
ICANN79 | CF – ICANN Public Forum
Thursday, March 7, 2024 – 10:30 to 12:00 SJU

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the ICANN 79 public forum. Please welcome Tripti Sinha, ICANN board chair.

TRIPTI SINHA: Good morning, everyone. Thank you for joining us today for the ICANN 79 public forum. As we wrap up this week, I want to express my pride and gratitude in being part of this community dedicated to advancing the public interest. This commitment extends not only to the billions of users online today, but also to those who will join us in the future. The ICANN board is committed to facilitating the bottom-up multi-stakeholder process to progress the work, and of course, we are committed to making continuous improvement and getting the job done together.

This is why the public forum is such a valuable opportunity for the ICANN board and the community to come together. It is the board's responsibility to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders and to hear directly from you about your hopes, your concerns, your ideas, and the challenges you may face as we work together to achieve our mission. On behalf of the ICANN board, I encourage you to take advantage of this session to ask questions, make comments, and share your thoughts in your respective languages.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

Please also remember that this session is not a replacement for public comments ICANN is seeking on various issues and policies. If you want to provide input on a specific issue that is open for public comment, please use the online system available on ICANN.org. It is also the only way your comments will receive proper consideration from the appropriate committee, supporting organization, or staff member.

Before we begin, I would like to remind you that this session is a space to address your questions and concerns regarding ICANN's work and remit. Therefore, please refrain from making statements that are political, ideological, or religious in nature and intent. Please ensure you review the expected standards of behavior, and let's maintain a polite and respectful dialogue acknowledging our differences. Thank you for being a part of this session and for the robust discussion through the week and we look forward to the dialogues. Now our remote participation manager and Communications Director for the Americas, Alexandra Dans, will say a few words about the format of the session and the participation processes. Alex, the floor is yours.

ALEXANDRA DANS:

Thank you, Tripti. Welcome, everyone. My name is Alex Dans and I'm the Communication Director for the Americas at ICANN Org. As we're about to begin the ICANN 79 public forum, we want to remind everyone that as a condition of participation, those who take part in ICANN's multi-stakeholder model are expected to understand and follow ICANN's expected standards of behaviors and ICANN's community anti-harassment policy and complaint procedure. Additionally, ICANN's Office of the Ombuds is here at ICANN 79 as an informal dispute

resolution office for the ICANN community. The email address is ombuds@icann.org.

Now I'm going to briefly explain the format for this session and how you can participate. Today's public forum is divided into four blocks. All blocks are open to any subject of community interest and each block will be facilitated by a board member, starting with Becky Burr, followed by Sarah Deutsch, then James Galvin and finally Wes Hardaker.

We strongly encourage you to use the headsets to take advantage of the skilled interpreters that we have here supporting us, as we often receive questions in other languages than English. I will now switch to Spanish for a short message. For us at ICANN, it is very important that everyone participates on an equal footing and can ask questions to the board in their own language. As we are holding this community forum in Puerto Rico, please feel free to submit your questions in Spanish so that I can read them and our team of interpreters can share them in English and the other official languages of the United Nations and Portuguese. Finally, we strongly recommend that you use headphones to be able to follow the sessions in your language.

And now I will explain the participation process in English. First block begins. There are three ways to ask a question or make a comment. If you're attending the event in person, simply go to the microphone and wait for your turn to make your comments. Please remember to keep your comments brief and respectful to those attending online and in person. If you're participating remotely, you can virtually queue up in one of two ways. If you want to ask a question or make a comment

verbally, please click on the raise hand icon at the bottom of your screen and you will automatically go into the speakers' queue. When it is your turn to speak, you will see a message on your screen requesting that you unmute your mic. This lets you know that it will soon be your turn to speak. Once you've been introduced, please be sure to unmute your microphone. Before stating your comment or question, either in person or remotely, please say your name, where you're from, and who you're representing or affiliated with, if applicable. Please remember to speak slowly and clearly so that the scribes and interpreters correctly capture your words. If you are unable to voice your question or comments, please write it in the Zoom Q&A pod. I will read the question aloud. Please do not ask your question in the chat. We're not tracking questions in the chat and your question will not be read if you write it there.

There are also time limit rules. Each person will have two minutes to make a question or comment. You will see a two-minute timer on the screen. We use this time limit to facilitate as many questions and comments as possible. The board facilitator will then either answer your question or turn to the board member who is best equipped to answer your question. Please note that the board may need a few seconds to determine who is best prepared to answer your question. If you have a follow-up question, we ask you to re-enter the queue. This ensures everybody has the opportunity to pose a question or comment to the board during the allotted time. And the two-minute rule also applies for follow-up questions and comments.

And finally, real-time interpretation is available in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Russian, and Portuguese. The language

spoken may vary through the session, so for the best experience, we recommend that you select the language you speak or listen to by clicking on the interpretation icon located on the Zoom toolbar.

Our first board facilitator today is Becky Burr. Becky, the floor is yours.

BECKY BURR:

Thank you so much, and welcome to the public forum here in San Juan, Puerto Rico. We've had a very full week, and we'll dive right into comments. I just want to point out that we had an innovation today, which is they announced in advance who the board facilitators are, so you can decide who you want to facilitate your question. Mr. Palage, please go ahead.

MICHAEL PALAGE:

My name is Michael Palage, and I'm here speaking in an individual capacity. I'd like to start off by dedicating this public forum intervention to Marilyn Cade and [Ramunda Becker.] Speaking with former fellow ICANN board member George Sadowsky this week, we talked about some of the important dates and inflection points in ICANN's history, and we both agreed that March 2011 was significant. That was the month that the ICANN board approved the XXX Registry Agreement, and which ICANN, ICM then entered into a contract with them.

I'm here today imploring you to do the right thing and reject the proposed registry agreement changes that GoDaddy has made to convert a sponsored agreement into a standard agreement. A good friend of mine recently went to the ICANN board, and he implored them to do the right thing. However, through delay and misguided action,

ICANN took a bad situation and made it worse. Let me make it very clear. That individual had nothing to do with the statements I'm making here today, but I want to implore ICANN not to make that same mistake.

One of the things I've learned in my many years of ICANN is the Jonathan Zuck and Steve DelBianco School of Public Speaking. Use a good prop or a graphic and keep your message to three points. What I have here as my prop today is the binder that ICM Registry's legal advisors gave to the ICANN board, articulating why they needed to be a sponsor. And the reason that this is important is under the current registry agreement that ICM has with ICANN, Section 2.1b says that all representations made during the application period are true and accurate, and therefore binding. And I think that's important.

The three points that I have here today on why ICANN should reject it is, one, upon information and belief, there have been material violations of the registry agreement. I will be submitting these to ICANN Compliance next week. Number two, Article 3.2 of the baseline agreement says that ICANN should treat all registries equitably. If ICANN allows ICM to walk away from the sponsor agreements, it should allow every applicant that was a failed community applicant from the 2000 round to walk away from their sponsors and be a generic as well. Finally, under the PICs and RVC, Becky, which you chaired, we talked about stress testing. And under that stress testing, you talked about how there could be an organization that could hold that registry accountable. That's exactly what I-4 was created to do and which basically we're now giving GoDaddy a potential get out of jail card free. Do the right thing. Reject the proposed changes.

