
ICANN80 | Prep Week – Policy and Advice Update
Thursday, May 30, 2024 – 05:00 to 06:00 PM KGL

ANDREA GLANDON:

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With that, I will hand the floor over to Mary Wong. You may begin.

MARY WONG:

Thank you very much, Andrea. Hello, everybody. My name is Mary Wong. I'm the Vice President for Strategic Policy Management in the policy development and advice function at ICANN. And together with my colleagues, I welcome you to this ICANN80 Prep Week Webinar where you will hear from many of my colleagues on the advice and policy development activities across all of our supporting organizations and advisory committees, as well as their constituent groups and a number of cross-community collaborative events and efforts that they're all engaged in.

We are a team of about 40 professionals located across something like nine time zones and multiple countries to facilitate the community's policy work. And we are very excited to be welcoming you to Kigali, Rwanda, whether in person or remotely, for the ICANN80 Policy Forum.

It will have been five years since we've had a meeting of the ICANN community and ecosystem in that region. Five years ago, we held a Policy Forum in 2019. And what makes this particular one special, amongst many other features, is that we will also, in parallel, be hosting a high-level governmental meeting that you will be hearing from my colleagues about. So we very much look forward to seeing you all in Kigali or online for the Policy Forum in just a week or so.

And on that note, I'm going to hand things over to my colleague, Daniel Gluck, who is going to be our host for today's webinar. Over to you, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Thank you so much, Mary, for that wonderful introduction. Nailed the intro. That's right. I'm Dan from the ICANN Policy Development Support Team based in the home of the last Policy Forum, Washington, D.C. And today we're here to talk about what's going on policy-wise to get you ready for ICANN80, the Policy Forum in Kigali, Rwanda.

This is no ordinary Policy Forum. As Mary mentioned, not only will the team be supporting 89 of the 124 sessions at ICANN80, but we'll also be supporting the high-level government meeting on the 9th of June, hosted by the government of Rwanda. While that day will largely focus on members of the GAC and their ministers, the policy week sessions feature all of the supporting organizations and advisory committees that participate in the multistakeholder model/policy development here at ICANN. And that's a bit of a run-on sentence, and I apologize for that, but this is a decentralized [inaudible] governance model that allows for community-based consensus-driven policymaking.

We have a regular Zoom Room for this Prep Week presentation. So if you have any questions, you could send them in the chat box and the format Andrea has pasted in there, or you could raise your hand and we'll call on you if we have time. Otherwise, we'll follow up with your questions at the end of the webinar.

Also about to go into chat is a resource document—I rate it highly and encourage you to follow along—with some prepared materials for the webinar and meeting in general.

And how about instead of "in general" I say "in generic" because we're going to start with the Generic Name Supporting Organization. And it's my honor to introduce here, making his Prep Week policy update debut, John Emery, to continue on with some updates that were hinted on, on the May 21st GNSO Council Update. So, John, welcome. How are you?

JOHN EMERY:

Doing quite well. There's a buzz in the office here in Los Angeles, even though it's a little gray outside. We're all excited to get to Kigali and enjoy that gorgeous weather.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Well, John, it is Policy's time to shine. And let's start today with the Transfer Policy Development Process Working Group. What updates do we have since the last time it was discussed here on a prep week webinar? Are we still in the initial report phase?

JOHN EMERY: Yeah. So the Transfer Policy Review Working Group will have one session at ICANN80 where they'll be working to continue finalizing its preliminary recommendations for its initial report. So a lot of these recommendations are going to be focused on Group 2 Charter topics from the review. It's going to be tackling some really, really pertinent issues like transfer dispute resolutions and ICANN-approved transfers.

So after this initial report, this second initial report, there's going to be a public comment period. So it's a really, really good opportunity to hear what has been going on at this session and then join in in the public comment period after.

Daniel, I believe you're mute.

DANIEL GLUCK: I muted myself, yeah.

JOHN EMERY: Yeah.

DANIEL GLUCK: [inaudible]. I'm just going to—

JOHN EMERY: Zoom etiquette, but—

DANIEL GLUCK: Absolutely. Just to be sharing the stage with you, it's just left me muted. So how can people get involved with this? Do we have any sessions or volunteer opportunities besides the public comment?

JOHN EMERY: Yeah. So you're going to have that one session at ICANN80, and you're going to be able to also follow along as an observer. But the real, real opportunity is that public comment period following ICANN80.

DANIEL GLUCK: Got it. Cool. So let's move over now to the Registration Data Small Team. What are they working on this meeting? Assuming they'll have some good updates, as this is, what, six months or so since the RDRS [inaudible]?

JOHN EMERY: Yeah, absolutely. This is the six-month review of the Registration Data Request System. So the standing committee that's going to meet once at ICANN80 is a committee of volunteers. It's charged with reviewing the RDRS metrics and taking recommendations to the GNSO Council. And so this Monday meeting in Kigali will really go through this six months' worth of reports, metrics, data from RDRS. So it's a really good opportunity to see how you take in all of these reports and then make recommendations to the GNSO Council.

DANIEL GLUCK: Very nice. What other working groups does the GNSO have right now?

JOHN EMERY:

Yeah. So additionally right now at Kigali at ICANN80, with RDRS there's also going to be the Commercial Stakeholder Group and the Registrar Stakeholder Group to hold sessions talking about user experiences with RDRS. So that's another section of different stakeholder groups engaging with that RDRS data.

