
ICANN79 | CF – Joint Session: ICANN Board and ASO
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – 4:15 to 5:30 SJU

FRANCO CARRASCO: Hello, my name is Franco Carrasco, and I am the participation manager for this session. Welcome to the joint session between the ICANN Board and the address supporting organization. Please note that this session is being recorded and follows the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. Interpretation for this session will include today English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, and Arabic. Please remember to state your name for the record and the language that you will speak if speaking a language other than English. Please also remember to speak at a reasonable pace for our interpreters. The discussion is between the ICANN Board and the ASO.

Therefore, we will not be taking questions from the audience. However, everyone is welcome to use the webinar chat. Please note that private chats are only possible among panelists in the Zoom room format. Any message sent by a panelist to a standard attendee to another standard attendee will also be seen by the session's host, co-host, and other panelists. Having said this, I will now hand the floor over to the ICANN Board chair, Tripti Sinha.

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you, Franco. Welcome, everyone. Believe it or not, this is our last bilateral of the ICANN79 meeting. And I typically start the session by

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saying I really would encourage honest and candid conversation. And I know that I will have no problem with the RIRs because you've been extremely candid and honest with us. We've had some really great discussions. And with that, I'm going to turn it over to Alan, who's going to chair this discussion. Alan?

ALAN BARRET:

Yeah, good afternoon. Thank you, Tripti. This is Alan Barrett. It's a pleasure to be here with our friends from the ASO and the Regional Internet Registries, the numbers community, the second N in ICANN. So, we're going to have a short discussion on a topic that the ASO wanted to discuss. And then we're going to have a question that the Board wants to ask the ASO. So, let's start with the topic from the ASO. I believe they wanted to discuss the present status of the RIRs in general. So, who is taking that? John.

JOHN CURRAN:

Very good. I'm John Curran, President and CEO of ARIN. I serve as Vice Chair of the Number Resource Organization. This year the NRO acts within the ICANN bylaws as an organization you know as the ASO, the Address Supporting Organization. So, I'd like to address the status of the RIRs in general. As you know, the RIR system consists of five Regional Internet Registries. We've continued to work tightly together in making the registry system operate uniformly on a global basis. The big focus of the RIRs have been in the last few years rolling out RPKI, which is Registry Public Key Infrastructure.

It allows digital adaptations of routing and helps prevent things such as routing hijacks. And so, we've all been working on that very closely. In addition, of course, we always look at how the system's going overall. We have had some challenges in the AFRINIC region because they had a governance issue. On the other hand, operations still continue smoothly. As I said, we continue to move forward and operations is running fine. But it did cause us to look at some base information like how we coordinate with each other and how we handle coordination with ICANN. And so, we've been looking at a number of initiatives to try to improve that over time.

Actually, I think we'll be talking about that when we get to the Q&A part, that question the Board would like to ask. But in short, registry services are doing fine. The RIR system continues to operate on a global basis successfully with all five RIRs running fine.

ALAN BARRET:

Thanks very much, John. Do any of the other RIR folk want to add to that?

HANS PETTER HOLEN:

Well, since you're asking, I can say the room is rather empty. And one of the reasons for this is that the RIR communities meet at the RIR meetings. So, each of us arrange like two meetings in our regions every year. So, multiply that by four or five, we're up to eight to ten meetings a year, plus even smaller regional meetings. So, we're gathering together, 500 to 800 people in each region at each of these meetings.

So, it's a really large community of network engineers and other interested that get together, not only to discuss address policies, but also coordinating the operation of the Internet in between the independent providers. So, it's great to be here at the ICANN meeting, but the real work that happens out in the tubes and on the ground.

ALAN BARRET:

Yes. Thank you for that reminder. I think the people around this table are aware of that. But the broader ICANN community may be not so aware of the fact that the numbers policies are made outside this venue. Anyone else want to add anything? Yes, Chris.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE:

Thanks, Alan. Chris Buckridge. Just to note in relation to what you were saying, Alan, about perhaps other stakeholders don't necessarily always remember that or understand. One thing I wanted to note is the universally positive feedback I've gotten from GAC members this week about the ASO presentations that they had over the weekend. I think there's been, yeah, as I say, universally positive and also saying we'd like to see more of these. So, I think that sort of really plays into what you were saying there. Thanks.

ALAN BARRET:

Thank you. That's very good feedback. I was unfortunately not able to attend the ASO's presentation to the GAC, but I do agree it's a good idea and just increasing understanding generally of what the ASO and the RIRs do is worthwhile. All right. Does anybody want to add anything

about maybe the coordination with ICANN? John, you mentioned that the RIRs wanted to improve that. Do you have concrete ideas or maybe this is not the right forum for it?