BECKY BURR: Thank you very much for your comment.

HOUDA CHIH: Okay. Hello, everyone. So, my name is Houda Chihi. I am from Tunisia. The question is, what is the role of ICANN in the age of generative AI and the rise of misinformation? Thank you.

BECKY BURR: I'm sorry. It was a little bit hard to hear you. Could you just repeat that last part? Because I don't even think that they picked it up on the translator.

HOUDA CHIH: What is the role of ICANN in the age of generative AI and the rise of the misinformation?

BECKY BURR: Generative AI. Sorry. The question is, what is the role of ICANN in the age of generative AI and the rise of misinformation. So, thank you. ICANN's mission is very clearly spelled out in the bylaws. ICANN's mission relates to ensuring the secure and stable coordination of the internet's unique identifiers. ICANN needs to stay within its mission. Having said that, ICANN's bylaws also require transparency. And so, those are the bookends that I would suggest bound our work here now. We have to stay within mission, but we also have to insist on transparency.

TRIPTI SINHA: And as with all evolving technologies, we keep our finger on the pulse of what's happening. And if there's the potential to apply AI, which is actually very broad in scope and has applications in many, many different areas, we will certainly keep that under consideration. And ICANN's CTO's office is indeed looking at many ways that we could use AI. Thank you.

BECKY BURR: Thanks. We have a question in the Q&A pod.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you. So, we have a question from Dr. [Mark Miller.] The question is, ICANN and all its groups and community are community-driven. And without community inputs, no decision gets implemented. That's why various groups such as GNSO and ccNSO created a task force for statement of interest requirements. A recommendation report is created, which got published for public comment in conjunction with any possible changes following that public comment period. Then working groups' statement of interest task force make updates to the report as per community inputs and share with the leadership for decision and community approval. It was shocking to learn during the ICANN 79 UASG session that UASG didn't follow basic steps and announced the statement of interest implementation under the pressure of ICANN staff. Can ICANN board tell who allowed UASG leadership to take a decision without community involvement when it is clear in UASG charter that any change needs community approval and how ICANN is allowing such acts to happen?

BECKY BURR: Thanks. Edmon, would you like to take this?

EDMON CHUNG: Yeah, Edmon here. Thank you for the question. A couple of things. First of all, I guess the transparency commitments that ICANN is important and the requirement of statement of interest is an interesting topic that we are talking about. But going back to the heart of the issue, UASG itself is a bottom-up community organization rather than one of the SO and ACs, the supporting organizations or advisory committees. And ICANN does support the UASG. And I think on the topic of universal acceptance and internationalized domain names especially, it is important and ICANN will continue to support the work there. And thank you for bringing this issue up. In fact, the governance of the UASG is important, I think, as they are also part of the one of the organizations that ICANN work with and one of the organizations within the Internet Governance Ecosystem. So their governance is something that the board is interested in. And so thank you for bringing that up. But again, it is a separate organization. ICANN does support the UA activities. UASG is one of those organizations that we support. But let's not forget the wider aim of universal acceptance is something that ICANN works on beyond UASG itself as well. So thank you.

BECKY BURR: Thank you, Edmon. Let's go to the next person in line.

NORBERTO CRUZ CORDOVA: Good morning. My name is Norberto Cruz Cordova, President of the Puerto Rico Chapter of the Internet Society. Recently our beautiful island, Puerto Rico, became the global center for Internet Governance discussions and debates thanks to the ICANN79 community forum and other important forums. These events underscore the strategic importance of our island within the Internet Ecosystem. And at the same time, they attest our commitment to digital transformation and active engagement in the future of the Internet. NASIG is a platform devoted to Internet Governance that brings together international experts to face the challenges that the global network is facing in the future. In addition, the ICANN79 community forum was a great opportunity to exchange policy ideas and make crucial decisions pertaining to the Internet critical resources involving global leaders. This event is an absolute must-attend event that favors the Internet global infrastructure. NASIG's presence in Puerto Rico not only brought Puerto Rico to the fore in terms of Internet Governance, but also offered a unique platform for collaboration, encompassing Internet expansion, capacity development, and the creation of growth opportunities for Puerto Rico in the digital age. Puerto Rico's ISOC chapters' participation in this ecosystem is a testament to our commitment to bridge the digital gap. Once again, thank you so much for being here in this beautiful island of Puerto Rico. Thank you.

BECKY BURR: Thank you for your comment, and thank you also to you and to all of the people of Puerto Rico for hosting this in such a wonderful environment. Please go ahead.

ALFREDO CALDERON:

So good morning. My name is Alfredo Calderon, and I'm going to be speaking on my own capacity. And this is sort of a short proposal that I've been sharing with a few of the members of the community. So today I stand before you to voice a collective appeal, an appeal for inclusivity, for equality, and for the fundamental right of access to communication for all. It is a call to action for ICANN to embody the principles it stands upon by implementing sign language interpretation services at its meetings, conferences, and gatherings, something that I have already done. I've talked with language service with Cristina Rodriguez. On Monday, we had a session with deaf people from the Puerto Rico community and with faculty as well. And basically, I'm not going to read everything I have here because I'll extend my exposition, but I would request that the board consider the possibility of having a pilot program where we have specific language interpretation for sign language that we can use when we have at least as a starting point the regional meetings in different continents based on the languages that are spoken in that community where we're going to hold the future meetings. So thank you.

BECKY BURR:

Thank you for your comment. I know that many of us were very pleased to see the sign language interpreters. Sally, would you like to say something?

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you so much for your comment, and yes, I completely agree with you. Thank you. Yes, we've already started discussing that inside the organization since we thank you for your suggestions and your help providing us with those partners here at this meeting. I think it's triggered a lot of discussion in the organization about how we move forward. So yet again, thank you, Puerto Rico, for helping ICANN to move on to the next stage. Thank you.

BECKY BURR: Thank you. Let's go to another question in the Q&A pod.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you. We have Susan Payne who wished to voice her question. Susan?

BECKY BURR: Susan, we're not hearing you. Why don't we move on to the next person in line while we get that straightened out. Please go ahead. Thank you.

RODNEY TAYLOR: Good morning. I am Rodney Taylor of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, an intergovernmental organization with 20 member states and an observer in the GAC. The member states of the CTU fall within ICANN's geographic region of Latin America and the Caribbean, and we are also part of a grouping not recognized in the ICANN structure, namely Small Island Developing States, or SIDS. SIDS is a category of 39 states recognized by the United Nations as being worthy of special consideration owing to their small size and particular

vulnerabilities to external shocks. SIDS exists in most of the ICANN's geographic regions, and it is typical to find that their digital economies and DNS industries are what we loosely describe as being underserved or underrepresented. ICANN's public meetings are therefore an opportunity for representatives from SIDS to come together and share knowledge and experience and benefit from capacity building programs. We would like to express our appreciation to ICANN for facilitating a meeting of representatives from SIDS from all over the world at ICANN 79, and for the patronage of ICANN vice presidents from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia Pacific, and Oceania. We also express appreciation for the solidarity shown by our brothers and sisters from the Pacific Islands within ICANN and in other Internet governance spaces such as the UN IGF and the ITU.

