
ICANN79 | CF – Q&A with ICANN Org Executive Team
Monday, March 4, 2024 – 1:15 to 2:30 SJU

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Ladies and gentlemen, please come in and take your seats. We're about to begin.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Please start the recording. I'm pleased to welcome you all to the Q&A session with the ICANN's Executive Team. My name is Alex Dans, and I'm ICANN's communication director for the Americas. This is a unique opportunity to have a truly interactive session, a dialogue with ICANN's Executive Team about projects and initiatives we're working on in ICANN Org, and to answer your questions.

There are three ways to ask a question or make a comment during the session. If you're attending the event in person, simply go to the microphone in the session and wait for your turn to make your comments. Please remember to keep your comments brief and respectful to those attending online and in person. If you're attending virtually, you can submit a written question or comment into the Zoom Q&A pod. Answers may be in the form of typed responses in the pod or I will read your question out loud and the question will be answered. Alternatively, you can raise your hand online to join the queue to voice your question. You can find the Raise Hand icon at the bottom of your screen. Selecting it will automatically add you into the speaker's queue.

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Now, Sally Newell Cohen, ICANN Senior Vice President of Global Communications and Language Services will explain the format of this session. Over to you, Sally.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, Alex. Welcome, everyone. Welcome to San Juan, and welcome to the Executive Q&A. Again, for the record, my name is Sally

Newell Cohen, and I'm the Senior Vice President of Global Communications.

We hold this session twice a year, and we found it to be an incredibly valuable exchange. It's particularly now that we focus almost exclusively on your questions. It's an opportunity to talk about the work that Org is doing and to hear from you about the topics and the projects that you're most interested in learning about.

We'll start today with a brief welcome from our interim President and CEO, Sally Costerton. And our after that, we'll dedicate the rest of the session to your questions, whether you're here in the room or participating on Zoom. But before we begin, I'd like to introduce the rest of the Executive Team. We have Andre Abed. He's the Vice President Relationship and Delivery Management and Interim Head of Engineering and IT. Xavier Calvez, Senior Vice President, Planning and Chief Financial Officer. John Crain, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. Jamie Hedlund, Senior Vice President, Contractual Compliance and U.S. Government Engagement. John Jeffrey, General Counsel and Secretary. Veni Markovski, Vice President, Government Engagement, UN, New York, and interim head of Government and IGO Engagement. Henry Meyer, Vice President of Global HR Operations and interim head of Global Human Resources. David Olive, Senior Vice President of Policy Development and Support. And Theresa Swinehart, Senior Vice President, Global Domains and Strategy. And with that, I'm going to turn it over to Sally Costerton.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you, Sally. Welcome, everyone. I'm very excited about the discussions I think we're going to have today. This week, among other important discussions, we will delve into the future of the DNS through what we're calling the Next Round, a significant collaborative effort between the Community and the Organization. Before we proceed, allow me to highlight some recent achievements.

ICANN launched its Grant Program which will allocate millions of dollars to support projects aimed at fostering a unified, open, and globally interoperable Internet. We will accept grant applications from March the 25, 2024, so a few weeks' time, until May 24, 2024, with the first \$10 million dollars in grants available during this cycle.

ICANN Contracted Parties approved new obligations to mitigate DNS abuse with strong support from generic top-level domain registries and accredited registrars. Whilst this marks a significant milestone, both Contracted Parties and the Generic Names Supporting Organization recognize that this is just one step in combating DNS abuse. Our collective efforts in this area are ongoing, and ICANN remains dedicated to working within its mandate alongside the broader community to address and mitigate DNS abuse. I encourage you to take a moment this week to celebrate these important milestones in our journey together.

Before we begin our Q&A, I'd like to do one more thing. I'd like to recognize David Olive, who, as you know, has decided to retire in May after 14 years of tireless service to ICANN. This will be his last ICANN meeting, and it will be my last opportunity to publicly thank him for

his many, many contributions to ICANN. Please join me in showing David our appreciation. David, would you like to say a few words?