But we also have, coming up, the Expedited Policy Development Process on Internationalized Domain Names. So, Daniel, I know you worked a bit on this, and I believe the public comment period just ended. Correct?

DANIEL GLUCK:

I think you're right. You know, I wasn't really expecting that one. Yes, the public comment period is closed now. The team has access to review these comments, and that's actually going to be a process that starts at our meeting in Kigali where we're going to, yeah, go through all of the seven or eight comments received and take our Phase 2 Initial Report and turn it into a final report. And our goal is to get that done by the next time we meet here on a Prep Week call. That would be the ICANN81 AGM in Istanbul. So, yeah, a really, really fun process.

And what else do we have of note for the GNSO at this meeting? You had mentioned a little constituency news there, but what other sessions should people be checking out in Kigali?

JOHN EMERY:

So there are two really exciting sessions for the GNSO, and especially GNSO Council meetings. So the first one is the GNSO Council bilateral meeting with the GAC, and they'll be discussing really fascinating topics of mutual interests like SubPro and DNS abuse. So that's a really good public meeting to get involved in.

And then the one that we're all most excited about at the GNSO is the GNSO Council public meeting. So this will be on Wednesday, June 12th, in Kigali. And it's a really, really fascinating opportunity to see the GNSO Council at work in this open meeting.

So we'll be exploring a number of topics there through the Council, potential next steps for data accuracy. There's going to be a briefing on the implementation plan for the International Governmental Organizations, or IGOs, and a briefing on the progress for important action items for the Council's strategic planning session. So a really great opportunity on Wednesday in Kigali to see the GNSO Council at work.

DANIEL GLUCK:

That sounds great. Thank you so much, John.

JOHN EMERY:

Thanks so much, Daniel.

DANIEL GLUCK:

All right. Well, before we move on to our next supporting organization, I do want to highlight that Terrie, our wonderful team member, has

been posting some excellent acronyms and initialisms that may be a bit confusing for some of the newcomers in the chat below. You mentioned GAC. Maybe you don't know. That Terrie's throwing it in there. So that's a wonderful way to follow along.

And now we're going to head over to the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, or the ccNSO. And it looks like Joke is joining us now. And there she is. Great lighting, even though the weather might not be as great near you. But always great lighting coming from the studios for Joke. So thanks for joining us today, and let's get into the ccNSO.

JOKE BRAEKEN:

Thanks, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK:

So no better way to start than day one, session one, when the ccNSO brings back its recurring meeting, a Tech Day, for just another ICANN meeting. What's going to be discussed here?

JOKE BRAEKEN:

So Tech Day has been part, really, of ICANN meetings since 2006, and it's a workshop which focuses on topics related to security, technical topics related to DNS work for registries. So not only for ccTLDs, but also gTLDs. Anybody with an interest is more than welcome.

Topics this time will include, again, DNSSEC, DNS abuse prevention and mitigation tools, and more. So whether you're a newcomer or a more experienced community member, join us for Tech Day on Monday.

DANIEL GLUCK: And can anyone participate in this Tech Day program?

JOKE BRAEKEN: Absolutely. Open to everybody with an interest.

DANIEL GLUCK: Oh, that's great. Yeah. Does that share for the rest of the ccNSO meeting in general, or do they have a lot of open sessions this meeting?

JOKE BRAEKEN: Yes. Most of the sessions are really open. There is one working group that will have a closed session. There is also one session which will not have virtual participation. So it will be open to all, but only to those that are on-site. Due to the logistics, it's a little bit challenging to organize an interactive World Café with remote participants as well. But, otherwise, feel free to join us.

DANIEL GLUCK: I think we'll be touching on World Café in a bit, but first we'll start with Wednesday because World Café is a couple days away. We'll go to Wednesday now. A few fun features from the Country Codes, including something that caught my eye. "How can ccTLDs contribute to a better

world?" Without spoiling the answer, what is that session going to touch on?

JOKE BRAEKEN:

That's a really very nice session. It talks about how ccTLDs make sure that they contribute to a better world in pursuit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. So you might have heard about some of the acronyms in the Internet governance space related to the Global Digital Compact related to WSIS+20. That is the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society.

And all these elements accelerate progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the UNSDGs. ccTLDs play a unique role in achieving those goals, and they will share their stories—what they are doing, what are the challenges they are facing.

But you will not only hear from ccTLDs in terms of experience sharing and partnerships and activities. You will also find out more what ICANN is doing in that regard because Sally Costerton, the interim CEO and President, will join us during the session as well. So hoping to see many of you there.

DANIEL GLUCK:

That same day, we have our first mention of Universal Acceptance. Not only an important topic for the ICANN community, but, also, you mentioned Sally Costerton. That's a CEO goal, Universal Acceptance. So am I right that the ccNSO has a workgroup focused on Universal Acceptance?

JOKE BRAEKEN:

Correct. It's a new working group, and the group is proud to invite you to its first session being held at the Policy Forum. They will address a number of topics. Among them, you will be informed about its work plan.

I don't know if I need to repeat the definition of Universal Acceptance, but just for the sake of completeness, UA really refers to the concept of treating all domain names equally and ensuring that they are recognized, accepted, and functional across all Internet application systems and devices.