Our meeting at ICANN 79 greatly enhanced understanding within the ICANN hierarchy of the concerns of SIDS, and particularly in terms of stakeholder engagement requirements in all ICANN constituencies. We are relying, therefore, on effective follow-up by ICANN Org on behalf of SIDS going forward, and to the regular accommodation of a SIDS space at future ICANN public meetings. This can only serve to enhance the validity of the multi-stakeholder model and broaden the input to policy development processes across the ICANN community.

Lastly, we believe that the hosting of the United Nations' fourth international conference on small island developing states in Antigua and Barbuda in May provides an excellent platform for deepening the engagement with SIDS, particularly around issues that are essential to ICANN's mandate and that intersect with the social and economic development aspirations of this stakeholder group and the UN

Sustainable Development Goals. It is for this reason that we propose the hosting of the second SIDS IGF as a special event within SIDS's fourth conference and extend an invitation to the ICANN community to support this initiative. Once again, I express my sincere appreciation.

BECKY BURR: Thank you very much. Sally, would you like to respond? Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON: Yes, I absolutely would. Thank you so much. And thank you so much for all your help in participating with our staff and teams to make this happen. And I can say I'm very excited that we've already discussed how we provide a space at the next ICANN meeting in Istanbul, not the next ICANN meeting, the meeting in Istanbul. That's the plan that's been discussed with your team and with my team. So again, thank you so much for that. It's a critical stakeholder group, and we very much appreciate it. Thank you.

BECKY BURR: Thank you. Can we see if we can get Susan?

ALEXANDRA DANS: We have Fabrizio Vayra now.

FABRICIO VAYRA: Thank you. Fabrizio Vayra from Perkins Coie. Thanks for the opportunity. This week I heard a lot of questions about reconciling on WHOIS policy, in particular around NIS 2 and the current status of

ICANN policy. And I think what I heard back as a response was that sort of a question in return, do you or does the community who's asking these questions feel that the current policy keeps current contracted parties from complying with the law? And provided that the current WHOIS policy at ICANN doesn't violate the law, then we're okay.

The reason I want to bring this back up is because throughout the WHOIS policy development, I've always understood ICANN's perspective and policy to be that it would maintain WHOIS to the utmost ability in compliance with the law, not as long as we don't violate the law. And I'm wondering if ICANN has changed that policy because it has an opportunity right now with NIS 2 to actually raise the bar and keep WHOIS to the utmost availability in compliance with the law. And there are some very simple things. Like in NIS 2, it says that legal persons should be listed, right? Things of that nature that we're now not changing the policy to make sure that we are complying with the utmost availability under law. It seems like we're going lowest common denominator, not highest. And I'm wondering if I could hear about that and what we're going to do to maintain access to the utmost availability under law.

BECKY BURR:

Thanks so much for your question. We did have very vibrant discussions in many of the SO and AC discussions, including with the ALAC and the stakeholder groups in the GNSO this week on the question of NIS 2. I think I can say on behalf of the board that I developed a better understanding of what was being asked and clarified that this issue

wasn't coming up in the context of ICANN policies prevent compliance, but in the context that you're talking about.

We also reached some consensus, particularly in the CSG conversation, that at this point, policy development is certainly premature as the directive has not been transposed. So we do now understand where the requests were coming from and where the questions were coming from. That's been very helpful. And I think all of us are watching the transposition process with great interest. So thank you for your input. And thanks to all in the community who participated in this important conversation this week. I am now going to hand the facilitation over to Sarah Deutsch.

SARAH DEUTSCH:

Thanks, Becky. And I see a familiar face at the microphone for us board members here. So, Nigel, please go ahead with your question.

NIGEL ROBERTS:

Thank you, Sarah. From comments made in the ccNSO meeting with a number of board representatives yesterday, it seems to me the board may be under the impression that it might have the ability to delay indefinitely approved policy that has been formally conveyed to the board in accordance with paragraph 13 of annex B of the ICANN bylaws. From the feedback, it's my understanding that the inordinate delays in approving the review rights recommendation, which will establish appeal rights for ccTLDs, is currently being held up by ICANN Legal's internal consideration. Clause 15 of annex B states that following a council recommendation, the board must take a vote at the next

feasible meeting, subject to normal board procedures, which I submit relates to such matters as the giving of proper notice and does not admit of any delay discretion by the board. Such policy shall be approved unless the supermajority of the board concludes the policy breaches ICANN's fundamental values. That principle is the keystone of the IANA transition. And it's important. Policymaking, in my opinion, is without the board's role. Board veto is a backstop, like the presidential veto. It doesn't entitle the board intentionally or accidentally to frustrate the settled will of the community without the formal exercise of the veto. Certainly, creative procrastination is not an option open to the board, I submit. So my question is, will ICANN Legal take this point under consideration? And if a concise response is not possible today, arrange for a response by email as to how ICANN substantiates the proposition that at least in respect of ccTLD PDPs, ccPDPs, the current situation is compliant with the ICANN bylaws.

SARAH DEUTSCH:

Thanks, Nigel. Your question, with regards to Legal, I guess we can get back to you on that one. And I want to allow Katrina to say a few words more generally.

KATRINA SATAKI:

Yes, thank you very much, Nigel, for your question. And yes, indeed, yesterday we had a very good discussion, at least from my perspective, it was a very good discussion with ccTLD members and non-members in the room. Honestly, I don't know where you got the impression that the board has an impression that we can postpone approval of ccPDP recommendations indefinitely. That definitely was not in the message

that we tried to convey. And I hope that other people in the room did not get that impression. Thank you.

NIGEL ROBERTS: Okay, I look forward to response. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Thanks. And I think we're going to turn next, Alex, to the online question.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you. We have a question from Imran Hossain. This is Imran Hossen from Bangladesh. His affiliation is the cloud hosting community. “My concern and question is those who yield greater economic influence on the internet also hold more power in its governance. However, countries with a high user base, like developing nations, also play a significant role in the ecosystem. Given the dominance of established entities in internet businesses, how can developing economies assert their position? What steps can be taken to establish fair policy frameworks for internet governance?”

SARAH DEUTSCH: Thanks for the question. Would any board member like to comment on this one? Tripti?

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you very much for the question. ICANN is currently focused on many fronts on inclusivity. And in particular, the next round that will be

released in 2026 is focused primarily on the expectation that the uptick will certainly take place in Asia-Pacific where there are developing economies and the next billions of users will come from that part of the world. Furthermore, ICANN is very committed to a multi-stakeholder model and there are numerous conversations and events underway regarding internet governance. And our posture and position is that we will ensure that the multi-stakeholder model includes where the internet is expected to continue to grow and where there are dominant economies, world economies, such as China and India and Indonesia and other countries in Asia-Pacific. So rest assured that we will do our part in promoting multi-stakeholderism and inclusivity in all the conversations that are currently underway in the next two years on internet governance. Thank you.

JIM GALVIN:

Yes, Edmon?

EDMON CHUNG:

Edmon here. Adding a little bit to what Tripti said, ICANN itself actually through the At-Large community, the ALAC, does include participation from everywhere around the world, including developing regions. And also as individuals, you will be able to participate directly in the policy development processes through At-Large as well as through the NCUC, for example. There are constituencies that do allow participation from the developing regions and from individuals as well.

SARAH DEUTSCH:

Great. Thanks, Tripti and Edmon. I think we'll turn to Jordan next in line.