DAVID OLIVE:

Thank you, Sally, and members of the community, the Board and others. In attendance here, it is with mixed emotion. I announced my departure from ICANN in May. I've been involved with supporting your efforts at developing policy and advice over these many years. And people ask me, "Well, so what is the secret to that success? What is the magic thing that is being done?"

Sally raised this issue about super power. And yes, indeed, it's a little bit of that, a little bit of magic, but it's all of you and your efforts. And my philosophy was build strong teams, build strong relationships, and that will lead to results for the mission of ICANN. You've done that over and over again. And it was my pleasure to work with you to accomplish that. So thank you very much.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Well, I'm pleased to say David won't actually leave until the end of May. So many of us will have lots more opportunities to thank David and to celebrate with him this week and later. But thank you, David.

Okay, let's open the floor now to questions from those present in the room and those joining remotely. And so with that, I'll hand back to you, Alex. Or Sally, to you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: So while we're waiting for people to come up to the mic, I did want to introduce Simon Garside. I missed him in the names. A very important person, by the way. He's our Vice President of security Operations. And he's also the interim head of Administrative Services. So, apologies to you, Simon.

Okay. We are ready to take your questions. I don't know, Alex, if we have any online? No? We do have someone. Would you please state your name?

YANIRA ZOE FILOMENO VAZQUEZ: Hello,
my name is Zoe Filomeno. I am an ICANN Fellow for 79. I have met some of the Executive Board members. I deal with the intersectionality of neural implants, brain computer interfaces, and emerging technologies. I've spoken with IANA about the possibilities of emerging technologies and how it would implicate Internet access to neural implants. I would like to understand a little bit more about how fast can ICANN pivot a decision from inception stakeholders' involvements towards implementation in a case of emergency. Thank you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: If I could ask you to clarify your question just a bit.

YANIRA ZOE FILOMENO VAZQUEZ: Yes. So
when it comes down to emerging technology, we're starting to see rapid understanding of how humans are able to communicate with

neural implants that have Internet access. So that might lead to complications, and I would like to know how you guys will be involved in that. What is the timeline for a decision?

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you. Thank you for clarifying that. I think we're going to ask John Crain to talk about it from one side, and then also David Olive from the policy perspective.

JOHN CRAIN: So technologies are always evolving, right? So obviously, we're aware of the fact that some neural implants, actually, connected networks locally, etc., ICANN doesn't set the protocols. So what we do in the IANA Function is we keep the records, the databases of who is using what protocol, and how. So that is not likely to cause emergencies and is a slow process through the protocols.

Now, if something was to emerge, say life threatening or something, typically, in ICANN we have something what we call a Crisis Management Team which pulls together all the relevant stakeholders inside ICANN, including the technologies, the lawyers, the security folks, everybody you need. And we can pivot fairly quickly in those environments. Now, obviously, you can't talk to specific cases because you don't know it until you see it. But we do have very robust crisis management processes that get exercised on a very regular basis. Not saying that we have a lot of crises, but we do use them a lot.

So it depends on the circumstances. We try and stay abreast of technology so that we don't get surprised. But in a crisis, what we

would do is we'd spin up a Crisis Management Team, and we would act through that manner. Do you want to talk about the policy, David?

DAVID OLIVE:

Thank you for the question because indeed, that is decisions of what type were emergency, we would obviously use our contacts and links with the providers of the services, the registrars and registries and the users, and alert them to the possibility and to have the discussions.

In terms of how that then turns into a more formalized discussion, well, that is a slightly different and more lengthy process because of the consensus needed to involve both the providers of the services, the users of the services and other interested groups. But indeed, if there is an urgency there, that can be recognized as such.

But generally, we look to processes that can sometimes take a year or two because of the complexity of them. What are the implications, the impacts on current systems, users, and the like. So that will be the normal route. But if it's needed to be expedited, many of our groups have an expedited process for which to come to a decision or some sort of comment rather quickly.

YANIRA ZOE FILOMENO VAZQUEZ:

Thank
you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN:

Thank you very much. Next person in the queue, please.

