time to follow RSSAC sessions at ICANN79 as well.

DANIEL GLUCK: Awesome. What else do we need to know for this meeting in terms of the RSSAC, RSSAC Caucus, all that stuff?

OZAN SAHIN: I think one thing that is useful to know is the ongoing RSSAC Caucus Work Party and its work. It's called the Root Server System Security Incident Reporting Work Party. This work party was chartered at ICANN77 in Washington, D.C., and then RSSAC set up an RSSAC Caucus Work Group to study the security incident reporting. This work party focuses on basically four questions. One is why should the RSS or the Root Server System provide incident reporting? Another question is what consists of a reportable incident? One is who should be responsible for reporting incidents and also how would incident reporting work?

This work party is coming out of the RSSAC publication, RSSAC58, the success criteria for the Root Server System Governance Structure. This work party is in parallel with the work that's being done in the area of the Root Server System Governance evolution.

This work party will have a work session on Tuesday in the afternoon. The work party has met 16 times since it has been chartered. And if you would like to know more about this work party, come join the 17th meeting on Tuesday.

DANIEL GLUCK: Awesome. You mentioned something there in that part that maybe you want to drive back to. But you mentioned a publication. I know that the RSSAC has a new publication that's fairly recent, right?

OZAN SAHIN: That is correct. This new publication is called RSSAC000v8 or the RSSAC Operational Procedures. RSSAC actually reviews its Operational Procedures annually and creates a new version if needed. RSSAC has recently conducted this review and produced a new version of its Operational Procedures and there are a few updates in this document. For instance, one is about alignment of RSSAC Operational Procedures with the recommendations coming out of the second organizational review of the ICANN Nominating Committee. But more importantly, what is worth noting in this webinar is the introduction of the RSSAC Caucus observer role.

RSSAC identified two potential use cases for the introduction of Caucus observer role. One of these use cases is that there are current RSSAC Caucus members whose primary reason to be in the RSSAC Caucus would be liaising between their own organization and RSSAC Caucus. Given that there is a requirement for RSSAC Caucus members to contribute to the work of the Caucus and there is a certain time commitment, and there is also the RSSAC Caucus Membership Committee that regularly reviews the activity of the Caucus members and reaches out to them if there are any inactive Caucus members, the introduction of the Caucus observer role would be useful in not necessarily removing these inactive Caucus members whose intention may be to liaise with their organization and the Caucus, but to offer

maybe a role switch and offer the observer role so that they can still follow the RSSAC Caucus mailing list and the work of the Caucus.

The second use case would be for the new RSSAC Caucus Membership applicants who still have a technical background but maybe not necessarily in the field of the Root Server System. If these applicants are lacking the DNS experience in the Root Server System that is sufficient to become an RSSAC Caucus members, then the Caucus Membership Committee again will be able to offer this Caucus observer role with the introduction of the RSSAC Caucus observer role with RSSAC000v8.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Awesome. I appreciate that, Ozan. We do have a question in the pod, actually, about how these groups are made up and how membership works there. So we'll get to that. Ozan, you could type that in the box. I appreciate you sharing that with us. I guess one last thing, this would help address this question, I know that on the Sunday, there is a How It Works session about root server operations, right?

OZAN SAHIN:

Yes. That's really important to highlight. RSSAC is working with OCTO or the Office of the Chief Technology Officer at ICANN to offer this How It Works session. It's about the root server operations. Even if you don't have any background knowledge about the Root Server System and would like to learn more about the RSS or the Root Server System, come join the session on Sunday. I hope you will definitely learn about the Root Server System and root server operators in the session.

DANIEL GLUCK: All right. Well, I appreciate your knowledge on that so much, Ozan. We'll talk to you later.

OZAN SAHIN: Bye.

DANIEL GLUCK: Next up, our last AC of the day and our last, I guess, session here, we're going to talk about the SSAC. Last but not least, of course. We're not going to say anything yet. Danielle, how's everything going?

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD: Things are going well over here. It's almost 8:00 am in Los Angeles, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK: That's, I guess, how it works. The Policy Team's very dedicated. We're always up early attending meetings. We love doing it. Let's get into—the last time we spoke, you had mentioned that you were going to get into a sprint with SSAC work, a lot of stuff coming up. Does that relate to the recent publications from the SSAC?