JORDAN CARTER:

Thanks, Sarah. Jordan Carter, .au. This comment is in the context of the WSIS+20 process and the internet governance debates that are happening and that Tripti just mentioned. We've talked a lot about this year being an inflection point for ICANN and for internet governance. That's my first bingo card word. And part of those discussions get complicated for ICANN and others because we all have our narrow roles and responsibilities, our focused mandates. And most of the organizations in the internet community don't also have a broader systemic mandate. No one has in their charter look after the internet governance system as a whole. And yet that is what we're called to do at the moment. And I know there's going to be a discussion about ICANN's plans for a slice of this work around the WSIS and so on in the geopolitical forum after lunch. But I guess the message I want to convey and hope that the ICANN organization and board can take on board is let's not be defined by these UN processes and how we want to shape multi-stakeholder internet governance. The UN slice, the intergovernmental slice is just one part of it. And there are lots of opportunities for broader conversations and for broader leadership to happen so that when those UN discussions happen, there's a bigger multi-stakeholder grounded context in which those decisions get made by the countries who have the only voice within the UN system. So, you know, if we don't shape the broader process, it will shape up us instead. It's good to see us getting a little bit more proactive. But with events, for example, like NetMundial+10 coming up later this year, like the whole IGF system, there's a huge need for effective technical community collaboration and coordination so that we have something to say and

something to bring into those debates. And so we can do our own work together in making the multi-stakeholder models that exist for internet governance stronger. So I guess the essence of it is let's not get caught in the UN system. Let's step up and lead beyond that as well. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Thank you, Jordan, for your thoughtful comment. Sally, would you like to comment on this?

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you, Jordan. And I just want to say, as we say in the internet community, plus 100, maybe plus 200. No, seriously. I mean, I couldn't have put it better. I think you framed it incredibly well. Yes, in the session after this, as you rightly say, we will be talking about our outreach network. And I know, thank you very much for your commitment to that and support to that. I know that our colleagues at .br are talking here about NetMundial+10. And we're delighted to support that and be part of that. There are many regional and national IGFs that continue to go on, which some people may know, but many people in the audience may not know. We support with staff and community members. And we always have done at a country by country and region by region level. And it's a big part of the work of our global and regional engagement teams. We work very closely, for example, with the community groups. For example, I can see Sebastian in the queue, the RALOs, for example, very heavily involved in that, not only the RALOs. So we couldn't be more committed to that. And what we are also doing as ICANN, as part of my CEO goal six, which is exactly around this topic, is a very proactive, to use your word, it's the right word,

planned outreach set of activities around the world into those countries that are going to go into the UN. Because it's not clearly, and you're right, it's about bringing those countries to the table, if you like, at the UN, to make sure that we've got the widest possible understanding in each of those key countries amongst the stakeholders that will inform those governments who will go to the UN so that we are empowering and engaging with that broader multi-stakeholder community around the world. And we will be talking to everybody through that network so that everything we can do together to inform that work, we are doing. So thank you so much for bringing it up. It's a really important topic. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Thanks, Sally. I think we will turn now to the next online question. Alex, if you want to read that out.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you. We have a question from Noveck Gowandan. Good morning, Noveck Gowandan from Trinidad and Tobago, ICANN Fellowship alum. Does the rise of hypernationalism pose any latent threat to the multi-stakeholder model? How can ICANN chart these turbulent waters while preserving the spirit of the multi-stakeholder model and staying true to the remit?

SARAH DEUTSCH: Tripti, would you like to take this?

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you for the question. You bring up a very good point. Indeed, there is certainly a rise of nationalism and isolationism around the world. So we are fully aware of it. And we are going to do everything to be very proactive, inclusive, and highlight the values that the multi-stakeholder model brings and the values of inclusivity. Because when you look at the fabric of the internet, the technologies and protocols that stitch this fabric together, that was not done via isolationism. The fundamentals of that is being inclusive and open. So we certainly are aware of that. And it's going to be a challenge. But we will continue to face the challenge. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Thanks, Tripti. OK, we're going to turn now to Mason in the queue.

MASON COLE: Thank you, Sarah. Good morning. My name is Mason Cole. I'm offering this statement on behalf of the Business Constituency in my capacity as chair. The BC encourages harmonization of WHOIS practices with the requirements of Article 28 of NIS 2. While we recognize that ICANN is not an enforcement vehicle for various governments, there's an opportunity for ICANN to be proactive in a way that helps all parties interested in sensible access to WHOIS without violations of law. There are efficient mechanisms for contracted parties to make advances in who is policy without a brand new PDP in a way that harmonizes their operations with NIS 2 requirements. These include maintenance of accurate and thick WHOIS data for registries and registrars, verification of WHOIS data, fulfillment of legitimate requests for registration data within 72 hours, availability of registration data for legal persons,

access to WHOIS data free of charge, and the collection of administrative contact information. What remains to be seen, obviously, is the result of transposition of the directive into binding member state law. But the BC is optimistic the community will cooperate to ensure that reasonable who is policy will prevail following the implementation of NIS 2 without the delays involved in a PDP. The BC looks forward to that outcome over the long term. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Thanks, Mason. I'd like to give Becky the first opportunity to comment.

BECKY BURR: Thank you. And I just actually want to thank you and the rest of the CSG for the very good conversation that we had this week. And I'm sure we'll be talking about it in the future.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Great. Let's turn now to the next online comment.

ALEXANDRA DANS: We have a question from [inaudible]. "Speaking in my personal capacity. On the past public forum at Hamburg, ICANN 78, I raised a request for ICANN to provide some type of channel, API or otherwise as effective, to publish all documentation, meetings, working groups, and otherwise publicly available information much in line to what IETF has with their data tracker. To this day, I have not heard back on this request. The question is, has there been any discussions or advancement on that matter? Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Sally.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you very much. It's a really good point and a big topic. And yes, we are discussing it internally. And we have been. We have been for a long time, actually, not just since the Hamburg meeting. So we are particularly focused on ways to give the community tools to have access to documents. API might be part of that. IETF's best practice work on this is also part of informing our thinking. And we know and we believe that document access is very important to the legitimacy and effectiveness of ICANN policymaking. So what we will take as an action from this session is an update, which we provide to you, [Jean,] but we'll provide more broadly to the ICANN community as to how that program of work is progressing. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Thanks, Sally. We'll turn now to Sebastien in line. Bonjour.

SEBSATIEN BACHOLLET: Bonjour. Yes, good morning. I'll be speaking French. Thank you for giving me the floor. One of the reasons why we have those ICANN meetings in different regions of the world is that we can meet the local community and that we can, among ourselves, the different groups and the units, we can talk to one another. It's not always easy. And this part of the meeting is a time when everyone can be at the table. And it's one of the reasons why EURALO, the European users, usually has a meeting

after ICANN meetings, a readout session where we take stock and we invite participants of all the [inaudible] in Europe and the next meeting will be on March 19th at 6:00 PM, UTC time. And the board, during its GA, the General Assembly at the end of the year, for example, listens to everybody and meets with everybody. So you are the ones who know which issues are important for many different parts of the community. So could you at some point, now or later, could you tell us what is most important and most pressing? You're the only ones who can do that. What are the most pressing issues? And I'd like to thank you and I'd like to thank the hosts of this meeting who gave us such a warm welcome. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH:

Great. Thank you, Sebastien. We're going to turn now to the next person in line.