MICHAEL GRAHAM: Hello. Michael Graham with the IPC. I have a large question to a very small one, I think, and this has to do with the funding for the RDRS program in the budget. I noted in taking a look at the budget that it specifies two full-time employees for the years 2023 and 2024 but none are listed for 2025. Since the pilot program is scheduled to go into 2025, not having a person budgeted for—I wonder if that might be covered somewhere else. It might be a question for Xavier or not, but it's a small matter, but it does raise a concern that we're not anticipating the review and the comments that will come out of that pilot and the possibility of going to SSAD.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you very much for the question. I'm going to turn to Theresa Swinehart, please.

THERESA SWINEHART: So I'll start it off. As you know, the RDRS is funded out of the SFICR. I'm not going to try to pronounce that because I know it causes another acronym soup for us. So it is funded out of that budget. And it is part of the FY24-25 budget. But I'll turn it over to Xavier to provide the additional details. But we are continuing to work as anticipated around that. So we are accounting for it.

MICHAEL GRAHAM: I was wondering if it was accounted for in other places.

XAVIER CALVEZ: Thank you. Thank you for the question and confirming what Theresa was saying. I think that your question is leading me to think that maybe it's not sufficiently clear in the document. So we can take another look at that to make that more explicit. Because you're right, it's important and it's funded and budgeted for so that all those activities up to the pilot and after the pilot can be carried out. So confirming that it is, but we'll make sure to make it more explicit in the documents. Thank you.

MICHAEL GRAHAM: So whatever the results of the RDRS are, it will be funded for. Thank you.

XAVIER CALVEZ: Absolutely. Thank you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you. Let's see. We don't have anyone else online. And I see you're walking up to the queue.

FABRICIO VAYRA: Good afternoon. Fabricio Vayra from Perkins Coie and a member of the IPC. Earlier this week... We just started, but obviously, early this week, one of our colleagues went through I think a 50-page slide on backed up consensus policies that haven't been implemented. I believe it's during the GNSO session. I had a question as to whether the Executive Team is focused on that backlog, and if so, what they're planning to do on it. If not, if we could focus on it? In particular, from my perspective,

there were a lot of consensus policies that were held up when GDPR came out, privacy/proxy, thick WHOIS, etc. And those things just continue to be just out there. I'm wondering if there's a way to address all of that, and to clear that backlog and follow the course of the community on some of the consensus that they reached.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you for that question. David Olive, would you like to start?

DAVID OLIVE: Thank you, Fabricio. Yes, we do recognize the hard work that the community puts into making these recommendations to the Board, and pushing them through as we best we can. But luckily, we have to watch what that all means in terms of implementation, because what sounds or looks to be rather simple in language may be more complex in contracts or other implications.

So the Executive Team and also the Board, I'm not speaking for them, but I know that they look at this and see how they can move that forward with the complexities in mind and the priorities of the Next Round coming up. But the purpose is not to delay, but we want to make sure that it's rightly done for implementation.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, David. Theresa Swinehart, you wanted to add to this?

THERESA SWINEHART:

Yes. I'll just add on to that because we also have a team that helps with the implementation part and manage that. So yes, absolutely. We're cognizant that we have some backlogs on some of those areas in looking at how to address those. Part of that was also the opportunity with the joining of Marika to take on the Next Round to allow the team that was dealing with policy implementation itself to be concentrating on those areas in order so that we can really get some things moving forward.

So we're looking at the backlog. We're also looking at putting more resources towards that. We know that we also need to start getting ready for IDN and the EPDP, some other things that are coming down the pipeline around that. So we do have a team now that's focused in on the planning and getting everything off the backlog list, but also preparing things for what's coming down the pipe around that. I'm happy to talk with you offline about that as well.

FABRICIO VAYRA:

If I could. It seems like we know what's coming down the pipeline, we know what we're gearing up to do, we know the size of at least the current team and then plans to expand that team. Operationally, maybe a suggestion or question, but would it be possible to actually get some commitment to put out a plan as to just look at that backlog and say, "Here's what we're going to address first, and this is the timeline that we're going to do it in." Because unfortunately, what's happened is that for quite some time in 2018, GDPR came in, and we focus just on the WHOIS implementation things, things like thick WHOIS, privacy/proxy, it's now been—18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24—seven

years and we're still sort of in that same chicken or egg or cart before horse. We're always waiting for something new to come in. But these policies did receive consensus. They have been put out there. And the impetus for them being put on sort of hold or freeze came and went seven years ago. So the question is, can we at least get a strategy plan that implicates to the community, "We heard you, and we are going to implement them. And this is the timeline that we're going to try to reach." Otherwise, I'll see you at the next meeting asking the same question.