JOHN CURRAN:

Sure. I know it was one of the questions that was asked of how we're working together. And I will say we have been working very closely together. First, we have a number of relationships, of course. The ICANN bylaws provide that the number community serves through the ASO, serves to do things like do global policy, number policy, and elect ICANN Board members. We also are responsible for being on the empowered community. All of these continue to function as normal. But additionally, we have a relationship with ICANN for the IANA. We have a service level agreement for IANA numbering services. And it was something that came out of the IANA stewardship transition.

When the responsibility for the sets of identifiers was relinquished to this community, the RIRs picked up and did an agreement with ICANN and IANA PTI for IANA numbering services. And I'll say the most recent review of those services was completed. And as always, the PTI team has done an excellent job. We've had no problems with the IANA services. And then recently, we've had a lot of discussions with ICANN because obviously in light of some of the governance issues going on, we've had to work closely with ICANN to do planning on how we move forward with that.

Some people may have seen, we have work going on with something called an Internet Consensus Policy 2, ICP-2, which is the document agreed to long ago, more than two decades ago, on the recognition of

an RIR. And so, in part of going through this, we realized that it was probably time to have the community look at that and see if that document needed to be refreshed. The RIRs collectively have a group within the ASO. We know it as the ASO AC and it's the Advisory Council.

We directed them to look at ICP-2 and put together a timeline for doing a refresh of it, which will probably be a multiyear process. And I will say that they've been working actually at this ICANN meeting with multiple sessions every day to outline what that process will be and how they'll engage the community. But it's time to pick it up because, as I said, it's a document that's more than two decades old and probably worth reviewing and updating.

ALAN BARRET:

Thank you, John. That part about ICP-2 actually brings us to the topic that the Board wanted to ask you. Can we have the next slide, please? So, it's pretty much exactly what you just said. It came from the year 2001. That's more than two decades ago. And it only contemplates the addition of new RIRs. It's about ICANN recognizing new RIRs. It doesn't say anything about changes to existing RIRs if, I don't know, an RIR wants to split or if one wants to be replaced by another or if anything else happens. So, I just heard that the ASO AC is thinking about the updates that are needed. Do we have any ideas about what kind of updates or is it too soon to talk about that?

JOHN CURRAN:

Sure. I see I'm joined by Paul Wilson from APNIC. Paul, do you want to do that or do you want me to do it? Okay. All right. So, yes, ICP-2, as

noted in the question from the Board, it doesn't contemplate changes to existing RIRs. It's the procedure for recognition or the policy behind the recognition of a new RIR. We actually don't have a lot of procedural work behind that policy. So, the first thing, I guess, is it would be nice if we had the need to do that again, if we knew what steps we'd go through to make sure that an RIR meets the requirements.

And then, obviously, if you have to meet requirements, there's an assumption that you continue to meet them. And so, we've actually put together procedures on how to review an RIR and make sure it's meeting the requirements and how to handle a case where there may be a problem there. And that's operating procedures. That's how to implement the existing ICP-2. And the NRO is working on that, and we actually had the ASO AC, our advisory council, look at that, and they gave comments, and we're sharing it as we speak, actually.

We've been working closely with ICANN, with Sally, JJ, John Crane and Tripti, and we just shared that this week, so we're expecting comments back. And that's not to change ICP-2, but just to give us some procedures on how to run under the current one. Second and independent of that is the question of changes to ICP-2. And I think that the short answer to that is the community needs to say what changes those need to be.

As I said, we've asked the Address Supporting Organization, AC, to put together a process that's going to be a multiyear process to ask that exact question of the community. And so, when you ask me how it should be updated, I have no idea. I just think the numbers community should speak and say what the answer to that question is.

ALAN BARRET: Okay, thanks. That's very interesting. So, it seems we have two separate topics then, interrelated but separate. One is the procedures contemplated but not implemented under the existing ICP-2, and the other one is updates. Okay, so can we expect at some point that ICANN might receive a recommendation from the ASO to implement some new procedures?

JOHN CURRAN: Yes, certainly procedures for implementing the existing ICP-2, we're looking at the draft of that. ICANN's staff is looking at the draft of that, and hopefully it will be something that will just be agreed and implemented in short order. It doesn't say much other than the process we use.

As for a new ICP-2 or an updated ICP-2, I expect that will be an interesting topic that will be something we're discussing, and maybe there will be a draft in 2025 sometime for us all to look at. But it's going to be a long process because if we really want to have an inclusive process, we need the numbers community through all the RIRs to come up with updates, and then we need to come to this community and have you folks look at it and make sure it's right.

ALAN BARRET: Okay, thanks, John. Anyone else have follow-ups on this topic? New topics? Anything else to say? Hans-Peter?

HANS PETTER HOLEN: I was just thinking that maybe, Hervé who is chair of the ASO AC, who is working on this, may want to share exactly what you have been doing and your thoughts on the process ahead here.