ROBERTO GAETANO:

Thank you, Roberto Gaetano, EURALO. I'm starting by recognizing all the progress that universal acceptance has done in the years. I remember the early days, I was in a board where some fellow directors were skeptical about the introduction of IDNs. And I'm using the word skeptical as an euphemism. I see that now the ICANN has embraced this and is supporting UASG. And UASG is doing a lot of progress. I see that also we have signs from a jump on the bandwagon syndrome. We have some grandstanding on the achieved results. And that's a good thing because that shows that universal acceptance has gained the mainstream.

However, I think that we need to go further. Universal acceptance is just one step in a journey that has to bring us to a fully—internet that is for everybody. I think that the target has to be that every human being has the same possibility of accessing and of for the internet regardless the language, regardless the writing system that he uses. Also, Alfredo has preceded me in pointing out other situations in which we need to be more inclusive.

I think that the young people have understood that. I have attended the NextGen sessions, both NextGen presentation sessions. Although there were more people than in previous ICANN meetings, still the large part of the community is not attending those sessions. And this is a shame because there are some voices that are bringing fresh ideas. And they are far different from what we old elephants keep repeating time and again.

And I just want to close. For instance, there was in one presentation exactly this concept that IDN is good, but then there are other problems like, for instance, localization of software. There are other things that we need to address in order to have a fully equal internet access for everybody. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH:

Thank you so much for your comment, Roberto. You've given us much to think about. I'm going to take this opportunity to turn the microphone over to Jim Galvin to manage the line and questions from here on. Thank you.

JIM GALVIN: Thank you, Sarah. And thank you to the community for taking advantage of this great opportunity. Since this is my first time moderating a public forum on behalf of the board, now's a good time to bring the really hard questions and make it challenging for me. And with that, let's go to the next person in line.

RENATA MIELI: Thank you. My name is Renata Miele. I'm coordinator of Brazilian Internet Steering Committee and chair of NetMundial+10. And I'm going to speak in Portuguese. I'd like to thank the support that the boards and the CEO, Tripti and Sally, gave us for our event on 29th and 30th of April. And I'd like to really here tell you about the importance of our event. It's a multi-stakeholder event. And we'll discuss over the challenges of the internet governance and on how to strengthen the multi-stakeholder processes so that we are able to have an impact and have a voice and give a voice to the different important environments in the internet space. We'll have a public consultation process next week. And this will be the beginning of what we will need to approve during the NetMundial. We already have a form, online form, for those who'd like to participate, either as a face-to-face meeting or remotely. We have a dedicated online web page. It would be very good to have here to make the most from your experience based on the multi-stakeholder model. It's fundamental to be that everybody is heard in this event. Thank you.

JIM GALVIN: Let's go to the next comment online, please.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Thank you. The question is from Gopal Tadepalli. The term domain refers for both a website address URL used to access a website, as well as to the legal entity that owns and operates that website. Are there any standards for CSR, certificate signing requests, including those for IDNs?

JIM GALVIN: I don't think that that's something that we would directly take any responsibility for. That's more of an operational consideration. But I do take your comment and thank you for it. I'm sure our technical team will want to speak to that. Edmon, do you want to make a comment?

EDMON CHUNG: Yeah, I guess just quickly add that from what we understand, IDNs can obtain digital certificates for IDNs as well as work through DNSSEC and all that. So if the inquirer have any problems with that, I think the technical community can help with that.

JIM GALVIN: Thank you, Edmon. Take the next question in line, please.

ELLIOT NOSS: Thank you. Elliot Noss from Tucows. It's nice to be back here after a five-year absence, my longest absence since the very start of ICANN. I want to speak about domain abuse and the recent contract amendments. There was a lot of energy this week around the topic. But at first, I was really struck by how it seemed like people had lost the plot. These amendments were intended to empower compliance to enforce the

contracts against bad actors. We were pushing for that before the first discussion of this. And it was Compliance and Org who put to us that they needed these amendments in order to make those changes.

I want to give the board measures to look at going forward. The next three to six months, what you should look at in thinking about success is to see green shoots in the contracted parties improving their business processes to take advantage of these new powers. You should see it start to be the case that end users can more simply and easily report abuse. Six to 12 months or so, you need to start to see enforcement by Compliance against the bad actors who are the same bad actors that we have seen over and over again, clearly mentioned in report after report after report by the security community.

Here is where the board has their greatest role, because it's you who can empower org to have compliance take those steps. What I saw this week, understandably, was too much focus on what people are going to do next week. Compliance gearing up to take in more end user complaints. Registrars worrying about implementing specific, simply scaling the existing failed structures. So please, take those markers, look for them, and empower Compliance. Thank you.

JIM GALVIN:

Thank you, Elliot. First, let me say on behalf of the board that we share the power that the DNS abuse amendments bring and the contract amendments for all of the registries and registrars. And we're very pleased and happy that the contracted parties have gotten together and made all of that happen. We also agree with you that we need to find the evidence and we would like to see them implemented and we

want to see what comes from that. As you know, they actually don't begin to take force until April. But we are very interested in gathering that evidence and watching that and seeing that happen. And thank you for suggestions on the markers that we should look for. We'll certainly hear that. Let's move on to the next question, please.

RASHEDUL HASAN:

Hello, my name is Rashedul Hassan and I'm a NextGener at this time. And I'm also a PhD student from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. So I have some policy level questions on the TLDs. So in the freedom of expression versus trademark protection debate, how can ICANN ensure the introduction of new TLDs which foster innovation without infringing on legitimate trademarks? And the related question is, how effective are the registry voluntary commitments in addressing concerns about potential misuse of TLDs and what alternatives could be considered if they are deemed ineffective? Thank you.

JIM GALVIN:

So any board member would like to comment? Becky, please.

BECKY BURR:

Thank you very much for your comment. Protection of trademarks is actually the subject of ICANN's very first consensus policy. Came out of the box very quickly after ICANN was created. That's the uniform dispute resolution process. And its goal is to provide a simplified, streamlined process for identifying and responding to registrations where the registrant doesn't have a legitimate interest or is using it in a violation of another party's trademark or is trying to take advantage of

another party's trademark. That's been a very successful program over the years. And in the 2012 round, the Trademark Clearinghouse and procedures for trademark sunrise and registrations and those kinds of things have been introduced. Obviously, we have not eliminated all abusive registrations, but we have lots of tools in our toolbox for doing that.

With respect to PICs and RVCs, we've had a lot of discussion about those during the week. And I think we will have some more discussions about them. The recommendation from the SubPro policy development process endorsed by the GNSO Council established that registry voluntary commitments should be permitted. And the board agreed and agrees to the extent that those commitments are enforceable, both as a practical matter, financially reasonable, easy to do. Clearly, we would have objective way to know whether somebody is in compliance or not. And also as a matter of ICANN law, which is to say consistent with our bylaws. We are continuing to refine our discussions on those, but I can assure you that the ICANN board is unified in the view that we should not put provisions into a contract that we are neither prepared nor able to enforce.

JIM GALVIN:

Thank you, Becky. Next question.