Your answer is very thoughtful and very logical. But if we don't commit to putting a plan together, I fear I keep asking, you're going to keep saying the same thing. We're just going to cycle through. So if we could just come up with some plan and put it out there, even best guess, so that we can start working on it.

THERESA SWINEHART:

Yes, you raise a good point. We are looking at the process planning, and looking at that. I know that we've put out some timelines, but we could do much better in being more explicit around some of the timelines and some of the anticipated areas. Then there's also some of the matters, especially as they tie in to GDPR, where what was five or six years ago, or seven years, we're dealing with a shifting environment. I know we have some conversations going on around those, but we could definitely put out some better planning and anticipated timelines around that. So hopefully, shortly, you'll and you'll see and we can certainly talk about it further.

FABRICIO VAYRA: Great. Thank you, guys. I appreciate it.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Okay. I know that we don't have any questions online at the moment. Does anyone else have a question? I see Sébastien coming up.

XAVIER CALVEZ: Sally, you may want to specify that the Q&A is not limited to the IPC.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Merci. Thank you. Sébastien Bachollet, chair of the EURALO but I'm speaking in my own name. As you know, I'm very much involved in many different discussions and reflections about reviews. The question that was just asked about backlog is one that we asked about all ICANN activities. There were 200 recommendations that hadn't been assigned yet two years ago when we did the census, when you counted them. But the question now is how can we make sure that things are accelerated? RT3 made recommendations four years ago, a review that was proposed that didn't start. And then at the same time, it was proposed we change the way we do reviews. But in the end, we'll end up in a situation where instead of having reviews that aren't competing with other reviews, we'll have to run some things in parallel, and that could be quite significant. So how could we simplify the whole system so that when there's a proposal or recommendation that's made, we don't need a whole four years to do it? Some people studied it for 18 months, they submitted a review. How could we reduce the complexity of all of that? Thank you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you very much. I'm going to hand that to Xavier to start.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: I usually speak French. The question wasn't for Xavier particularly.

XAVIER CALVEZ: We didn't coordinate on this, but it happens that I should answer to that question, and I'll do it in French if I can. Sébastien raises the point that reviews and the implementation of recommendations coming from the reviews are activities that consume a lot of time, and that's true. In the case of ATRT3 that you mentioned, as you know, many activities have been undertaken over the past four years to define how to put in place the Holistic Review, among other things. The more complicated the recommendation topics are, the more complicated implementation is. This is a very good example of a difficult implementation and recommendation, and it's very impactful. So it's very easy to understand why it's difficult to put in place. And the concept in the recommendation requires a lot of definition. It requires that we define clearly how to put it in place, who does what all the responsibilities. And broadly speaking, it is clear that the improvements of the review process have been flagged as a need, because whether that'd be the recommendations or the decision-making process or the implementation process, all of those issues must be improved so that the implementation of those recommendations is faster. But it depends on the quality and the clarity of the recommendations as well. There are lots of moving parts

to improve this review process so that the whole process is shortened. I know that you're very much aware of it. We're all aware of it. Thank you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Yes, please go ahead.

MASON COLE: Good afternoon. My name is Mason Cole. I'm chair of the Business Constituency. I wanted to raise an issue that's been talked about over the course of the weekend, and that is the measurement of the impact of the contractual amendments on DNS abuse. Specifically, the question is what will this Executive Team be doing to provide a more fulsome picture of the impact and will that involve credible third party data as well? And on behalf of the BC, we wish David a long and happy retirement.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you so much. Jamie Hedlund, do you want to start? Sure.

