
ICANN80 | PF – ccNSO: What are ccTLD relevant aspects in FY26-30 Strategic Plan?

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – 15:30 to 17:00 KGL

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

And is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. During this session, questions or comments submitted in chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form. I will read questions and comments allowed during the time set by the chair or moderator of this session. Interpretation for this session will include English, Spanish, French, and Arabic. Click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session.

If you wish to speak in the Zoom room and once the session facilitator calls upon your name, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Before speaking, ensure you have selected the language you will speak from the interpretation menu [inaudible]. This transcript is not official or authoritative. To view the real-time transcript, click on the closed caption button in the Zoom toolbar.

To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multistakeholder model, we ask that you sign into Zoom sessions using your full name. For example, first name and last name or surname. You may be removed from the session if you do not sign in using your full name. Thank you, and with that, I will now hand the floor over to session chair, Andreas Musielak. Thank you.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

Good afternoon. A very warm welcome from Irina, the Vice Chair of the SOPC group and myself. So today's session is about the strategic approach of ICANN. So therefore, also a particular warm welcome to

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.

Maarten and Chris, which are here, which are members of the ICANN Board responsible for the strategic planning, right? So we have others also here in the room. I can see at least one. And we have also Xavier from the ICANN planning. So if there will be special question, I'm pretty sure he will help you out.

Okay. The goal of this session is to raise awareness in ICANN's FY26 to 30 strategic planning process and identify which areas of the planning are of interest for ccTLDs. So from my point, as I mentioned, so it's a perfect setup. So we have the board. We have ICANN planning with us. So I'm looking forward for a good discussion. Can we go to the next slide, please.

So I would shortly explain the purpose of the SOPC. I think I would like to briefly explain the role and the task of the SOPC. The SOPC committee has now been in existence for almost 16 years and is one of the established committees at ICANN. The aim of the committee is to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in ICANN's strategic and operational planning process. So which means you don't need to be a part of the ccNSO to join the SOPC committee.

It is therefore particularly important for us to receive your input so that we can fulfill our responsibilities accordingly. In addition, we are also the committee within the ccNSO that can initiate a relevant rejection action petition plan. This means that we are equipped with extensive competences to influence ICANN's planning process. I hope, at least. We never had the chance or the issue to do so. Yeah, this meeting, I hope, help us to pursue our objectives. We are therefore looking forward to a constructive dialogue and your inputs. Yeah. So we as SOPC would be satisfied if we get a general guidance from the ccNSO and the other

ccTLD managers for the upcoming public comment period, which will hopefully start in the beginning of July. Next slide.

So the whole session is about what's new with the process and probably can go to the next slide, please.

Yeah, as I mentioned on the first slide, our agenda is raise the interest in ICANN's new strategy plan and guide the SOPC with your views. That will be valuable inputs, which we can use when the public comment period starts, and provide initial feedback to ICANN. So we come to that point when Maarten will present the current four objectives. Next slide, please.

Where are we in the process? You see marked with today. So we are a bit exactly in this period, the draft plans and development of the reviews. That's what we are doing here. Maarten, probably you can say, is there already a date announced when the public comments start?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Not an exact date, but as you can see, the intent is July. So basically, we use the opportunity of the interaction with the community during ICANN80. We finalize the strategic plan draft for public comments, and we expect to do so early July.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

Okay, early July. Thank you very much. Okay, so as you can see from the slides, the strategic planning process has been underway for more than a year now. And this is probably something I would like to go a little bit into the details. So we started with the environmental scan and analysis. I remember many of the SOPC did that. And sometimes we are wondering what is the outcome. I know the outcome is an Excel sheet with 360 lines. But what we expect is SOPC to have something like a

SWOT analysis. That is basically something what we will discuss when you go through the objectives. Next slide, please.

Yeah, I would like to kick off the main part of the session with the following quote, “Everyone has a plan till they get punched in the mouth.” It may sound harsh, but when Mike Tyson said, it's similar to the old saying, no plan survives first contact with your opponent, which means we are not opponents here. We are a bunch of domain experts. But however, we want to challenge you if ICANN fulfills the right mission. Okay, with that, I'll hand over to Irina, who will moderate the following part of the session. Irina, the floor is yours.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you very much, Andreas. Probably we want first explain how to use the Mentimeter, because during this session, we will ask for your reactions and questions. And we will use the tool many of you already know. But still, may I ask Bart to explain?

BART BOSWINKEL:

Thank you, Irina. So from the back. Mentimeter, so to log in, you'll see the instructions. I'll give you a few seconds to log in. It's fairly simple. Some of you already used it this morning. So I'll give you a few more seconds. And this time, I hope it works. Again, we'll be using your suggestions, your questions, and then you can upvote any suggestions from your colleagues or the comments. So I'll give you a few more seconds. This is the last time you see the QR code. And yes, I think most—and you will see the instruction how to join Mentimeter on top. So as a start, please put your comments on the following question. How do you stay healthy during ICANN meetings? So definitely nothing to do

with this session. But to give you some—yeah, to loosen up the muscles, put it that way.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

But in the meanwhile, when the audience is typing to Mentimeter, I forgot we have a handout here. So we have 50 copies. So this is basically, you see the four objectives, the strategic goals, and the strategies behind. If probably it will help you, because we will not have the objectives all the time, or at least the goals all the time present. But Maarten told me there were some last-minute changes. So it's not 100 percent accurate, but 95 percent. So it will help you and give you guidance probably when we go to the Mentimeter questions.