So apart from the work plan of the Universal Acceptance Committee, you will also learn more about some useful resources that the committee has developed for ccTLDs. There is a library. There is an e-mail list for ccTLDs to talk about UA. And the committee will also look back at UA Day 2024 that took place, it looks like almost a few weeks ago. But they already start looking ahead to 2025.

The local hosts for 2024 will share experiences. You will hear more about the timeline for 2025. And also, we'll explore the need for—the potential need, I should say, for a survey by the ccNSO regarding UA.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Very nice. Another ccNSO work group of note is the DASC. What does that stand for, and how will they make an impact on this meeting?

JOKE BRAEKEN:

We call it DASC, the DNS Abuse Standing Committee. So the ccNSO DASC is a committee that focuses on, like the word says already, DNS abuse and any of the matters that could be relevant to ccTLDs related to DNS abuse mitigation. And colleagues from the GNSO or community members that are more involved in GNSO work will probably know a lot more about it, but there are some recent amendments to the ICANN Registrar Accreditation Agreements.

And the purpose of the session in Kigali is that we'll start exploring what those amendments are, how do they impact registrars, and what are the aspects that ccTLDs should be aware of? Because ccTLDs, even though they have a different ecosphere within the TLD landscape, are nonetheless confronted also with DNS abuse and some of the topics that are being addressed elsewhere in the ecosystem.

So looking forward to seeing many of you there. Whether you're ccTLD- or gTLD-related, join us.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Absolutely, a very interesting policy of interest. And since this is the Policy Forum, I think we should stick on our Wednesday here and talk a little about the Policy Update Session that's also on that Wednesday. It looks like it's going to be a very busy day for the ccNSO.

JOKE BRAEKEN:

Well, Tuesday's equally busy, but I guess today we're spotlighting the Wednesday sessions, it looks like. Maybe I can quickly sneak it in the

ccTLD News Session on Tuesday, or News Forum by ccTLDs. Join us there.

But talking about policy. So there are two main topics on the Policy Update Session at ICANN80. One of the topics is the ccPDP3. That's the third policy development process on Review Mechanisms. The proposed policy was submitted to the Board, and a Board Caucus has come back to the ccNSO Council with some questions. A small team has been established to address those question, and that team will provide an update to the community on the status update at ICANN80. So that's one topic that will be addressed there.

But there's also another topic that was already kick-started a few meetings ago. You may recall that there is a subgroup of the ccNSO Council that started looking into potential policy gaps in the ccTLD post-delegation processes that relates to delegation, transfer, revocation, and the retirement of ccTLDs. [A] very interactive session in San Juan in ICANN79, and there will be a follow-up at ICANN80.

DANIEL GLUCK:

And I think we might have given enough love to Wednesday, as you've noted, so let's move on to Thursday. You touched upon, a little bit earlier, a little bit of a spoiler. And that's following up an idea introduced at ICANN78 in Hamburg. The World Café is on the agenda for Thursday. It's not going to be available virtually, but can you tell me a little bit about that session?

JOKE BRAEKEN: Yes. So in Hamburg, that was the very first time when ccNSO organized a World Café. It's a very interactive format. You can see a number of tables in the room and people discussing in small groups. The topic in Hamburg was different at the time, but the topic for Kigali will be exploring improvements to the ccNSO membership voting. I'm very much looking forward to this brainstorming. The Hamburg session has proven to be very valuable, both in terms of input and in terms of engagement, and very much looking forward to equally engaging discussions in Kigali.

DANIEL GLUCK: Thank you so much [inaudible].

JOKE BRAEKEN: [It's really] [inaudible].

DANIEL GLUCK: Yeah. That sounds great. We had a question. It might have disappeared a little bit. Someone sent it to me in chat here. It was along the lines of weather Tech Day is—is there any continuity? Is it something that is organized by the community? Is it something that is staff-led? Can you tell me a little bit about how Tech Day—here we go—are Tech Day sessions a continuation of each other or separated?

JOKE BRAEKEN: Tech Day sessions, in a way, continued. They are organized by a committee within the ccNSO that's called the Tech Working Group. The

agenda-setting committee welcomes presentation proposals and then determines the agenda for the upcoming Tech Day workshop. So there might be topics that are addressed at previous meetings that are being continued, potentially, by other presenters in future meetings. So in a way, it's a very themed approach, and it's definitely something that you can join as a standalone session. So no need to have been involved since 2006 to join Tech Day.

DANIEL GLUCK:

All right. Looks like that answered [Leal's] question. So I appreciate it very much, Joke. Thank you. Any other questions from the audience here? I don't see any. I also don't see any hands up. Thank you, Joke. And I think, now, we'll let you get back to your holiday. We want you to get off this call.

JOKE BRAEKEN:

[Thank you].

DANIEL GLUCK:

And we will move over to a little bit of something different. Let's go break things up a bit and introduce the HLGGM to this presentation. As the HLGGM is not part of the ICANN meeting and, instead hosted, by the government of Rwanda, I figured there's no one else better to speak to than the GAC rep from the host nation.

Charles Gahungu is the general manager of ICT regulation for the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority and sat down with me a few days

ago on Zoom to discuss. Just a quick note, this interview has been edited for clarity. And we're going to get that started now.

DANIEL GLUCK VIA VIDEO: Charles, thanks for joining me today.