JAMIE HEDLUND: Thanks for the question, Mason. As you know, Contractual Compliance puts out a lot of data already on the cases that we address and the resolution and encourage people to go to the webpage to look at all the monthly reporting. Of course, with the new amendments, there's going to be new reporting directly related to the obligations themselves. It will be broken down by type of abuse parties involved without naming them, but whether it's a contracted party, presumably

which it will be, and then if any action was taken, what action it was that was taken; if no action was taken, why no action was taken, and additional data that goes along with that. As always, we are open to community input on data that we're not providing that we could report on. But right now, we're using the period between the time that the amendments were agreed to and approved by the Board to their effective date of April 5th to put in new processes, not just for reporting, but also to make it easier for reporters to submit complaints and to submit them in a way that we can act on them. Because right now, for abuse-related complaints, 68% of those complaints that we receive often are invalid because they don't indicate—there's no evidence that they tried to contact the registrar. They're ccTLDs, they're asking us to take down a website for those. And so what we're hoping is that we will get better quality complaints coming in, which will enable us to act more quickly and effectively on the complaints that we get, and then ultimately report out on all the data.

MASON COLE:

Quick follow-up, if I may. Thank you, Jamie. Will there be incorporation of third party data as well? Or is it strictly ICANN source data?

JAMIE HEDLUND:

Before I turn it over to John Crain, for Compliance, we're going to do just compliance-related data. We'll have links to other sources of information for people to consult on the website, but we're not going to, at this point anyway, incorporate the DNSAI data into our own reporting.

JOHN CRAIN: Okay. So I've been told by Dr. Tajalizadehkhoob that I must promote a new platform that we're going to start promoting this week, which is called domain Metrica, the follow-up from our reputation datasets. So we've been collecting data for a long while. We've also been experimenting with other ways of cutting data and enhancing data with evidence and things like this. So we will be measuring and we will be looking for changes in the patterns and see if we can actually measure the effect or if there is a effect. Now, does that mean causation? We don't know. We don't have the data yet. But we will be watching very closely. There are other organizations outside ICANN that are also measuring this. The DNS Abuse Institution, the institute that you may be aware of, I'm actually on their Advisory Board and I work with them. We have good collaboration. The University of Grenoble was also doing a lot of research. So yes, we will be watching this and we'll be trying to apply science and good data science to actually measuring what's happening.

MASON COLE: Thank you very much.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Mason, before you walk away, I think David Olive wanted to respond to your kind words.

MASON COLE: Certainly.

DAVID OLIVE: It's very kind of you, Mason, because in my early years working with Fujitsu, I was a member of the Business Constituency, working through ICANN, learning about ICANN. So as an honorary member, I want to thank you for your remarks, and I look forward to continuing, at least in spirit, with my work with ICANN and the Business Constituency. So thank you.

MASON COLE: Thank you, David. Congratulations on your retirement.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: I'm going to ask Alex Dans to now read one of the online questions we have, please.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you, Sally. We have a question from Abraham Selby, ICANN79 Fellow. "I would like to know, how does ICANN handle transformational changes in new technologies in terms of policy implementations?"

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: This feels like a John Crain question.

JOHN CRAIN: Does that? I had the word policy. I'm more of an engineer. Technology is in constant flux. It's constantly changing. We know this. The way people use the Internet is constantly changing. So we spend a lot of

effort trying to understand what is happening out there, not just what is happening in the press. You'll hear a lot of buzzwords, a lot of the time around technologies, but also what's happening in the standards development area. We try to make sure that we do our best to inform the community about the implications of technology and how it works so they can actually incorporate that into their policy discussions. So we try and put data into the policy discussion.

Now, of often, we also have what we call emerging identifier sessions. We try and bring people like developers and technologists that are involved in technologies that appear to have an effect on the ecosystem, not just the domain name system, but all the identifiers, and try and bring them directly to come and talk to the community. So they're not just getting our evaluation of the technology, but they're also getting that evaluation from those people. Often they will come and try and explain to us what kind of problems they're trying to solve and how they're trying to solve that. We have a lot of people looking at this all the time. So thank you for the question.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, John. We'll get back to the microphone. Just a reminder. When you ask your question, please state your name and speak slowly for the scribes. Thank you.