BART BOSWINKEL:

And I don't know if you can see it? I can but can you submit your support to any of these questions or comments? It should be in your—there we go. Yeah, voting in progress. There is a [inaudible] here. You can see 14 people have voted. And there you can see the results. So sleep is probably the best advice people give to each other. You have four votes. So it's been upvoted to rank number one. Eat fried chicken is the other one, and drink water. So this is the method we're going to use when asking questions, et cetera, later on in the sessions. Thank you. Back to you, Andreas.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you very much, Bart. And now, can we go to the slide 15, I believe? And some of you might have a chance to listen the webinar. During the prep week, where the draft strategic plan for 26-30 was presented. And there was quite a detailed presentation from Maarten. And I hope he will repeat some pieces of it. But when preparing for this

session, we did some home exercise. And what you can see here on the screen on the left side is the vision statement for the current strategic plan, which is about to end 21-25. And right-hand side, you see the vision statement. Can you move to the next slide, please?

We see the vision statement for the proposed draft strategic plan. And you may see that there is significant change. At least it became shorter. And with that, I hand it over to explain the vision statement and probably elaborate a little bit on what is changing in ICANN's vision.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Yes. Thank you, Irina, for that. And thanks for having us. We really appreciate the opportunity to take you through our current thinking. And we look forward to listen to you and learn, so you don't have to submit a relevant rejection action petition, but really put the input here. Why such a short and succinct statement? Well, one of the things is that this is probably self-explanatory. It's shorter. You can understand it. You can take it with you.

And one of the objectives in this cycle of five-year plan is that it's not only one where you say, okay, that sort of sounds okay, but that it's also one that you start to use. And you're integrating your own thinking that you don't only look for the issues at hand, but also put those in a longer-term perspective. A longer-term perspective, we hope to share.

If we talk about ICANN, we talk about the community, the board, and the org together. So as the trusted steward of the internet's unique identifier systems, ICANN is dedicated to strengthening the single global, interoperable internet for all. And we would like to be seen to do that. And we'd like to be recognized to do that. In short, like to do that also five years from now.

It also indicates that we don't think we do it all by ourselves, but that we're a crucial part in making that to happen. This draft vision statement is something we put on the table some time ago. And so far, we've only heard this makes sense. If there's any improvements, questions, or challenges, we'd love to hear that as well.

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Maarten.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Thanks, Maarten. I'd add a little to that. The previous vision statement was probably the longest vision statement in the history of vision statements. This one is concise. It's got focus. As a result of that, it maintains a clearer focus. It's better for communication and engagement. And more subtly, or more nuanced than that, it's been a very healthy exercise around the board. There are 12 board members on the Strategic Planning Committee. It's clearly the most interesting, engaging, and best of the committees of the board. And everyone wants to be on it. I'm trying to throw in a bit of humor there, Rosemary. And it's clearly been one where everybody has, around the board, been very focused about it.

I think we've had 13 board committee sessions in the last couple of months, a number of board discussions. And this vision statement has got some more positive posture about it. We're not just a steward. We're not just accepting that we're a steward. We're indicating that we feel we are a trusted steward. We're not just responsible for the single, globally interoperable internet for all. We are dedicated to strengthening it. And I think that's a very healthy thing.

I think, from my own time on the board over the last 18 months, I've seen the board grow in positive posture. And that's intended to come through in that vision statement. That's all I wanted to add. And thank you.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you very much. And can we move to the next slide, please? Which also piece of the homework we have done. And it demonstrates the strategic objectives of the old and current strategic plan. And the draft strategic objectives suggested for the 26-30 strategic plan. And again, I will give the floor to Maarten for a short introduction. Because later on, we will look closer to each of these four objectives. But however, maybe you want to provide some comments on what has changed, and why we have less strategic objectives this time. And what does the change in the order mean?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Thank you for that. Thanks for recognizing it's not the old one. It's the current one. It's also one that we continue to update every year. And it's also the one that was our starting point for thinking about a new one, both in the community where the invitation was to contribute to the initial thinking as in the board. Because the old one, the current one, makes sense and has evolved. Now, why did we change it to four this time and the slightly different order? This is really to do with the thinking and the priorities that came forward from the community and further developments over time.

So where sustain and promote ICANN's multistakeholder model, an inclusive internet governance model looks a lot like the initial one, improve the effectiveness. It's in line with that. But it's also emphasizing

improved insight in what is needed. And you will hear more about it when we dive deeper into the goals and strategies. The enhance of the organizational excellence is the recognition that an institution that has brought so much community, board, and org together again will need to continue to deliver in the new world that has changed, has moved forward since 50 years ago when we started the internet.

And that's recognized in the second action, to evolve the unique identifier systems in itself is at the core of what we do, is in the core of our mission, which is ingrained in the bylaws, as you know. With that, and with the increased pressure on it, and the increased dependability on it, of course, security is the last one.

The one that may seem to have fallen off is ensure ICANN's long-term financial sustainability. Well, at the time that we wrote this six years ago, the problem was that we hardly had a reserve fund. And we now have at least a healthy reserve fund to ensure that we can go healthily through future shocks while we're managing our business in a sustainable way right now.

The geopolitical issues are now folded in to both sides of the coin in the multistakeholder model. So that's where you'll find it back. So whereas the number has changed, the subjects covered are the same and the emphasis in that has changed to where we are today.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

Okay, I have a question. Regarding point number five in the old strategic. So we know that what happened last week in preparation of this meeting, we were asking ourselves—so it was a small group of the SOPC. So it was the chair and the vice chair and a few others were asking, why you took that out. And you mentioned that in the beginning

when we had our preparation talk that you were thinking that. Since I joined the SOPC committee in 2016, in all our comment, it was always, be careful in increasing headcount, et cetera, because it needs to be balanced.