CHARLES GAHUNGU VIA VIDEO: Thank you, Daniel.

DANIEL GLUCK VIA VIDEO: I'm looking forward to talking to you because you are the perfect bridge to get us between the HLG and the ministry in Rwanda, and the ICANN community. So if we can get started, I want you to tell me a little bit about the HLG. And when was the last time ICANN held one?

CHARLES GAHUNGU VIA VIDEO: Thank you, Daniel.

DANIEL GLUCK VIA VIDEO: Yes.

CHARLES GAHUNGU VIA VIDEO: The HLG [inaudible] the high-level government meeting. It is the meeting that brings together different high-level officials—ministries, of course, and other high-level officials in the government—bringing them together, talking about different topics related to our Internet is governed and what could be done to make sure that there is, if I will say,

a good governance in terms of Internet. Basically, that's the high-level meeting.

DANIEL GLUCK VIA VIDEO: So we're looking for ministers. We're looking for secretaries. And there's also going to be a good mix of junior secretaries and vice ministers as well. So that's exciting. When was the last time, again, this happened? Was it 2018 or so, right?

CHARLES GAHUNGU VIA VIDEO: Yes. The last time this thing took place was in 2018 [inaudible] was on 22nd October. That was in Barcelona.

DANIEL GLUCK VIA VIDEO: And now Rwanda has stepped up to be the host of this HLGM. Can you tell me a little bit about why Rwanda stepped forward to host this meeting?

CHARLES GAHUNGU VIA VIDEO: Thank you, Daniel. Yes. After the COVID-19, the first HLGM is going to be hosted in Rwanda, Kigali, and we are very, very excited. We believe this is a big opportunity. As I say, knowing that the HLGM brings together those high-level officials to reaffirm the critical role that the government plays in providing advice to the ICANN Board on public policy issues as it relates to the secure and stable functioning of the Domain Name System. So we believe Rwanda is in a good position now to host this high-level meeting.

And having, also, our vision more centered on the, if I will say, on the technology, we believe it was very, very important for Rwanda to host. And from the discussions as well as the exchange of different views, it's going to bring more additional values to the development of the country, to the governance, even to other officials to clearly understand the role of Internet in the country development.

DANIEL GLUCK VIA VIDEO: Do you know of any topics that are going to be discussed during the HLGM? Anything of importance to this meeting that you're looking forward to?

CHARLES GAHUNGU VIA VIDEO: Yes. Being the whole day's meeting, definitely we're going to talk on different sessions, different topics. Let me say that one of the topics we're going to discuss or which is going to be discussed during this HLGM meeting is the role of and the opportunities for government in ICANN. What is the role of government in ICANN? And, definitely, we will also discuss the different thematic challenges in the Internet governance ecosystem—cybercrime, data protection, as well as the privacy. Those are the important topics.

During this HLGM, I will also say that we will discuss or the participants will get time to talk about the Internet technological evolution and the role of ICANN itself. What is the role of ICANN in this evolution of Internet?

And, definitely, as you know, currently, most of countries, specifically Africa, this is a very big opportunity to have this session in Africa. We're going to talk about digital. There are so many things going on, topics that surround the digital divide. So global digital agenda and Internet policies is going to be one of the key topics to be discussed on this.

DANIEL GLUCK:

All right. Now, I think it's time to go back to our regularly-scheduled programming. And joining me now to talk about our first advisory committee of the day is Andrew Chen. Andrew Chen here to talk about the At-Large.

And I don't want to confuse anything here, so let's just get down to brass tacks. What are we talking about today? ALAC, the At-Large. What do those things mean?

ANDREW CHEN:

Hey, Dan. Thanks for having me. And thanks for your question. So the At-Large community is a globally diverse network of over 260 At-Large structures and nearly 200 individuals within five regional At-Large organizations. It feeds into the 15-member ALAC. The ALAC is the At-Large Advisory Committee, and it's the primary organizational home for the voice and concerns of individual Internet end users.

DANIEL GLUCK:

All right. So we're here now for the Policy Forum, the ALAC and community. Who works on the policy?

ANDREW CHEN: Also, the ALAC appoints five liaisons, different ICANN bodies—the ccNSO, the Customer Standing Committee, the GAC, GNSO, SSAC. And then it also has a variety of different topic leads who are representing the ALAC in different PDPs and working groups. Currently, they're working on different advice items related to the next round and on public comments regarding the policy status report that was recently published.

DANIEL GLUCK: All right. So you're getting involved in the policy process. You're also in the advice process, public comments. There's liaisons. Which policies are of top importance now for the At-Large at this meeting?

ANDREW CHEN: So the biggest focus right now is on the Next Round program. The At-Large community is going to be having a session that will focus on the New gTLD Program Outreach and Engagement Plan where they will be discussing the Applicant Support Program and how the At-Large with its global network of end users can help collaborate and support ICANN's Outreach and Engagement Plan.

DANIEL GLUCK: Great. Any other important policy sessions that we should be looking for during this meeting?

ANDREW CHEN: Yeah, of course. We've got a couple of joint sessions as well. One is with the SSAC, where they'll be talking about name collisions and the recent report that was published along with the [Safe Cyber Campaign] and how they can make browsing the Internet safer for end users.