JAMES KUNLE OLORUNDARE: All right. Thank you very much. So my name is Olorundare, James Kunle, ICANN79 Fellow. I speak for myself for the record. Okay. All right. So I have a couple of questions for you people this afternoon.

The first one has to do with the future of the Internet. We all know that the Metaverse has come, so to say, and, of course, that's going to be one bigger phenomenon in which we're going to be doing a lot of things even in the virtual world, so to say, including our commercial stuff, buying and selling, and stuff like that. And of course, you will agree with me that that will require a lot of security issues. I appreciate the fact that one of the focus of ICANN is open, resilient, and secured Internet, so to say. So my concern is that looking at the future, vis-à-vis the upcoming Metaverse, I think we'll still need a more robust security system. And for me, I think it's high time we started looking at this kind of security that will be good for the Metaverse. I think it's something we really need to look at. So I want to find out if perhaps we've started working on that. And if we have started working on that, I will want to have a glimpse of what has been done in that regard. That's the first question.

The second one has to do with the issue of green Internet. I can see over there CleanDNS, which of course, it's really, really impressive. So I would like to know more about what is being done in terms of green Internet. We know fully well that all of us are talking about how we're going to cut down the greenhouse gases, and so on and so forth.

The third one has to do with the issue of collaboration. I know that there are a lot of policies coming out of this fantastic community, which I think it's really good. But in terms of implementation, I want to know what type of community engagement it's been done to ensure that nations, countries, try as much as possible to implement all those policies. So these are my questions for you. Thank you very much.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you very much. We're going to take those question by question. So we'll start with your questions about the Metaverse. John Crain, if you could start.

JOHN CRAIN: So let's take a step back a little bit and look at what is the mission of ICANN. So what we are involved in is the identifiers that are used to navigate the Internet. The one everybody thinks about is the domain name system, but there are thousands of other ones. So when new technologies emerge, the Metaverse is just one new technology amongst many, what we're interested in is how does that intersect with the identifier world? How did they use identifiers? Are they using the same identifiers that we use on the generic Internet, the things that the IANA keeps registries? That's one of the things that we do. And if they are the same or sometimes very similar, what kind of risks and opportunities to do that pose? So just like in the previous question, we try and understand and then we try and look at the mission of ICANN and see where the intersection is. Now, there's a lot of things both on the public Internet and in these other environments that do not really intersect with ICANN's mission—what kind of contents on there, some of the security aspects. Now, that doesn't mean we're not interested because obviously to have a secure and stable identifier system, we also need to worry about security of the platforms we use, etc. But that's not really directly in ICANN's mission. So although we may have taken technical interest, we don't spend time trying to figure out how somebody in their environment is securing their environment. We

worry about the identifier side of it and help people navigate that. Do you want to talk about the green Internet?

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Sally's going to take on that.

SALLY COSTERTON: As far as ICANN is concerned on your question about the environment, I just wanted to draw everybody's attention to the fact that this year's CEO goals, my CEO goals, include, for the first time, a goal to initiate the creation of ICANN's environmental sustainability strategy. And that is very much in line with what you described in your question for exactly those reasons. We're working on that at the moment. We're working with the Board on that, and it's an ongoing process. We have a lot of involvement. I'm looking at Maarten in front of the row here because he's stewarding that on the Board. We have a team on the staff doing this. We're making very good progress in drafting that. The specific point I wanted to make is to take this opportunity to say we have to decide what the scope is of our strategy. And that's harder than it sounds, because as you imply from your question, you're right. This is a potentially enormous topic. And the most important thing is that we decide how we want to prioritize the work around that. We write it down, we commit to do that, we work with the community, we move forward, we measure it, and we make an impact. So thank you for the question. It's an important question.

JAMES KUNLE OLORUNDARE: Sorry, just a follow-up on the issue of the green Internet. So if for venture, I'm interested in contributing. So how can I join the train? Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you. Now, my understanding, and I'm just looking at one of my colleagues, he's in the middle here, that we do actually have a community group that's involved in. I think it's actually called Green ICANN or something like this. Forgive me if I've got the naming—he's nodding. That's good. So that yes, we'll come with you separately offline, and make sure that you've got access to that group, and you know how to join that group. So I would strongly encourage you to participate that with other community members. I look forward to hearing your feedback from having done that. Thank you for the question.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Then there's the third question that you asked. I think, David Olive, you have a few comments, and then possibly Theresa Swinehart after that.