So I don't know if you need to rethink the whole thing before reducing the stuff. So therefore, probably you should reconsider this point. And even now, because I'm a little bit ahead of yours, I know it's part of the objective number two, but probably it's better to have a separate objective. Maarten?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

I hear you, and thanks for the remark. Of course, what happened last week was we feel a necessary step in ensuring that going forward, we will make sure that ends continue to meet. That was the essence of that. With that, we feel that the stability in that has to continue moving forward. But it hasn't to do with ICANN's long-term financial sustainability as such. It has more to do with making sure that we don't make ends meet while we move. With that, we recognize and empathize, of course, with the fact that all people involved in ICANN board, org and community are people that are not only there for the money, but also because they care and we recognize that.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Maarten. And I wonder if we have any immediate questions and comments on what we have just covered before we dive deeper in discussing each strategic objective.

CLAUDIA RUIZ:

Thank you, Irina. There's one question in the chat. Michael Palage asking, on Sunday's session, multiple speakers spoke about evolution

and the need to change. Sustained of maintaining the status quo. Would a more dynamic be more appropriate?

CHRIS CHAPMAN:

Thank you, Michael. I understand why you suggest that. And a more dynamic—the word dynamic does pick up these concepts of institutional agility and adaptability. We could argue these words forever. Sustainable future to me, isn't about the status quo. Sustainable means long-term sustainability. In other words, it's the long-term trend line. So I think we're saying exactly the same thing, choosing different words. And we'll take that observation about the word dynamic on board and see how we might thread it in at a later moment. Thank you for that.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Just to add a little bit to that, if you look down to the strategic goals and the strategies, you see that that spirit, I think, reflected. But more about that later.

IRINA DANELIA:

Chris?

CHRIS DISSPAIN:

Thanks, Irina. Hi, everyone. Chris Disspain. , I have two questions sort of about the overarching approach. The first is, I assume that you used the results of the trend exercise. Trend exercises to inform your discussions. In the past, the results of those trend exercises have been published. They don't seem to have been published this time, and I was wondering if there was a reason for that.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Xavier, can you take that?

XAVIER CALVEZ : I'm going to ask Becky to help give the precision of that. So please, Becky, go ahead.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: For sure what you've been doing is reflecting the findings all the time. Sorry, for not being directly up-to-date. What is in the public domain and what isn't? But in general, we share what we get. So that's why we're checking on that.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: Can we let Becky provide that information?

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Maybe I have a question in the meanwhile.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: Is Becky going to be able to answer the question?

BECKY NASH: Hello, everyone. Yes, this is Becky Nash from ICANN org planning team. It's a pleasure to be here. We did hold the environmental scan sessions and the results of the data collection published on ICANN.org website. And we will provide a link in the chat to the results of the environmental scan, which is information that was collected from the community. And it was sorted by external and internal environmental factors. And this was information used as input into the board's discussions on developing the strategic objectives, goals and draft strategies.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Then I apologize if it has been published. I hadn't seen it.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: I think it was about March. I was hesitant to jump into [inaudible] confirmation. But as Becky said, she'll provide the link to that.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: That's excellent. My second question is, I'm just wondering whether or not in your discussions at the beginning of working out this strategy and presumably based to some extent on the environmental scan, you looked at what you think the state of the industry will be over the next five years. I don't mean from a budget point of view as in yearly budgets. I mean, do we think it's a growing industry, a flatlining industry or a diminishing industry? And whether you've had those conversations and that they have, in fact, informed your strategy.

And if you have, what your opinion was as to the—and I accept that these are just opinions, but what your opinion was as to the next five years, what the industry is going to look like? Because that does affect to some extent the type of strategy that one would expect to see.

Thanks.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you. The current assumption is, following the trend there as trend breaches are difficult to predict there, and this is also one of the reasons why we are committed to review the strategic plan every year, as you know, from your time with the first strategic plan or the current one. So right now, the assumption is the trend, and we don't foresee trend breaches right now. And that's mostly reflected in the preserve of the ICANN financial sustainability as well.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: I'll just add to that, Chris. I think embedded in some of the strategies is this notion of us, to use Michael's word, being far more dynamic. I think

there's a realization on many—there's been a realization on many occasions or on many points that the organization needs to have greater agility, have greater adaptability. They're words that are easily said. But one of the matters that was highlighted in the CEO profile, for example, and it was underscored to its death was this idea of institutional agility.

And also, one of the other strategies is to evolve the hybrid workforce model. These are all notions about the organization realizing that it can't be a static one size fits all, set and forget. And the new president [inaudible] CEO has an open brief to bring a new mindset to that.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you. I apologize because—for those who still has a question, I want to move to the next step. Can we have a next slide, please? And I will you will have an opportunity—next slide, please. We want to dive now in more details in each strategic objectives. And you have opportunity to provide your comments with regard each objective or if we have time, I promise I will give this opportunity in the end. So with that, Maarten, will you introduce the first one?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Yeah, a short introduction. Basically, this is about sustain and promote ICANN's multistakeholder model. We heard the question sustain is that evolve. Sustain is also longer-term sustaining and inclusive internet governance model as mentioned. Not the only one, but this is the one we have and that we've been made to work.

Basically, three strategic goals. The first goal is to ensure inclusive stakeholder presentation, integrated collaboration. It's really about creating the environment and to ensure that we get the right people at

the table at the right place. The second one and the third one are basically both about working better together. The second one about, so how do we work better together within the current stakeholder group. The third one is also how to work better together with those parties. Together we deliver the internet for the world.

So I think for sake of time, I shouldn't go into the individual strategies, but if there's any questions or remarks, let's go there.

IRINA DANELIA:

Okay. Any questions or remarks with regard the strategic objective one? Rosemary and after Olga, please.