CHRIS DISSPAIN:

Good morning, everyone. This is Chris Disspain. I am here at the microphone in my personal capacity, but I think I'm speaking for everyone in this room and all of the ICANN community when I ask you

to join me in a huge vote of thanks to our friend and colleague, David Olive, for his extraordinary 15 years' service to ICANN and the multi-stakeholder model. Thank you, David.

BECKY BURR:

Thank you, Chris. I asked Jim for the opportunity to take the microphone because, of course, we're all talking about David's 15-year contribution to ICANN. But in fact, David's contribution to ICANN goes back to the beginning before its existence. He was a very active, constructive, and important part of the ICANN community. And I think that's why we're here today. And I think that's why we're here today. constructive and important part of the community that came together to work through these ideas. Sarah and I were at the table with him many, many times. And I know many of you were as well. So I want to just take a moment to recognize 25 years of service to ICANN and to also remind you, as I have several times, that ICANN is a life sentence. So we expect to see you back.

JIM GALVIN:

Thank you, Becky. We have a question online, please, Alex.

ALEXANDRA DANS:

Thank you. This question is from Adbulkarim Oloyede. In the last few years, Russia invaded Ukraine, and ICANN responded by offering some relief to the people of Ukraine. In the last few months, the State of Israel has been killing innocent women and children. And in the last few days, ordinary Palestinians were hungry and wanted to get food, were shot at. Yet ICANN has done nothing to help these innocent women and

children like it was done in Ukraine. I asked this same question during the ICANN 78 meeting. The response I got was that the ICANN board would issue a statement. Four months down the line, no statement. Is it that ICANN would only support people around the world if the United States policy supports this? Are some more important than the others? If the Palestinians today, it might be another country tomorrow. Thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Thank you for the comment. First, I'd like to make it very clear that ICANN does not support peoples of the world depending on U.S. policy. Absolutely not. These are very, very complex times. And as I said in my opening remarks, there are people from all over the world who are being impacted by the many acts of aggression that are happening in different parts of the world. We treat everyone in our community in an inclusive manner. We invite everyone to be part of our fabric. And I don't know how to reassure every individual in our community that we are not in any way biased. And we absolutely despise what's happening in the world. And when we hear about the tragedies that are occurring in the lives of everyday people who just want to live their lives and do good work and be with their families and friends. So thank you for your comment. And I hope that my opening remarks speak to the position we, ICANN, the corporation, the organization, the ecosystem takes, which is we do not support the aggression in the world. And we hurt for what's happening. Thank you. Thank you very much.

JIM GALVIN:

Thank you, Tripti. Next in line.

JOTHAN FRAKES:

Hi, and thank you. That's very difficult to follow the highs and lows of what just happened in the last five minutes. My name is Jothan Frakes. And I have the privilege of knowing many of you here in the community. I'm standing here as a conference operator, co-founder of a large commercial conference called NamesCon. I'm standing here on, I guess, a way to honor somebody else in the conference space who played a very heavy role in building the marketplace of domains and secondary domains. And I'm kind of struggling with this because I'm a little clamped about, you know, I feel a little tied up about this.

Last month, we lost a gentleman by the name of Howard Neu. He was the co-founder of the Targeted Traffic Conference. Many of you may have had the opportunity to meet him, but he played just such a significant role in building a thriving and flourishing marketplace that we all enjoy. Yet he didn't really have much footprint here. I think he may have attended maybe three or four meetings. But he's a wonderful gentleman. I'm just going to say a couple things. He was an actor. He actually had some roles in Porky's 2 and Miami Vice. And great sense of humor, fabulous singer. If you were fortunate enough, he would call you on your birthday and sing happy birthday to you. He was the mayor of North Miami for a brief period of time. And of course, he did start the domain conferences in the commercial space, which has really helped a lot of the business here in the room thrive and flourish directly or indirectly. He's survived by Barbara and Ray, and my heart goes out to them. And I just want to recognize Howard and his contributions to this thriving marketplace. A face unfamiliar to many of you, hopefully familiar to some of you. And if you have had commercial successes, just

if you'd take a moment with me of brief silence to respect Howard Neu.
Thank you. Thank you very much.

JIM GALVIN: Thank you, Jothan. Next question.

FARZANEH BADIEI: Hi. My name is Farzaneh Badiei. I'm a member of Noncommercial Stakeholder Group. You didn't want complicated questions, Jim. So we will pass that. So as we have younger people coming in, joining the ICANN community, we should remind them that ICANN should not get involved with content regulation and online service regulation, according to its bylaws. Why is that? Because at the DNS level, regulating content and service can be disproportional and can affect human rights, can affect freedom of expression and a host of issues. We really don't want a global organization to decide for us what disinformation is. We are not really doing well in that domain regionally either. So just wanted to clarify that for the younger generation, why we are saying that content and services and conduct at ICANN should not be regulated.

The other. So at Noncommercial Stakeholder Group, we care about privacy and data protection. We have been going around and expressing that the registry voluntary commitments and public interest commitments should not violate human rights, should not affect privacy, should not affect freedom of expression if ICANN is going to be the enforcer of these PICs. And also, we raised concerns about the

confidentiality request of the law enforcement to private and personal data of domain name registrants. Thank you very much.

JIM GALVIN: Thank you, Farzaneh. Certainly your comments regarded to content, the board certainly very much supports that and agrees with you in that respect. Becky, would you like to comment on the second half?

BECKY BURR: I would just like to thank all of the people who have participated in our conversation this week about PICs and RVCs. It is obviously a very complicated question and all of the things that you have pointed to, human rights and all of those things are very important considerations, as are the ICANN bylaws which have clear prohibitions and the ICANN commitments and core values which govern all that we do. The question is, we are still working through this and we will be working through this with the community. But appreciate all of the input we've received this week.

JIM GALVIN: Thank you, Becky. And with that, I will pass the baton to Wes Hardaker.

WES HARDAKER: Thank you, Jim. And welcome to the last segment of the public forum. I hope everybody has had a productive week like I have. It's been a fantastic week and this is a great way to close it out. I will turn first to, I believe we have another question online. So if Alex, you'd mind reading that, please.

ALEXANDRA DANS: Yes, thank you. The question is from Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong. “I would like to suggest that ICANN must support, must give more support to the community members who have difficulty with visas as the IGF secretary has done in the past. For example, sending an email to support the applicant participation to the embassy of the host country. Many community members from developing countries are facing this challenge. We know that the visa process and the decision depends on the host country, but more can be done.”

WES HARDAKER: Thank you. Sally, would you like to?

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you very much for your question. Yes, we are deeply aware of this issue. As I think everybody in the community knows, ICANN has no power to influence visas. We can't issue visas. We do provide support to our ICANN meetings and if necessary, we will add to that support. We have done that many times for specific kinds of ICANN meetings. We cannot guarantee that visa appointments will be given in time or that visas will be granted, but it is absolutely key and we have staff in post to handle this and we take it very seriously. We do absolutely everything we can to try and ensure that everybody who wants to attend to an ICANN meeting can do so.