DAVID OLIVE: Thank you. You were kind of asking how maybe governments react or should react to policies. Of course, we at ICANN develop global policies as part of our multistakeholder model. And we also have various groups within ICANN who work on the security and stability of the Internet or other issues like our Governmental Advisory Committees. So we do have studies and they discuss issues that could

be a model or something to follow for national governments as they go forward. But again, we'd like to promote the global nature of the Internet and its interoperable aspects.

THERESA SWINEHART: Just to add on to that. So we also engage with a group of stakeholders that are volunteers. And really, it's about getting the implementation right and working with all. So through that process, there's also the opportunity to ensure that we're getting it right, but also awareness around the technologies that are emerging. So I hope that helps.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you both. The next question, please.

GRIFFIN BARNETT: Hello, good afternoon. My name is Griffin Barnett. I'm a member of the IPC. The NIS2 regulation in the EU includes some important clarifications regarding interpretation of the GDPR and its application with respect to domain registration data. What efforts are the Executive Team undertaking to ensure these NIS2 provisions are being taken into consideration and ongoing ICANN policy development and implementation work in relation to registration data, for example, in connection with data accuracy and disclosure?

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Theresa, would you like to?

THERESA SWINEHART: Sorry, can you just repeat the last part of the question? I'm sorry.

GRIFFIN BARNETT: Sure. What is the Executive Team doing to ensure that the NIS2 provisions relating to GDPR or clarifications of GDPR and registration data are being taken into consideration and policy development work and implementation work?

THERESA SWINEHART: So we have a team that's working, obviously, within Europe. So we're following the different directions around that. And looking at the policy development and process, making sure that we have the liaisons that are engaged in that process. So certainly monitoring it very closely around that, but I can have you connected with the team more directly that's doing the day-to-day work on that, if that helps.

GRIFFIN BARNETT: Thank you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you very much. We have no online questions. And I think the mic is open. Unless there are other questions—oh, you do have one online now? Thank you.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you, Sally. We just received one from Noveck Gowandan, ICANN Fellow. "Is there a corporate GRC function within the ICANN Executive Team, specifically for resilience and operation of ICANN Org, and not

necessarily the wider community multistakeholder model governance?”

SALLY COSTERTON: Alex, could you please ask the questioner exactly what they mean by that? Did you say GRC?

ALEXANDRA DANS: GRC function.

SALLY COSTERTON: Do we know what that is? Can we just make sure we are all talking about the same thing?

ALEXANDRA DANS: I will ask them to please clarify.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Governance Risk and Compliance

SALLY COSTERTON: Governance Risk and Compliance. Okay. Thank you very much. John, do you want to?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Xavier is going to speak.

SALLY COSTERTON: Okay.

XAVIER CALVEZ: Thank you. Thank you for the question. So in the organization and the Board, there is risk management activities and function of governance. So the organization is responsible for the management of the risks, identification, evaluation, mitigation. And the Board is responsible to provide oversight to the organization in that management of the risks. Relative to compliance, one aspect of compliance that is also organized in the ICANN organization is the compliance to laws and regulation, including tax or statutory requirements. And a lot of those statutory requirements are monitored and satisfied within the finance functions with also the legal function involved for a number of statutory requirements. So that's how we're organized to take care of that. I'm happy to elaborate further if there's further elements to the question. Thank you.

JOHN JEFFREY: There's also a Board Governance Committee and nine other committees, or eight other including the Risk and Governance Committee. The Board Governance Committee focuses on a wide range of activities regarding internal governance and how the Board conducts itself and make sure that the committee charters and other pieces of that as well as managing conflicts of interest are working.

Then you if you go to the ICANN Org website, you can always type Committees and Board and you'll find the whole array of them. You can click on any of those and see what they do, see their charter, see the members of the Board that participate in it, and we always welcome questions.