DANIEL GLUCK: Great. Now let's move over now to the other part of the equation, the other part of the community and the other At-Large. The RALOs. Let's introduce that word right now. What are we looking for from that? I know there's probably going to be some focus on AFRALO. That's the home team for this meeting, correct?

ANDREW CHEN: Yeah, that's correct. AFRALO will be having four different events under the theme of empowering Africa and bridging the digital divide and connecting cultures. So there will be a roundtable on enhancing Internet infrastructure in Africa for an inclusive Internet, another roundtable about building a multilingual intranet opportunities and challenges.

And then there will be a networking event as well on Monday. And then the traditional joint AFRALO-AfrICANN meeting where they'll discuss statements for bridging the digital divide. Again, empowering Africa through the multilingual Internet.

DANIEL GLUCK: And I'm really happy we have that opportunity to do so at this meeting and such a great host here. What else should we be looking for? Any

other sessions that you should highlight now, or anything else you'd like to discuss?

ANDREW CHEN:

Yeah, sure. So there's also a cross-RALO session that will allow regional leaders of the five RALOs to discuss matters of common interest. They'll also see a preview of the new At-Large digital welcome package, which will outline resources to serve as a guide for new and current members of the At-Large community across all regional At-Large organizations.

I also want to highlight that there's going to be a joint session with the GAC where they'll be discussing issues related to the Next Round program. They'll likely talk about contention resolution and the recently published letter on applicant support.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Well, that sounds great. Not just because of the session [inaudible], but also because it flows with our webinar really well. So if there's any questions, any hand raises, anything in the chat, we could take that now for the At-Large with Andrew.

But if not, I think I might use your segue you provided me to transition over to the GAC for their session here. So thank you, Andrew, for that. Thank you, Silvia, for posting those great session links in the chat there. So let's get to the GAC now. We're going to effectively talk about the segue a little bit more and then use the segue.

Benedetta, thanks for joining me. Benedetta's here for the GAC at ICANN80. But before we get into the ICANN80 meeting, let's quickly

touch on the high-level government meeting. Charles had mentioned in that video that this meeting is by governments for governments. But how do GAC members get involved if they're not a high-level delegate? What about the rest of the ICANN community? Can they participate in this meeting?

BENEDETTA ROSSI:

Thank you very much, Dan. Glad to be here today with you all. Yeah. As you noted, governments are very excited to attend the high-level government meeting. It's going to be hosted by the Rwandan government. So it's held in conjunction with ICANN80, but isn't actually technically part of the meeting. It is open to all observers to join. So if anybody is interested in joining, it's only for governments, as you noted. For governments, organized by governments for governments to actively participate. But anyone who would like to observe who has a badge can basically join in the auditorium.

DANIEL GLUCK:

It looks like that auditorium is seen over Benedetta's right shoulder in her background there. It's the big beehive honeycomb thing, and it's just, yeah, a really cool room. A lot of space for observers. So as the city of Kigali is preparing for their international peace marathon on the 9th of June, I've noticed, Benedetta, for the past few months now that GAC leadership has been training for their own marathon of sorts. And that's the GAC strategic priorities. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

BENEDETTA ROSSI:

Yeah. Thank you, Dan. That's a great metaphor. So since the beginning of the year, the GAC leadership has been working to attempt to make the GAC's work more proactive. So to do so, the GAC chair decided to start work on strategic priorities, which you can see on the screen in a moment. There it is. And this has never been done before within the GAC. So, typically, the GAC's work was driven by reacting to other processes and efforts, like the GNSO policy development processes, and focusing their work on the timing of these other outputs.

Whereas in this situation, what they're trying to do is set expectations of strategic priorities for the committee to achieve within the next four years. And, ultimately, the goal is to be more proactive and to increase the GAC's readiness to provide effective and timely advice to the Board. The GAC chair would like for these strategic priorities to be endorsed by the GAC during the meeting in Kigali. And, hopefully, that should then help the committee prepare a four-year GAC Strategic Plan followed by a corresponding annual plan.

And, ultimately, this should enable communication between the committee's objectives with a higher level of governance in ICANN stakeholders. And so it works pretty well with the timing of the high-level government meeting happening here.

And in terms of strategic planning, you can see on the screen the nine strategic priorities that the committee has agreed to, and they're now considering a set of expected outcomes for the year ahead for each of these priorities.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Now, going quickly back to that marathon thing I mentioned earlier, if you're planning on attending the HLGM as an invited participant or an observer, please plan additional time to the KCC to avoid any potential marathon street closures. But, yeah, it looks like some of the strategic priorities that are on the screen are going to be some of the main topics discussed during this ICANN80 meeting. It makes sense, right? If we're going to have strategic priorities, we should also probably talk about them during the important meeting. So can you touch on that a bit?

BENEDETTA ROSSI:

Of course. Thank you, Dan. Yeah, that's 100% Right. Some of these strategic priorities will be addressed within the GAC plenary session. So, for example, the third strategic priority on the list—and now you can see it again—was the topic of new gTLDs which you have heard is a topic of interest for other groups as well, as my colleagues have mentioned.

The session for the GAC is expected to focus on the topic of applicant support, since this continues to be a topic of interest for governments. And they issued advice to the Board already at ICANN79 on this. GAC continues to underscore the importance of the Applicant Support Program, especially for applicants from underserved and underrepresented regions.