HERVÉ CLÉMENT: Thank you, Hans-Peter. So, Hervé Clément chair of the ASO AC. So, as John clearly explained, so we were requested by the NRO EC, so the group of the four councils, to work on this subject with the two parts you were talking about. The first part, so I would say taking into account the criteria for the ongoing way and eventually the de-registration was work, so it was end of January in Montevideo, so there was a document shared by the NRO EC in January we commented, and so the letter explaining the comments we had was sent early February, as I can remember, so it was a work we have performed during our first face-to-face ASO AC meeting.

The ASO AC has met this week in Puerto Rico for the second face-to-face meeting and has started the job to update the ICP-2. So, we had the first idea and so the first idea we have developed will continue to be work in a specific time frame. We have developed as well, so to cover 2024 and 2025 as well. Thank you.

ALAN BARRET: Thank you Hervé. Right, anything else? Okay, I'm hearing no more questions. Can I hand it back to Tripti?

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- TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you, Alan. I would like to make one comment. I'm really pleased that we're doing work on ICP-2. I think since it's a 20-year-old document, the landscape has shifted quite a bit. It's time to bring currency into it, and I honestly appreciate all the hard work that's going into this, so thank you for that. Are we really and truly done for the day? Go ahead, Chris.
- CHRIS BUCKRIDGE: If we are actually, I'm just moving on to other topics. And one of the questions that's been asked repeatedly of different constituents this week, both by the Board to the constituents and reverse, has been about WSIS +20 and the different roles that different actors are taking there and how we can work together. So, I'd be really interested if any of the RIR representatives had thoughts on where the RIRs are sitting and seeing their engagement here and whether RIR communities are seeing this as important and how that's sort of sitting on your radar.
- HANS PETTER HOLEN: You want me to go on that? Sally was kind enough to invite us to a talk on this at 8:00 o'clock yesterday. We really appreciate early meetings. I had said that as well. Anyway, there were a couple of interesting takeaways from that. I believe there is a session tomorrow where ICANN will talk about what you're planning to do there, so I don't want to preempt any of that. But I think an interesting takeaway that kind of came out of the RSSGWG discussion also with what should IANA's role be in policymaking? Should it have a seat around the table? Should it have a vote, so to speak?
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And we looked a bit at the RIPE NCC policy development process and also the other RIRs, that executes the policy has a very special role in giving impact assessments of policy discussions. And I think the idea that was then shared in that morning meeting is that the technical community may not be a stakeholder group with a huge constituency behind us, but we're the ones that makes the Internet run, and we have a very special role in this Internet governance processes. So maybe we need to re-shift our thinking a bit and make sure that, no matter what kind of process in which forum it's run, that the sort of the people that runs the infrastructure is always heard and can do an impact assessment before we're moving forward.

Maybe this is a way to, let's say, rebrand ourselves and our role to make it obvious for everybody that leaving out the technical community is not a way to go forward. So, I just wanted to share that thought from that discussion, and since it's popping up both in governance of root servers and in this context, it may be something that is worth considering in a wider specter and work on. This is just loose ideas now, so it definitely needs thinking through and how it would be messaged and how it would be presented. But, yeah, I thought that's perhaps the biggest takeaway I have from this week.

ALAN BARRET:

Thank you, Hans-Peter. John, do you want to add to that? I see your microphone is on.

JOHN CURRAN: Well, it's on, so I'll talk. So, briefly, yes, we had a meeting yesterday morning that was constructive, talking about coordination. I think the RIRs and the ISOC, ICANN, and the other organizations that make up the technical community, like the IETF, have always worked pretty well to coordinate our engagement with organizations that want to talk about Internet governance. And so, it looks like ICANN has put together a nice structure for doing that, and I think it'll be very helpful for WSIS. So hopefully we'll be able to move ahead on that.

ALAN BARRET: Thank you. Anything else on this topic? Any other topics anybody wants to raise? Okay. So now I think we're probably at the end, Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA: Are we at the end?

HERVÉ CLÉMENT: Oh, there is one more thing. The most important thing of the whole ICANN meeting is happening tonight after DNS Women. So, Chris do you want to share that?

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE: Well, it was pointed out to me that a significant portion of the GEMS and tonight is from the number's community, so I think it's one of the big contributions to the ICANN scene. So, yes, outside here on the terrace after the DNS Women, you'll find a number of us playing music.

TRIPTI SINHA: After the DNS? You mean preceding your event is the DNS Women?

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE: Yes.

TRIPTI SINHA: Buckridge, what's the emphasis on? DNS Women or your band?

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE: The DNS Women have the free drinks, so I think that's probably going to have the emphasis.

TRIPTI SINHA: All right. DNS Women lead the way into your band. All right. On that note, thank you very much for attending, everyone, and enjoy yourselves at the DNS Women's event, followed by Chris' show. Thank you all.

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