SALLY COSTERTON: The last part to see was Compliance. Just for information, so Jamie Hedlund leads our Compliance team. So that's how we handle compliance inside the organization.

JOHN JEFFREY: But that's Contractual Compliance as opposed to Corporate Compliance, right? Corporate Compliance occurs across a number of our different functions and incurs in Xavier's group with Finance, it occurs through Board Governance and the Legal Team as well as across different management functions.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, great clarification. Sébastien?

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Sébastien Bachollet, this time in English. Once again, not really a review, but some of the activities. A long time ago, Work Stream 2 published Recommendation and Final Report, and something about the Ombuds Office of ICANN. The 7th of November 2019, the Board accepted that resolution. It was a consensus recommendation. We are still in the process to implement them. And one of them, it's linked

with how we will—when I say we will, it’s ICANN as a whole—choose the next Ombuds Office. It seems that this part of the recommendation, it’s still not implemented. But in the same time, the Board is already organizing the replacement of the current ICANN Ombuds Office.

I don’t know why we were not able to put in place the recommendation made more than five years or six years ago. I think it’s an important topic related to how the relationship between the Community, the Board, and Org. I will ask the same question when I will have the opportunity to discuss with the Board. But I think part of how it’s implemented, it’s in charge of Org. Thank you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN:

Thank you very much, Xavier. If I could ask you to talk about implementation of Work Stream 2.

XAVIER CALVEZ:

Thank you. We have a team that coordinates the implementation of non-policy recommendations, whether they come from reviews, or from CCWGs, Cross-Community Working Groups. WS2 is one of those Cross-Community Working Groups. Sébastien is referring to a number of recommendations that are relative to the Ombudsman Office that had been formulated by WS2. Generally, about WS2, on our website, there is a quarterly report that is produced on the progress of the implementation of reviews. There’s work for the community in terms of implementation and work for the Org in terms of implementation. Both have been progressing very well over the past couple of years.

More specifically about the Ombuds recommendations—John, I don't know if you want to add a little bit of color specifically on that. There's a number of processes that are currently going on, which is true for any recommendation implementation. Until it's done, it appears that it's not done at all and that nothing happens, which is not the case. So, John, if there's a bit more color you want to put on the Ombudsman-related recommendations.

JOHN JEFFREY:

I'd say nothing in particular on the Ombudsman, unless you have a specific question relating to that. But I think there are a number of different streams that cross all of our disciplines that still come from that and many of the other reviews. So one of the things we've been focused on, both at the organization level as well as at the Board level, is how to move the pending recommendations that are out there forward. A lot of emphasis is put on that right now across the organization. For example, like with the recent IRP Standing Panel and the different steps that we've been taking to move forward on some of these pending recommendations that are so important to the governance of the organization.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET:

Thank you. Yeah, I have a specific question about the Ombuds. A panel was supposed to be created and set up to engage next ICANN Ombuds Office. It's not the case. Therefore, it will be done with previous way of doing it. Even if recommendation accepted by the Board are not put in place since five years. It's why I am asking this question. Thank you very much.

JOHN JEFFREY: Just to answer that very specifically, I know that the current search committee on the Board, the Ombudsman Search Committee, is very focused on the innovations and changes that will need to occur to that office and looking forward after the selection of an Ombudsman, how to bring those positive changes forward with the new Ombuds.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET: I get your point, but since the recommendation was to create a panel, and the panel is not existing, and the panel was supposed to be with different types of people, but we may not have all those knowledge within the Board today. I am not putting into questions that the Board is doing a good job. I am just putting in the linings that the process was supposed to be followed, it is not. That's it. Thank you.

JOHN JEFFREY: Understood. Point noted.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you. Alex, just one last check with you. Okay. There are no questions in the queue or in the line. So we will close the session early. However, we're all here. So if anyone has any questions that they might not have wanted to ask publicly but have for any of us, will be here for the next few minutes if you'd like to catch us privately. And thank you very much for the questions we received for all of you joining the session. And with that, I believe we'll stop the recording. Thank you. And thank you to everyone on the Executive Team.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]