WES HARDAKER: Thank you very much. And one wonderful thing that's happened lately is our hybrid meetings have actually gotten a lot better and as a great way to support for even those that can't make it. Not ideal if you wanted to be in person, but at least it's an option that we now have and is well supported. I turn to the next question in the line, please.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART: Thank you, Wes. My name is Philippe Fouquart. I'm the ISPCP Chair. This is a personal comment and I'll do it in French, if I may. This comment is about multilingualism and inclusivity when it comes to the new round of gTLD creation. I'd like to commend the organization for providing many languages, for providing documents in different languages throughout the world even though that policy development and implementation is done in English. English is used a lot in our meetings. However, I think it would be contradictory if we said, on the one hand, that the target for the new round of TLD is directed to people who don't speak English and then all the communication is always in a language that is not understood by our target audience for this new TLD round, or at least in part. So I'd like to thank the CEO and the organization for all the efforts expended and let's keep it up. Thank you.

WES HARDAKER: All right. Thank you very much. Sally, would you like to respond?

SALLY COSTERTON: I completely agree with you. And that's another question about resource allocation inside the organisation, and in this case, particularly about our communications team to make sure that we—

and we have significant amounts of effort and resource also in the implementation plan that the community is seeing to ensure that we can do exactly as you say. And we couldn't agree with you more. Thank you for raising the topic. It's a very important one.

WES HARDAKER: Thank you very much. All right. Next question in line, please.

KHALED FATTAL: Good morning. Many of you on the board would already know who I am, but for the record, let me just say, my name is Khaled Fattal. I was around when dinosaurs roamed at ICANN. I use that in a laughing manner because many of us who have been there from the early days have seen the journey of where ICANN was and where it is today. And by the way, in 2003, Vint and I both chaired the first session ever on IDNs at the Kuala Lumpur ICANN. And this is probably my 72nd, 73rd or something. And I've always paid my own way to get to ICANN meeting.

So let me put it in perspective for you why I'm at the microphone this morning. I was not planning on speaking. And I'm not speaking to you here on behalf of multilingual internet, which is what I've championed here at ICANN and elsewhere for over 25 years. But a recent, one of the interventions from online that prompted [inaudible] to actually respond should be a warning sign about the challenges that are going to be facing ICANN moving forward.

And I'm speaking now as an authority on the element of geopolitics and cyber and the risks. Many of you know about my international bestseller. This is not a plug for the book. However, moving forward, the

world is on the cusp of a seismic change in the way global politics and geopolitics is embarking. And a serious need for a mindset change within ICANN and the expertise within ICANN board to figure out how to navigate this space. The world is no longer run by a single superpower. There are now emerging superpowers and they all have stake. And guess what? For ICANN to remain relevant in this space, it has to reinvent itself and be relevant in the new world order. And this is a challenge. I'm putting it to you because this is my family. I want to see it succeed. So if you're the board, you have to figure out what to do. And the fact that only one session on geopolitics in the last, what, 25 years of ICANN space is going to be for one hour later on, this is not good enough. There needs to be some, you know, gravitas so that subject matters so that ICANN can figure out how to navigate this minefield. And by the way, Tripti, you did a fantastic job of responding to that question about Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, without having to mention those names by word. This cannot continue as an organization who needs to remain relevant in this evolving world order.

WES HARDAKER: Thank you very much. Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA: Yes. First, Khaled, very nice to meet you. I don't think you and I have ever met before. You've hit the nail on the head and the board is painfully aware of the changing order. We have talked many, many times about the need for us to reinvent ourselves. The landscape has changed in the 25 years since ICANN was established. And as you heard in my opening comments, if you were in the room, we are taking this

point in time very, very seriously. I've called it an inflection point for exactly the reasons you stated. So yes, we are aware of that and we are taking this very seriously and you will see agencies of change afoot soon.

KHALED FATTAL:

And I will not make this into a conversation, but my comment is I welcome your response, but I think moving forward, there needs to be—and I'm not offering my services, by the way, this is not of interest to me. However, it is critical for ICANN to acquire the necessary expertise moving forward to know how to navigate what I call walking through this minefield. Because any minute, and I can name stories, any minute, US sanctions could hit ICANN in addressing topics that are on the subject of countries who [don't sanction.] So what does ICANN do? I hope I did my part.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Couldn't agree more.

WES HARDAKER:

We appreciate your comment. We need to move on. There's many other people online as well. Let's next turn to, I believe we have another online question, Alex.

ALEXANDRA DANS:

No, no online question right now.

WES HARDAKER: Oh, I apologize. Okay, I thought there was one more. All right, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I could not disagree more. This is a tiny little oasis of globalism. For 10 years now, maybe 12, the password for the Wi-Fi is one world, one internet. This is a place where we have to keep nationalism and tribalism out of the room. The multi-stakeholder model depends on it. That doesn't mean you can ignore what's going on in the world around you. You've been dragged into it already, as every one of you painfully knows. But let's be clear. If you turn your minds to this and you get involved in geopolitics, you do so not only at the organization's peril, but at one of the last hopes for globalism's peril. I urge you to focus on what makes this community great and what makes multi-stakeholderism work. Khaled mentioned specific places. In every one of them and in so many other places around the world now, what we see is governments versus people, not teams versus each other. It's governments versus people. This is an oasis from that. Please preserve it. Thank you.

WES HARDAKER: Thank you very much for your comment. I would like to remind everybody that ICANN has a very narrow remit and we could continue on these topics for a long time, but we should focus on the contributions that ICANN make. I will say that I'm very proudful of the ways that ICANN does collaborate and enables global communication irrespective of geopolitical comments. Next question, please.

LORI SCHULMAN:

Yes, my name is Lori Schulman. I'm a member of the community. I wear many hats. I'm the president of the IPC. I am the International Trademark Association's delegate to ICANN for many years now. And I am a long-time ICANN—I drank the tea. I'm serving a life sentence, probably at least 25 years now. And most importantly, human. So in terms of what we've heard today, I want to plus one about ICANN being a bastion of good collective input and being mindful of diversity and being mindful that we are going to have a lot of opinions about a lot of things. And this comment is in two parts. Number one, a lot of opinions about a lot of things. This was a tough week for a lot of us today. And I was a standard bearer for a very tough subject. And there was feedback from both sides.

And I want to say thank you. This was not an easy week. Some of the things were not easy to hear. The conversations at times were fraught. But the idea about here, we started a program how we're doing. Here, here's how you're doing. Ooh, I don't know. Maybe we need to talk a little more. That's what we're supposed to be doing. And I think for the most part, we did it collegially. I think for the most part, we kept our professionalism at a very high level. So I want to thank the board. I want to thank the community. I want to thank the registrars. More than you might think, I am very much aligned with the thinking about having balanced approaches, balanced workload, balanced cost. Anybody who knows me, that is my mantra, balance. I'm actually a certified yoga teacher. So with all that being said, I think it's really important today to thank the community for being here, for flying here, and for really surviving a tough schedule, tough subjects. And okay, may I have just

one more minute? Not even a minute. 30 seconds. Other people take it. I think I will too.

I want to go back to just one point though about geopolitics and a bastion for the community and being neutral, getting work done. I do think, however, with some of the issues that are being raised geopolitically, I think it's very important to understand the difference between opinion and hate speech. And when it comes to hate speech, I would hope that there's consideration given to how the board responds, to when the board responds. And I think whoever made the point about delay, that's a notable point. So I would ask the board to please think about when and where it's appropriate to denounce hate speech versus welcoming diversities of ideas and opinions. Thank you.