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD: Yes. The SSAC actually has two recent publications that came out at the end of December. The first is SAC122 on the inclusion of the urgent request in the Registration Data Policy. People tracking that topic will

see now that the urgent request language that the SSAC commented on has been removed from the published version of the Registration Data Policy, but that's SSAC's comment on the historical record.

The second is a much more informational document, that's SAC123. That's an informational report on the evolution of Internet naming resolution. That is an SSAC advisory that gives a lot of background about alternative naming systems. You may have heard about blockchain-based naming systems, and the SSAC gets into the implications of the interaction between the domain name system and alternative naming systems in that report.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Certainly, hot topic issues. Something that I remember just from my first hearing the GAC discussed that at their last meeting. We look into getting into those papers. I mean, we have a chock-full of meeting, a lot of stuff for the SSAC. I know there's a new leadership team that's in place, is that right?

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD:

That's right. Ram Mohan and Tara Whalen have taken over as SSAC chair and vice chair at the beginning of the calendar year. They've also put into place two more SSAC members on an expanded leadership team. So people might be seeing more SSAC members stepping up in leadership roles across the ICANN community, and that is our members Barry Leiba and Jeff Bedser. Then we have Jim Galvin who serves as our SSAC liaison to the Board. So we've got a new leadership

team who's very engaged and looking to make a lot of connections across the ICANN community at ICANN79.

DANIEL GLUCK:

At ICANN79, are there any open sessions, anything that you would recommend people check out to attend to see what the SSACs are working on?

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD:

Absolutely. Historically, the SSAC has always typically had all closed working sessions at ICANN meetings. But beginning in Hamburg at ICANN78, the SSAC has actually moved to an open by default model for its working sessions. So, most of our working sessions on Sunday and Tuesday are actually going to be open to observers. Then on Wednesday, we have our public session that's open to everybody. Actually, it contains an interactive component with questions and answers for SSAC members.

DANIEL GLUCK:

All right. Any other priorities that the SSAC has in terms of the next round?

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD:

Yes. One of the biggest priorities for the SSAC in 2024 is the conclusion of the Name Collision Analysis Project or NCAP. NCAP refers to examining name collisions, which is a situation where a name that is defined and used in one namespace may also appear in another. This

has been an ongoing study for a little over six years, I believe. And as my colleague Andrew Chen mentioned, NCAP Study 2 Report is currently out for public comment. Currently, two SSAC members are co-chairing the community-wide discussion group. That discussion group will be meeting at ICANN79 to review the public comment submissions and finalize the Study 2 Report. At the same time, the SSAC is going to be developing a report containing its view on the final NCAP Study 2 Report and the SSAC will transmit that report with their recommendations to the Board later this year.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Awesome. Any other sessions you would recommend or workshops you would recommend people checking out just before we head out for the day?

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD:

I've always got to give a shout out to the DNSSEC and Security Workshop. This is a really fascinating panel-based workshop where anyone interested in technical security and DNSSEC topics should come and get involved with the experts who are sharing the latest and greatest on the developments of DNSSEC provisioning and other hot security topics.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Awesome. Thank you very much, Danielle. I'd like to offer a shout out of my own to the survey that Andrea has posted in chat and posted in chat continuously through this. I'd like to give a shout out to all of my

Policy Team members here for another great webinar. But I can't make that determination. That's up to David to make the determination if this was a great webinar or not. So I'll pass it off to you, David, to get us wrapped up and out of here before the minute ends.

DAVID OLIVE:

Thank you very much, Dan and members of the Policy Team, for giving us a very informative conversation about what's happening on the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees at ICANN79. This, of course, reflects the great amount of work that you, the community, are doing in all these areas. And those who want to be involved, you're more than welcome. We've given you various links and ideas on how you can be involved. We want to see you there either in person or remotely. I wish everyone a safe travel if you're coming to visit us in San Juan or online, we'll be ready for you. With that, I want to say good evening, good afternoon, or good morning, wherever you may be. I am signing off from Washington, D.C., where I'm located. But I'll soon be in San Juan, Puerto Rico with all of you. Thank you so much.

ANDREA GLANDON:

Thank you, everyone. That concludes today's conference. Have a wonderful rest of your day.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]