This is very important to the GAC, and the committee has created a small group that's exclusively dedicated to the issue of applicant support. And they're currently reviewing documentation provided by the Implementation Review Team. And they're also actively reviewing the Applicant Support Handbook. At the meeting, ICANN80, the GAC is

expected to continue on its review of the Applicant Support Handbook and any outputs from the Implementation Review Team, as well as any potential topics for inclusion as a communique or advice to the Board if the need arises.

In terms of other strategic priorities, they'll also be discussing on DNS abuse, and there will be a plenary session on Tuesday for that. And as I mentioned earlier, the committee will also be able to discuss—they're having a whole session dedicated to those strategic priorities with the aim of endorsing them during the meeting on Wednesday.

And a quick reminder. Any of the GAC sessions are open. So if you'd like to join and see how the government's engaged, you're more than welcome to join.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Cool. And I just want to point out that Rob posted in the chat there that the HLG starts at 8:45 a.m. local time. That's 6:45 a.m. UTC. So just a quick note there about the time of the HLG.

And getting back now to the GAC and the strategic planning process. How does this process compare to the broader ICANN strategic planning process?

BENEDETTA ROSSI:

That's an excellent question, Dan. Thank you for asking. The GAC effort is designed to help governments prioritize their work. So governments within ICANN, right? There is an ICANN strategic planning process, and those are two very separate things. There's an internal operational item

that the GAC is working on to reprioritize their own work. But the GAC continues to actively follow ICANN strategic planning processes and has been consistently providing input when public comment opportunities arise to the broader ICANN one.

DANIEL GLUCK: All right. Benedetta, any other sessions that you'd like to highlight now?

BENEDETTA ROSSI: I know that some of my colleagues have already touched on some of these, but the GAC will be hosting three bilateral meetings—one with the Board, one with the GNSO Council, and one with the ALAC. And these are interesting sessions where they will engage to discuss matters of mutual interest. But you're more than welcome to join any of the sessions from the GAC, which are open and transparent. Thank you.

DANIEL GLUCK: Thank you, Benedetta. And now we're going to move on because I think we are out of all questions here. We're going to move on now to our Working Group Chairs Reception. And now Ozan is going to pop on the [screen]. Just a little bit of a commercial for that wonderful event.

OZAN SAHIN: Thank you, Dan. And greetings, everyone, from Turkey. On to the next ICANN Annual General Meeting in November.

In this Spotlight, I would like to talk about a new community recognition program that ICANN is launching at ICANN80. As you may

know, currently there is the Community Leader Recognition Program that we presented during the Annual General Meeting. We also have the Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building, which is also presented during the Annual General Meeting. And, finally, we have the ICANN Community Excellence Award which was historically presented during the Policy Forum in June. But in 2024, we moved this presentation from the Policy Forum to the Community Forum in March.

Now, looking at the three existing community recognition programs, I can identify the need to create a new one to make sure the hard work of the working group leaders does not go unnoticed. In a sense, ICANN Board will host a reception at ICANN80 on Tuesday—that is 11th of June—in order to recognize the chairs of the current ICANN working groups [inaudible] policy or advice, and we will recognize the contributions of 19 working group leaders in this event. And all ICANN committee members are invited to attend this reception on Tuesday.

Thank you. Back to you, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Well, don't head anywhere. We're going to keep you right here, Ozan, because it is lovely to continue talking to you.

OZAN SAHIN:

[Thank you].

DANIEL GLUCK:

And I know you're not only excited because of the working group chairs reception and the NBA Playoffs, but unlike in other policy forums, the ASO will have some sort of role in this meeting. And the ASO Address Council has had a number of work sessions at ICANN79, specifically to review ICP-2. Are they meeting at ICANN80 to address this work?

OZAN SAHIN:

Thank you, Dan. Although some members of the Numbers Committee will attend ICANN80 in person, the Address Supporting Organization, or the ASO, will not come in in Kigali. That does not mean, though, that they've stopped [reviewing] the Internet Coordination Policy, or ICP-2 document, which is the criteria for establishment of new regional Internet registries.

So for those who are not familiar with the ICP-2 review initiative, let me give you a quick background. In October 2023, the Address Supporting Organization Address Council was requested by the ASO chair to work on two tasks that should help strengthen the RIR, or Regional Internet Registry system.

The first task relates to preparing ICP-2 implementation procedures. So the ASO Address Council met in person at the end of January and sent its recommendations to the ASO chair about the draft implementation procedures.

The second task is to develop a draft of the updated ICP-2 proposal and build a consultative process by which the update can be revealed in each of the RIR communities.

So at ICANN79, as you mentioned, Dan, the ASOAC conducted more than 10 work sessions and drafted a timeline of consultation processes which was chaired with the Numbers Committee during the recent RIR meetings and is available on the ASO web page.

The ASO is also focused on creating a document which the principles [that should be captured and] updating the ICP-2. So the ASOAC continues [inaudible] in order to advance this work. What is critical for the ASOAC is that the ICP-2 review process is conducted in a transparent manner. Therefore, these weekly meetings are open to observers, and the ASO created an ICP-2 section on the ASO web page to post all [the materials] related to this review.

So let me try to drop the link to this webpage. If you're interested in taking a look, you can go to this web page.