WES HARDAKER:

All right. Thank you for your comment. Are there any board members that wish to respond? All right. Seeing none, I would like to make one point. Apparently, we are getting a lot of questions about Universal Acceptance Day, which is fantastic. They've sort of been covered already, and ICANN will respond with a consolidated answer post-ICANN 79 in a blog post or a forum. Next question, please.

WERNER STAUB:

My name is Werner Staub. I'm saying this in a personal capacity. There has been a comment about, or a question about, ICANN's role in the age of generative AI. And I fear that our collective response may have been a little bit dismissive, and I think that would be a great mistake. It's easy to say that ICANN is not involved in regulating things like technologies.

However, ICANN is responsible for the domain name system. The domain name system is extremely powerful, and it can be used quite effectively and dangerously by bad actors. In the context of large-scale, industrial-scale disinformation, the domain name system has a crucial role, and it cannot be solved based on even the new rules that we have about domain abuse and anything. We need more, and we cannot do it inside of ICANN. So the only way to deal with it is to help other organizations that are concerned with many of the things that we're dealing with to interact with the ICANN systems.

And I mentioned one of them in the past. It is about legal entities, for instance. Just one of the examples. There are other organizations in the world who do things that make it easier to identify and to document accountability on a voluntary basis, not nobody being forced to, but at least enabling those who wish to show accountability that they can actually demonstrate it.

WES HARDAKER:

All right. Thank you very much for your comment. I will announce while we're waiting to see if anybody wants to respond that the queue is now closed. We are running up against the end of the hour. Any response? Nope. Can we get the next comment or question online, please, Alex?

ALEXANDRA DANS:

Yes. So the question is from [inaudible]. Open your WhatsApp and type nine letters. [inaudible]. You see one linkifies, the other doesn't. This means that TLDs do not have the same functionality of a .com 10 years into the program. This is a historic failure. When will UASG, ICANN solve

this problem? When will the major platforms treat all TLDs equal and update their devices, operating system, and apps to love all, serve all, and not only legacy? Thank you.

WES HARDAKER: Thank you very much for the question, Harald, and then Danko briefly.

[HARALD ALVESTRAND:] So just to be clear, this is a WhatsApp bug. WhatsApp has failed to update the table inside their application since 2015. It's a well-known bug. People have been using the UA discussions to call more attention to it. But it is at the root a bug that has to be fixed by someone who is not ICANN. ICANN can call attention to it, but cannot fix the bug.

WES HARDAKER: Thank you. Danko?

DANKO JEVTOVIC: Thank you, Harald, for a very precise technical answer. But if I may channel my inner Roberto and speak a little bit wider about universal acceptance, I think this example is very important because it shows how universal acceptance is actually a complex problem. On one layer in the root zone and within ICANN's technical mission, that part of universal acceptance is solved. But we should and we must look from the point of view of the end users. And for the end users, the domain names that are not traditional domain names are not equal within applications. It's not only examples like this in WhatsApp and some other Meta products. It's also about how URLs are shown not in a native language, but with a

Punycode encoding. It's using your email addresses to access applications. And the end goal, as Roberto said, is to have multi-language internet in all the languages with internet identifiers that will be accessible to all. And we are supporting this. So this is not directly ICANN's role to fix this problem because it's a much wider problem. And that's the reason why ICANN is supporting universal acceptance initiatives, including UASG. So I think this is something that is difficult to say when it will be solved because if you go to the corner cases, some of them might in reality never be solved. But it's a hugely important problem for the internet users worldwide, for the next billions, and it has the attention of the world. Thank you.

WES HARDAKER:

Thank you very much. We are very short on time at this point, so briefly, if possible.

JEFF NEUMAN:

Thank you. My name is Jeff Neuman, and I'm shaking. I don't normally shake. I never have a problem speaking, but I'm just going to say that I am Jewish and I'm very proud to be Jewish. And right now, I just want to make the point that hate speech and taking action against hate speech is not content regulation. Right now is a rough time around the world. The Jewish community is not feeling as safe as it should in this environment. And while I completely understand not getting involved in geopolitics, if there is hate speech going on, action must be taken if ICANN's expected standards of behavior is going to have any credibility. Thank you.

WES HARDAKER: Thank you. Tripti?

TRIPTI SINHA: Jeff, I couldn't agree with you more. And thank you for your comment.

WES HARDAKER: All right. Thank you very much. You'll be the last comment for this evening, or question, please.

OLORUNDARE JAMES KUNLE: All right. Thank you very much. So it's a privilege to be the last person on the queue anyway. So first of all, I want to appreciate everyone over there for the good job that you are doing. Thank you very much. And by the way, my name is Olorundare James Kunle. ICANN 79 fellow. I speak for myself. I'm from Nigeria. So I want to find out about what ICANN is doing with respect to knowing the impact assessment of all the good jobs that are going on here. I'm saying that is because for the past couple of days that I've been a fellow, I observed that a lot of good job have been done here. And for [inaudible] there is need to start looking at what people are perceiving out there. And I really want to know if there is an impact assessment that maybe ICANN carry out maybe periodically to know the impact of what is being done here in this community. And if there is none, I think it is high time we started looking at how we can have maybe a team or constitute maybe a small group that we definitely carry out impact assessment so that we can have the

feelings of what is going on out there vis-a-vis what ICANN is doing. I tell you a lot of work is being done here. Thank you very much.

WES HARDAKER:

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

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you. Yes. You are so right. A lot of work. That is an understatement. Yes. We do a lot of measurement of impact in different parts of ICANN, different parts of the community. And I know that you're a fellow this year. Yes. So one of the things that I'll make sure that I talk to Siranush to make sure that you have an opportunity to spend some time with ICANN strategic plan. There's a lot of the way in which we're capturing what you've described as impacts, which is, you know, what did we say we were going to do? What happened? How did we measure it? Which is, I think, yes, what you're saying. We don't exclusively do it through a strategic plan, but that's probably the best central place. And I'd love to have a separate dialogue with you, with the team, about what you think about that. And there's a lot of opportunity for community input into that. And we're doing the next five-year plan at the moment. So it's actually a really great time to have a bit of a deep dive into exactly that question.

WES HARDAKER:

Go ahead.

OLORUNDARE JAMES KUNLE: All right. Thank you very much. I really appreciate it. So what I want to say is if there is any way that one can actually, you know, join such a group, I think I would like to volunteer. Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON: We'll make sure that you're connected to that. And I'll ask Siranush to make sure that you do that. So please, thank you very much for offering. Thank you.

WES HARDAKER: All right. Now I'll turn to Tripti to close the forum, please. Thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you, Wes. And thank you, everyone. This was a complicated meeting and we covered a lot of ground. I want to thank everyone who participated today. If you didn't get a chance to ask your question, please email it to publicforum@ICANN.org and we will respond to you via email. If you had a question written in the Q and A pod that wasn't answered, we will forward a response to you. To my colleagues on the board, thank you for this discussion. And I'd like to give my appreciation to our language services professionals for your exceptional support during this session and to Alex Dans for managing the remote interaction so well.

We will see you next at the ICANN board meeting, which will be held in this room at 4:15 PM. today, San Juan time. This session is open to all. We look forward to your participation at ICANN 81 Annual General Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, whether you are physically attending or

participating virtually. But before that, we will see you in Rwanda.
Again, thank you for being here and making your voice heard.

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