ROSEMARY SINCLAIR:

Thanks, Irina. I'll start by going back to my comment about the environmental scan. So I think what we have, if I'm reading the document on the website correctly, is a long list of verbatim comments from the workshop. And that's fine in terms of the, you said. I think what we're looking for is, we heard and we will. So a progression from all those ideas and comments to the context in which this strategic plan enables us to prioritize scarce resources. That's what this piece of work is about.

So the importance of that environmental analysis and assessment in the plan that's published for comment can't be underestimated. I should say that I'm speaking from my own ccTLD manager perspective. What I'm going to say has not been agreed by the SOPC. That process will take place through public comments.

A number of people have heard me before on the subject of risk. Risk is a key way of identifying strategic priorities. And we need to understand collectively what our most important risks are and make sure we plan

for those and budget accordingly. Our role in remit, of course, is very important to our strategic priorities. And I think that's pretty well reflected in the draft that we have before us. But I must say, I am still worried.

I hear Chris on the subject of more positive posture. To be frank, Aussie blunt, when I read the draft, I'm still seeing a culture of caution, a focus on processes and an assumption that the status quo will continue. I think we may be better to assume that that's not going to be the case. And even though we're not going to see radical change in the next five years, we do have to start preparing for that. So the reflections on agility and flexibility are spot on.

To go now to specific comments on the objective, number one, it's sustain and promote ICANN's multistakeholder model and inclusive internet governance model. And I wanted to just put a comparison statement on the table, so that we can have two bookends, if you like. And the statement is the statement by the Technical Community Coalition for the multistakeholder model. And that statement identifies an issue. It says, although imperfect, the multistakeholder approach fosters a level of diversity, accountability and transparency that cannot be replicated in intergovernmental environments alone. It also ensures that decision-making about the internet and its governance isn't led by individual nation state political interests.

However, the multistakeholder approach is under threat in a period of critical decision-making at the United Nations taking place across 2024 and 2025. The technical community statement then goes on to identify clearly the risks. The risks are that the technical community and other key stakeholders will be left out or have their voices weakened in

dialogues related to the future of the internet and its governance. The statement goes on. And then the statement says what we're going to do about it. We, the undersigned, are committed to defending, evolving and strengthening multistakeholder-ism in decision making and dialogues about the internet.

So that's the other bookend in terms of an objective around multistakeholder-ism. So when I look at the strategic plan, it identifies the issue for sure. At the moment, I think it's silent on the risks. Thirdly, it focuses on process. And to continue with the Mike Tyson analogy, because I know how fond Chris is of his sport, I think it pulls its punches on outcomes.

So a change, a suggested change would be to strengthen ICANN's support for the internet community's multistakeholder model and inclusive internet governance model. And then if I could go to a couple of specific goals, 1.3.1, demonstrate the value of ICANN's multistakeholder model. I think there's a big question about value to whom? To commercial interests, to the global public interest, to the public interest, to the global internet community. And I think the plan needs to identify that.

And lastly, 1.3.2, strengthen collaborative efforts to promote the multistakeholder model, I think we could be more positive there and talk about leading or facilitating, using action words. So I'll leave it at that. As I say, we yet to have a process inside SOPC where we talk about these matters. And my role this afternoon was to provide a, what shall I say, provocatively clear set of comments. Thank you.

CHRIS CHAPMAN:

Maarten, if I might have first response.

IRINA DANELIA: I wonder, do you want to respond to each question? Whichever number of them, we just want to—

CHRIS CHAPMAN: I just wanted to say this, Rosemary and I go back a long way. We worked together for a long time and we have very constructive engagement. So I think from Maarten and my perspective this afternoon, this session isn't about being defensive, but it's about listening. And we'll go back over these and factor that in. And I'd make that comment about everything that comes up this afternoon. We don't need to be defensive. We're very happy with where we've got to at this point. And I think these sort of contributions are fabulous in fine tuning and holding up to the mirror our more introverted view. So thank you for that.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Just to respond a little bit also, if you say—I'm aware of the quotes you say about the multistakeholder model in general because there is a wider discussion about the multistakeholder approach outside of ICANN, IGF, et cetera. And last week, I was at GigSky, where Milton Mueller and others came together to talk about this, and that was a good discussion. Yet [inaudible] strategic objective talk about ICANN's multistakeholder model. We'll talk about what is codified in our bylaws. At other places, we may say, okay, multistakeholder approach, and we do that in 1.3, for instance, where it's more about the multistakeholder approach that we, as internet community together believe is the best way forward for the internet, as there's no single party that can do it. I hope that helps.

The other thing why it's not completely refold is also because we're building on something that is year by year being updated to the current trends. I hope that helps, but thanks for your comment.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

Irina, I would also like to add something to that, because risks are important. And coming back to the environmental scan, so I also participated in that and was really one of the best exercises I ever did. And there are so many inputs. And if you go on the side, it says more or less like a SWOT analysis. It's about the internal strength and weaknesses of ICANN. So I really urge you to use this as a building block or stone for the upcoming strategy.

I think it's important for us as community to see what is the outcome, because there are many risks, also opportunities also risk mentioned. And I think we should not neglect any risk, which is of importance for ICANN. Thank you. And Olga, I think the floor is yours.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Just to add that all the committees in the board are also involved in the work including the risk committee, and I'm a member of that too. So we do reflect that because if you think of where we need to go, you think of the [inaudible], but thank you for putting that emphasis that you didn't see that back. That's a useful remark. Sorry, Irina.

IRINA DANELIA:

That's fine. May I ask the technical team to take care of this screen because it doesn't work anymore. And meanwhile, Olga, please your comment and then we will have questions from the chat.