And based on the timeline the ASOAC shared recently, the consultation process on ICP-2 update, I suppose, will start around August 2024, and the process will feature a survey, an ICANN public comment proceeding, and interaction with the community members during the second RIR meetings of the year as well as ICANN81, the Annual General Meeting.

DANIEL GLUCK:

All right. Anything else we should highlight about the ASO right now, Ozan?

OZAN SAHIN: I guess the last thing to highlight about the ASO is the ASO selection process on ICANN Board Seat 9. This process has recently concluded, and two days ago the ASO sent a letter to the [inaudible] Committee nominating Alan Barrett for another three-year term, and that will start by ICANN81 in Istanbul. Thank you.

DANIEL GLUCK: Sounds great, Ozan. Thank you so much. And our second Andrew of the day coming up just happens to be one with RSSAC expertise.

Andrew, what's going on?

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Hi, Dan. Thanks a bunch. So my name is Andrew McConachie, and I support the Root Server System Advisory Committee. And I'll be talking about RSSAC activities at ICANN80.

DANIEL GLUCK: Some new, some old from the SSAC this meeting. Can you tell me a little bit about the work parties that the RSSAC has?

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Sure. So the RSSAC Caucus currently has two work parties. One of them is mostly in the process of winding down, and the other one has just started up more recently.

So the one that's in the process of winding down is the Security Incident Reporting Work Party. And this work party really comes out of some recommendations that were made in a previous RCEP document about some principles of the eventual Root Server System governance structure that's being worked on.

And, basically, it's talking about policies and procedures around incident reporting for security incidents that happen at RSOs. They'll be meeting at ICANN80. They've got a pretty good working document that's pretty stable at this point, but they're not done. But they are definitely over the halfway point.

The second work party that's just spinning up is the IP Address Change Work Party, and this work party is going to be looking at procedures and guidelines for when root server operators need to change IP addresses of the root server instances. So they'll be holding their first work party meeting at ICANN80.

And then finally, I'd like to mention that normally the RSSAC does meet with the SSAC at ICANN meetings, but because this is a relatively short meeting, the RSSAC will not be holding it's a normal meeting with the SSAC.

Over to you, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK:

Well, I already messed up the names once, so we might as well actually just go with it here. And while the RSSAC might not be meeting with the SSAC, I'm about to, in a roundabout way because now I have the

pleasure of bringing in Kathy to talk about the SSAC. So let's get Kathy on the screen.

KATHY SCHNITT: Hi, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK: There she is. All right. How are you doing, Kathy?

KATHY SCHNITT: I'm well. How about yourself?

DANIEL GLUCK: Absolutely. One second. We actually have a chat here. "Can we ask any questions?" Farzaneh, absolutely. So if you have a question, just drop it in chat or raise your hand, and we will get to you probably after we speak to Kathy here.

Kathy, the last time we spoke about the SSAC on one of these calls, our colleague Danielle was with us, and she had mentioned an upcoming sprint for the SSAC. And it looks like that came to a head on the 1st of May with the NCAP study. Do you have any details about this for me?

KATHY SCHNITT: I do. I'll take a step back, actually, before I actually bring up the report that we published. The ICANN Name Collision Analysis Project—also known as NCAP—Discussion Group, they actually delivered the final Study 2 document to the SSAC in April of 2024. And this achievement

marks the culmination of more than four years of research, evaluation, and consideration. So that's a major milestone on the path toward opening the new next round of gTLD applications.

And then because of that, in May after considering the NCAP Study 2 Report, the SSAC then issued SAC124, which is SSAC Advice on Name Collision Analysis. The SSAC strongly endorses the findings and recommendations outlined in the NCAP Study 2 Report. So the SSAC urges the ICANN Board to adopt these recommendations to safeguard the Domain Name System, or the DNS, and its users.

So you might ask, why does this matter? Well, imagine encountering the same name used for different purposes. That's a name collision in the DNS. So addressing that name collision issue aligns with ICANN's mission of ensuring a secure and stable Internet identifier system for all. So there's that.

Anything else, Dan?

DANIEL GLUCK:

No. It's great that we were able to get that published. And not only that because 10 days later, Registrar Nameserver Management. A little less Prep Week webinar [height], maybe, but it still got published. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

KATHY SCHNITT:

I can. SSAC's been busy. So they published SAC125, which is the report on Registered Nameserver Management. And what SAC125 does is it investigated a domain hijacking risk through an unattended byproduct

of operational practices between domain registers and registries. So as of September 2020, the practice of creating unsafe sacrificial nameservers had inadvertently exposed over 500,000 domains within generic top-level domains to resolution hijacking risk.

So this resulted in the resolution of over 163,000 domains falling under unauthorized control. So [SAC025] explores potential solutions to remediate exposed domains and prevent the creation of new, unsafe sacrificial nameservers. So what the SSAC did is they examined each proposed solution for its feasibility, its effectiveness, and potential to reduce the attack service without introducing undue complexities or new vulnerabilities into the DNS ecosystem. So they were busy. [inaudible].

DANIEL GLUCK:

And the work is not done, though. There's still some SSAC open work sessions that the fine people watching at home can check out. Correct?

KATHY SCHNITT:

Absolutely. First, I will note the DNSSEC and Security Workshop. Actually, at the Policy Forum, we share this day with Tech Day. A couple of highlights there. Since we're in the Africa region, we're actually going to be doing presentations on DNSSEC in Africa. So that's fabulous. Then we'll continue with our series on the DNSSEC provisioning automation panel which we've been doing for several years now.

So we have eight sessions for SSAC at ICANN80, and seven of them are actually open to the public. I repeat. Seven are open to the public. We're

going to do some lightning talks. That's where the SSAC has short, 10–15-minute presentations where members or invited guests come in, and they actually talk about what's relevant to them regarding security and stability issues.

We're going to do a panel on name collision. Can't forget that. That's going to be like an educational outreach session where the SSAC will present its insights and recommendations on the NCAP Study 2 Report.

And then one great one is we do an SSAC open mic for the community. This is a time where the community can come to us and discuss any questions or issues that they have with the members directly with the SSAC.

Dan, that's about it.

DANIEL GLUCK:

That sounds great. Seven was a big number. I wasn't expecting that one. So that's great there.

And now we're going to take a quick break here. Any questions for Kathy, any questions for anyone else, also, drop them in chat, drop them in the Q&A pod, raise your hand, and we'll get to it.

And while we're waiting, a quick plug here. Andrea has been posting the links to our survey. Please give that a quick once-over to let us know how we're doing, right? We're always trying to make these better for you, and we'd love to hear your responses on that.

And I don't see any hands or Q&A or chats. Article link from Farzaneh, but not any questions there. I don't see anything. So I think now I'm going to pass it back to Mary to wrap things up for us.

Mary.

MARY WONG:

I am very happy to. Thank you, Dan. And thank you to all of my colleagues for spotlighting some of the highlights and some of the perhaps more interesting sessions at ICANN80 for our community. Whether you're a newcomer or a veteran, as you probably heard, there are going to be very many sessions. And as you also heard, several of our community groups not only reached very important recent milestones from issuing initial reports on policy recommendations to completing advisories that are now sent to the ICANN Board, but during the Policy Forum itself, the work never stops.

So I just wanted to remind everyone as well. And if you're new to ICANN, you'll find that the Policy Forum is a little bit different from the other two ICANN meetings, not just because it's shorter, but primarily because it focuses on, as you heard, the policy and advice development work across the community. This also means that, unlike the other two meetings, there will not be the usual public forum.

There will be very few Board bilateral sessions with the community, so you will see and you will interact with Board members who will be at the various sessions listening, observing, and hoping to meet with more of the community members, including at the nightly cocktail receptions if you will be there in person in Kigali.

As my colleague Ozan mentioned, one of them will be set aside to recognize our community leaders, but there will be many opportunities for everyone to network, including with our regional stakeholders.

So I just want to do two things now, Dan, before we wrap. I think I have a couple of minutes. One, like you, to put in a plug for what Andrea has just put in the chat, which is the Policy Outlook Report. That, as you may know, is a report that the Policy Team puts out for every ICANN meeting that will cover many of the topics that you heard about today and more.

We also have the resource document that Andrea has also been posting in the chat that will give you very handy links to all of the community groups and their work.

And finally, not now but after the Policy Forum, you can look forward to the Policy Outcomes Report where the team summarizes every session that took place at ICANN80 so you will not miss a thing.

And then I believe since we are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone to the Policy Forum as we return to Africa and as we are looking forward to going to Rwanda, which is a very welcoming place and very, very vibrant, I think we would be remiss if we did not also conclude with some comments from Charles, who I believe is going to teach us a few words in the native language.

DANIEL GLUCK:

That's absolutely right, Mary. Thank you. And, yeah, we're going to learn to key Kinyarwanda—that's their language—two key phrases here that might be helpful, even just going through the airport. So, yeah, we'll

head out on that. So, yeah, thanks, everyone, for joining us. And, yeah, we'll play this video now.

DANIEL GLUCK VIA VIDEO: [inaudible] there, do you have any Kinyarwanda phrases that we should be aware of?

CHARLES GAHUNGU VIA VIDEO: It is a big opportunity, yes. Rwanda is a country that has a strong culture. I think you're going to experience our culture. And, yes, we do have different official language—English, French—but also Kinyarwanda as well as Swahili. But there are, I would say, two words that [inaudible] officials should really understand it and be able to memorize which are very easy.

Let me start by just a greeting. "Muraho." That means hello. "Muraho" is like, "How are you?" So the greeting, "muraho," I think that is the first word you should know. And then if you just arrived at the airport and you ask someone, "Muraho?" Oh, that's a good sign.

Then, definitely, let me teach you another one. I know you are going to be satisfied with this event. And after all, you will have to say, "Thank you." So, basically, you just say, "Murakoze."

DANIEL GLUCK VIA VIDEO: Murakoze. Okay. That's wonderful, Charles. And I thank you so much for joining me today.

CHARLES GAHUNGU VIA VIDEO: Thank you so much. I hope the next time, I'm going to give you that quiz, and I will see if you will pass the test.

MARY WONG:

Well, murakoze—right, Dan—to you, to all our presenters, to all our interpreters, all our colleagues, and, of course, to everyone in the community for spending time with us today. And we look forward to working more closely with you as we go on, and certainly during the ICANN Policy Forum in Kigali.

And on that note, Dan, Andrea, everyone, I think we can call this webinar closed. Murakoze. See you soon. And we will say muraho to one another in Rwanda. Thank you all very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]