OLGA CAVALLI:

Thank you very much. This is Olga Cavalli from Argentina. And my question goes to 1.1.3 and 1.1.4, an appealing environment for younger volunteers and develop new generations of leaders. I've worked a lot in developing this School of Internet Governance that we run for 16 years, but I am also a university teacher for more than 20 years. I teach IT infrastructure. None of my colleagues at the university knows about ICANN. I am the only one who tells my students and my colleagues that ICANN exist and the importance of the role of ICANN in the internet infrastructure.

I have said this many times. In one of the meetings in Buenos Aires, I organized a meeting with all the colleagues from the academic environment. So I think that's something that I can focus more on in relating with universities, with teaching organizations because then you will have more young people. I think the fellowship program is great, but maybe you can gather people from other communities in paying attention the important work that ICANN has. Thank you very much.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Yes, thank you for that. I 100 percent agree and it's just a few words here but there's a lot of intent and meaning behind it. I'm 100 percent on board, and congratulations, again, on winning your prize. And this is a prize for recognizing your work with the School for Internet Governance in Latin America.

IRINA DANELIA:

May I suggest we open the Mentimeter so people could type there? While we have a comment from Xavier and then we immediately go to the question from the queue,

XAVIER CALVEZ:

Thank you. I just wanted to come back on the comments made by Andreas, as well as Chris and Rosemary. I think that, as Maarten was saying, the environmental scan outputs that many of you provided inputs into, including Michael for two hours in Hamburg, as I witnessed, have been taken into account to develop exactly what Andreas was mentioning earlier, the SWOT analysis. That SWOT analysis has then been the basis for the board's work on then developing the strategies that you are seeing here.

What I'm hearing though is the clarity of the link between the environmental scan, the SWOT analysis, and those objectives is what I think a number of your comments explicitly or indirectly are pointing to. So we'll take that into account to see if there is a way practically, for us to be able to represent that link between those three phases of the work. But I want to be clear that the board has started from that SWOT analysis in order to develop the objectives, and we'll try to make that linkage more clear.

And also, Victoria indicated in the chat a practical information that's important is that risks have not been included in the slides just by lack of space. But the current plan, the next plan, both include risks being mentioned at the strategic level, and it's also the case here. You will see that in the documents that will be published for public comments, and it's important to take them into account as Rosemary was indicating as well as, of course, the indicators for measurement of the progress in or success on those strategic objectives, which is something that's painfully missing in the current plan and that we absolutely want to be able to improve in the next plan. I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: Xavier, so which—obviously, the missing gap is the SWOT analysis, and I think this is important because we don't know that. So probably you could share probably during the public comment period. That would help us to understand how you got to these four objectives. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA: There are questions in the chat.

BART BOSWINKEL: There is a question in the chat from Michael Palage. This week, the registrars talk about declining numbers. This is something that gTLD registries have experienced. Does the individual fees imposed by most ICANN-GNSO stakeholder groups represent a barrier to entry. Also known as [inaudible]? Thanks.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: In relation to the strategic plan proposal we're now developing, I would say that we recognize that changes are going on, and that we observe that. But there's not a specific observation on that here and now. But for sure, it falls into the scope, I would think, of the strategies that we have here. I hope that helps.

IRINA DANELIA: Do we have any immediate comments or questions on the strategic objective? Yes, please.

JOFAN YU: Okay, thank you. Here is JoFan Yu from TWNIC. First, we want to say we are happy to see also one of the objectives that we listed. And second, we are happy to support, but I think it's just like what we hear from other participants. We think a lot of details are missing, so especially I'm

not so clear from the draft. What is the vision? And what is the link between the goals, I mean, this [inaudible], and how they achieve objective or even the vision?

And also, I'm not sure I understand the vision. Just like what is the trend? We see this industry or even ICANN's role in maybe the coming five years. So when I saw the terms we use sustain. I also a bit worried because it seems to be that the multistakeholder approach right now, actually, we see a lot of challenges or also, criticism about the whole process. But when we use the sustain maybe it also reflects that we are kind of satisfied with the current situation.

But of course, I know there's a lot of discussion maybe behind. It's not reflected in the document. But we do hope, I mean, to get more clear picture about what is the vision we have. I mean, ICANN have, or I mean, for the whole community. And I think it's really important for us.

So in addition to that, I know ICANN traditionally is really carefully and also cautiously to consider its role in all the ecosystem. But I think, as many participants mentioned, I mean, this week, the internet, I mean, involved. So the challenge as well. I mean, I'm not sure when we want to promote the value of the multistakeholder, I mean, from the ICANN perspective.

I think maybe it's also important for ICANN to reconfirm or even reconsider whether the mandate we think today we have, it still can reflect what we can do really to bring the value to the whole society also to respond to all the challenges today. So I think it's what I see from the draft.

But I think maybe just give me one more minute, I mean, for a little bit promotion. Because we did something this year, we also hosted

[inaudible] this year, I mean, 2024. So I think it does show our commitment to this approach. So we welcome all the stakeholder to use this platform to engage and share your views with all the stakeholders. So especially we expect—I mean, this year, we will have—maybe if not more than 1,000 but also, I mean, hundreds of participants especially those from the Asia Pacific area. So we welcome everyone to come and we were also happy to work together with taking your community coalition, I mean, to promote the multistakeholder approach. So we welcome everyone and hope if you have time and please come to Taipei to join all these discussions here. Thank you.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you very much. And I'd suggest we move to the discussion on the strategic objective two. So can we have the next slide, please? And again, Maarten, would you want to introduce it shortly?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

So we're not going to the Mentimeter results? And we don't have to, but...

IRINA DANELIA:

Unfortunately, not at the moment, because we want to be sure we will be able to cover all the objectives.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

We're running a little bit out of time. So we had our schedule and we see we are way...

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

I follow your lead very much here, of course. A red card for me.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The Mentimeter results will be made available. They will be ready after this session. So they will be publicly available for you as well to consider. If you look at them—if you've seen them they captured a lot of the discussions that were ongoing. Thanks.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you very much. I saw a red card going up in the back. So I think I would need to leave room now, but that was not the intent, I think. On the second strategic objective, and in a way that is based on recognizing also the changing world. The need to pursue a sustainable future means you need to also evolve even if you have a solid basis. And what we recognized based on the comments and on our own conversations, including the risk committee, but that is also, we need to improve our agility and adaptability.

Now, it didn't mean that we waited with that. There's examples of that already in the way we engage together in the community but as a clear focus of furthering that, that was an important one. Here you find they've preserved ICANN financial sustainability as was asked, assuming growth as currently in domain space terms, but also recognizing that some costs go up and making sure that we continue to fulfill our mission in a way that is also financially viable.

The second part, the second objective is very much on ensuring the global presence and impact. And again, this also, I think, touches upon what the lady who just made the remarks said. It's also to evolve the hybrid workforce model and regional office utilization, make sure that this supports the world we need to serve as much as possible.

And last but not least, embed ecological responsibility. Now, we're not an ecological action group, but we are a responsible organization. We

care about the world and that is something that came up in the community, in the board, and in the organization, and you may have also seen reflected the first work on that in one of the CEO goals that have been presented. So happy to answer any questions on that.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Maarten. And may I suggest we open the Mentimeter so you could submit your questions and comments. And meanwhile, if there is anybody who wants to speak, Ms. [inaudible].

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

Thank you very much, Irina. And I think I will add some kicks to the punches that came earlier, starting with the last intervention regarding ecological responsibility. And my question is, as ICANN is investing in managed root server instances, especially in the African region, are there any guidelines that guarantee ecological responsibility in the investments? We are talking of green data centers right now, most of the African governments. I'm happy there was a high-level governmental session, but even as we discuss this issue of ecological responsibility, are there any guidelines with respect to that?

I have three more questions. I'll try to be very fast so that they can be taken together. The other one involves the issue of the hybrid work of post-modern and regional office utilization. Again, I noted increased engagement with governments, but when I look at the staff complement, I'm not sure whether it matches the task that is at hand and the objectives of the organization. I know there's also the incident that you mentioned earlier. So maybe it would be good to know the intention in so far as leveraging the hybrid workforce model and the

offices in different regions. But more importantly, in Africa, what intentions are there to ensure that they are optimally used?

The other point is the issue of the geopolitical processes that we are facing. I know we've started having discussions around the ongoing GDC and other processes, but I'm wondering if there's one of those earthquake moments at [inaudible], which attract significant costs. Are we prepared or will we go the way we went when we were doing the IANA transition where significant resources again had to go into the processes?

I think lastly, it's on the issue of institutional agility. My question regards clarification on what this agility is all about. Maybe it would be good to clarify it again, taking into consideration ongoing geopolitical processes and internet governance processes that require ICANN to actually step forward considering its role in the space. So those would be my questions. Apologies if there are so many, but I hope they can all be addressed.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: The last question escaped me. Can you repeat the very last one?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The last question had to touch on a clarification on the institutional agility and adaptability taking into mind the evolving global internet ecosystem and ICANN's role. When we had the meeting in Puerto Rico, I think if I got right, I listened to Chris Disspain. There was a conversation around whether we are investing appropriately in these processes. I think an earlier speaker has already indicated that even the technical community was being left out of some of the conversations and we

know that these are processes that require a lot of lobbying for lack of a better word, but have we set aside the right resources for this?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Okay, thank you for repeating that and let me start with your first one on the ecological responsibility of ICANN's operations. Again, it's recognizing that we need to step up there and be aware of that in whatever we do and we're working on the baseline and we want to do things that make sense. We want to be exemplary in that and demonstrated to the industry as leading by example and for those parts where it's really up to the community, like how do we organize our meetings, that is for the community. We recognize that too and we will support that. So we're building on that and we're committed to improve step by step. And the first steps have been made and it's clearly recognized as a necessity.

The hybrid workforce model, it's just a recognition that the world is changing, and with the stuff we have all around the world, admittedly most in LA, we are trying to serve the world, and that pulls a challenge. And personally, I'm sometimes very much impressed to see how people, board and staff and also, community are at crazy hours behind their PC in a room with a small light to participate. So it just makes sense if we're aware on how to make best use of the means we have in our organization is something that has partly started and partly will need to continue over time.

Your remark about agility and adaptability, again, it's something we recognize is needed. First steps are taken and examples are in, for instance, that in policy processes earlier engagement takes place, that we don't wait as a board until something comes to our plate that we

engage with the [inaudible] liaisons, with policy working groups. We also see that GAC and ALAC talk together rather than talk via the board, which used to be the habit just after the transition.

These kinds of examples. Another example is that we have our annual financial planning cycles. Sometimes things come up. So we now also have the specific funds for interim investments, this figure. So things are moving and we recognize it's necessary to move further because the world moves very fast.

CHRIS CHAPMAN:

[inaudible], I'm not sure whether this is universal expression, but in Australia, we'd call it calling a spade a shovel, and you ask some very good questions, the answers to which we don't have at the moment, because there are no answers. We are overtly recognizing the need to embed ecological responsibility within ICANN. That's a major step. We're going to baseline where we're at, and we'll discuss it with the community where we take that baseline against what the expectations are.

So it's going to be, not a slow burn, but it's going to be a very structured burn. But thank you for that. Like all these observations, none of them are kicks or punches. They're all constructive observations and they're very helpful because we all know in our own day jobs, you move on to something because you've seen enough of it.

I used to be managing director of a broadcasting network in Australia. I'd have four TV screens in front of me every night, and I'd see the news presenters of the various channels. Sorry. And just when you were sick to death of hearing from your own network, because you knew it so

well, you'd walk out into the street and immediately someone would say, who's your news reader? It was just the most sobering reminder that just when you're sick to death of hearing about something, you have not even started conveying it, and that's what I'm hearing today.

We have moved from stage one to stage two to stage three, and we need to do a better job in providing those linkages and that material. So this is a very helpful discussion.

IRINA DANELIA:

So we need to move. So Rosemary, I may give you 30 seconds for the question and not more than 30 seconds for the answer, and we're going to move to the next objective.

ROSEMARY SINCLAIR:

Thanks, Irina. And it's really a comment and a contribution. So we may not need to use up any time in responses. We just finished ccNSO, the most marvelously interesting session and the least jaded. It was about how ccTLDs contribute to a better world in pursuit of UN SDGs and the interim CEO of ICANN spoke most passionately about this and about the broader topic of ESG. So I think this narrow focus on ecological is a matter that perhaps should be reconsidered. Thank you.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

May I comment on that too because I was at the same session and I remember the answer from Sally. It was, "I was tasked to make a strategy out of the strategy." And I think that is already probably an issue because we need clear objectives how to reach that. Yeah, I

remember that's what she mentioned at that point. So I think in all the strategy and the objectives we have, at a certain point, we need to have objectives. Sorry.

ROSEMARY SINCLAIR:

And I just need to add that ccNSO is here to help because we actually have a CEO forum on ESG that was called together by [inaudible] and Team Internet a few meetings ago. There's been the most marvelous sharing of information there which possibly could advance the thinking.

IRINA DANELIA:

Six are here, hands up, but I want to move to the next objective unless it is something very important. Okay. Then please, can we have the next slide? And I give Maarten the floor to introduce objective number three.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Okay, thank you. And by the way, all these strategies aren't necessarily strategies executed by the board or the org. Some of them are in the community and I'm personally aware of a very good example of ethnic with their ecological assessment. I'll just move to the objectives here. For the strategic objective of evolve, the unique identifier systems in collaboration and coordination with relevant parties, there's three elements.

One is the digital inclusion. The other one is stay up to speed and of course, IANA is at the core of what we do. So with that, happy to answer any specific question, but we feel that a universal acceptance on IDNs needs to be at the core. We do recognize that the system as it's currently

going, if we stay there at some point, we're out. We need to continue to understand what happens. We need to understand what new technologies bring in terms of opportunities and risks. And last but not least, we need to deliver on the IANA functions.

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, Maarten. Maarten, I suggest we open the Mentimeter and meanwhile I see Chris's hands up.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Yes, hi. Chris again. Is there any particular reason why 3.1.1 says promote the advancement of UA and IDNs and then, 3.2 says proactively collaborate to promote UA. It seems to me that those really are the same thing and you should be collaborating and promoting on both IDNs and UA. And you don't really need two separate points. So I'm not sure why they're there or what the intention was to differentiate between collaboration and promotion and call out UA separately rather than IDNs. Thanks.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Very quick. If it comes to the DNS, it's one thing. IDNs and universal acceptance. But if it's only that, it's not good enough. That's why email providers, browser providers, routing providers, et cetera also needs to adopt it. But I realized with the shorthand that difference is difficult to see. In the strategic plan itself, you will see more of an explanation and that should help. But thank you for your observation. We'll double check that it's indeed functional and not superfluous.

IRINA DANELIA:

Since we are a little bit running out of time, I strongly encourage you to provide your comments and questions through Mentimeter because I cannot be sure that we will be able to give flow to everyone. And meanwhile, Demi, please.

DEMI GETSCHKO:

Yeah, thank you. Demi Getschko from .br. I think this is really the core business of ICANN as was stated in the new vision and also, it's important to take into account the risks, as Rosemary said. So I think this is a very important point. In the technical part, dealing with IDNs, for example, we have paved the way with a series of RFCs in the area. I can name the RFC of John [inaudible] for example, 5890. That is just to implement this and we have IDN working.

So I think these two legs of ICANN, the names and the numbers are really the point where we can see the most insidious risks of fragmentation and we have to take care not to have this fragmentation because all we need is one internet and one world. So I just want to highlight the importance of having a solid and unique route and also the deployment of IPv6 and so on. Another point just related to IANA and comment. I think we have to avoid the pendulum effect.

So we have to strive for a balanced approach that combines security and transparency on one side and privacy requirement in the other one. I think we have to have the parameters of the delegated domains and the route very clear will have to be remaining in a public access and this is important. Last point is about the universal acceptance. I think it's a

very powerful name, maybe a little bit pushy name because universal acceptance is, if you think in all the piece of software that accepts characters not in Latin script, you have to deal with legacy systems.

You have to deal with a lot of information systems that is not under our umbrella. Then maybe we can look at this more as universal acceptance of domain names. Of course, it's totally in our umbrella and it's feasible. But the broad name of universal acceptance as a name to strive for multi-linguistic applications in all the software world, information world, I think is a little bit ambitious. But anyway, this is just a comment. Thank you.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Here, here, I would say. Thank you for that, fully agree. In particular, universal acceptance we see, it's not moving as fast as anybody wants. At the same time, more and more organizations and people are aware that it's important. So thank you for your remarks.

IRINA DANELIA :

Thank you very much. We can take one more question before we move to next strategic objective. Chris?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

I did try to put this in the Mentimeter, but for some reason it didn't come up. I just wanted, given the decision to promote and collaborate on UA and IDNs, why you wouldn't also include DNSSEC in those areas of promotion and collaboration? It's about the numbers as well.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: I'll go to that, but specifically here for this activity, it's a different group of organizations as well, partly, so that's the first reason, but your question about promotion of IPv6 is one that we don't have an answer here and now, but it's something that gets our attention. We would love a world in which we're on the IPv6 and I'm not sure that's reality.

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you, and may I ask next slide please? And again, here is the last strategic objective number four and Maarten, would you want to introduce it?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Sure, with pleasure. Security, and why does it stand out and why it's not just part of the evolution of the DNS, of the unique identifier systems? It's because stakes go up and this is a core thing. We need to get this right and it's more than just what we do, it's also what people do. This is also why we need to support this development in partnership with other relevant stakeholders. The kindness project is one of those examples and there's errors. It's also about identification and mitigation of threats and this is also something where we can learn from errors and we will continue to do so. So, again, the DNS route, I mean, it hasn't been done yet, but let's keep it like that and we are very much aware of that great responsibility that rests upon us. Any questions, welcome.

IRINA DANELIA: Thank you. May I ask to a poll on Mentimeter, comments and questions?
And meanwhile, happy to take one or two questions from the floor.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Glad you all fully agree with everything we said, such as Xavier.

XAVIER CALVEZ: Just a practical comment is that this session is effectively the beginning of the opportunity to provide comment. I'm hoping that a lot of the comments that have been formulated today will find themselves into the public comment submission as well, whether from the ccNSO, SOPC or from individual submissions as you prefer. So please don't forget your comments and your input and please put them into the public comment when the time comes. Thank you.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK: In the meanwhile, Irina, I think we, because we're running out of time, so people can still put some answers in. As you can see, the discussion is very important and we as the SOPC committee, we are looking for new volunteers to join us and you see it's the right moment. We are in a phase where we really see if ICANN will fulfill its mission for the next five years. So volunteers, please approach Irina, me or the secretariat and we will be here around also after the meeting. So if you're interested, let us know.

CHRIS CHAPMAN:

I'd just like to make a final remark at a very higher level. There's been some commentary about maybe the document's too defensive, maybe it's not. The posture's not strong enough. I think this, as I said, 15 minutes ago, it was a very sobering reminder to us that we'll step back from the document, have a look at its tone, establish where the gaps are, try and respond to them and this has been an extremely good starter opera, if you like, based on Xavier's observation that this is just the start of the public comment. So, there's lots of opportunities. We're very open to being persuaded.

We're very grateful for constructive observations and I just want to reiterate from my own narrow board perspective that there is absolute laser focus on ICANN board and org producing quality deliverables in a much more timely fashion. So on that note, I'll leave it and thank you for the opportunity today.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Chris and may I suggest we move to the final wrap-up session and for it, we also have a couple of questions in Mentimeter. So can we go next? And while you are answering this question, we have time for a couple more words, if you wish.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Well, maybe just when we come out first to the draft strategic plan, what you will find is not only these lines, but you'll also find something that explains it better and that should help you in the focus of your comments. You'll also find with each of the strategic goals,

measurements or the ways to look at it to assess whether they are useful and a list of strategic risks that we see.

If we miss any, please add at that point in time and if there's some that you don't agree with, let us know as well. For us, it's also an action preparation on our meeting tomorrow with the entire community. Chris, I appreciated that. I appreciated the interaction with our former colleague who worked so hard with us on the current one. And yeah, look forward to the comments. Partly, I expect them back tomorrow and partly they may come back in the public comments for as far as we haven't adequately addressed them in the draft that we were going to put out early summer.

IRINA DANELIA:

Thank you, Maarten. And in the beginning, I promised that if we will have an opportunity for one or two more questions from the audience, we will do that. So if there is anybody who wanted to speak, but did not because of me heading up, I have an opportunity right now. If not, well, we are on the second question of the Mentimeter. So we saw that most of people in the audience considers that all the goals are relevant, but some consider, not all, but some goals are relevant for ccTLDs. And now second question, if you can explain why you rated this way, then please type over there. I suggest we went one more minute and then skip to actually last question.

ANDREAS MUSIELAK:

Okay. We are already last question and Irina asked me to explain the approach here. So in the beginning, one of the other mentioned, we

need clear objectives, clear KPIs. So the idea is now, if we're going through all the four objectives, if you have ideas, how to measure in an appropriate way that we will achieve certain objectives. And it's probably not on the high level. That's why you can use now this, because we're going down from the objective to the goals, to the strategies that will help you.

So please type in, if you see there is a clear KPI or an equality of objective we could use for one or the other objective and to identify, please put in front the one for the first objective and two for the second and for the third is three and so on and so on. Thank you.

One more minute. Okay, and I think we close the survey now and that brings us to the end of today's session. So first of all, I would like to thank the ICANN Board and the ICANN planning team for taking the time to answer the question of the ccNSO. From my point of view, it has helped me to understand things better. I think it's for everyone like this. Nevertheless, I would ask you to use the remaining time until the public comment phase to make possible adjustments. And Maarten told me he will rethink one or the other points.

Just as Maarten mentioned, there will be tomorrow another session, I think in the afternoon, right? So, you can have—if you find new points which are missing here, feel free to state them tomorrow. Irina, have I forgotten something? Do you have anything else to add? Yeah, okay. Then of course, that's what I'm doing. And I would also thank the ccNSO secretariat for the support before and during the meeting. And also, for all the valuable contribution here in the audience. So, thank you very

much. With this in mind, yeah, I wish you that you have a good rest of the meeting, and thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]