
ICANN80 | PF – GDS: PPSAI IRT Work Session
Thursday, June 13, 2024 - 9:00 to 10:15 KGL

JENN SHIN: Hello and welcome to the PPSAI IRT Session. My name is Jenn Shin, and I'm a participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior.

If you'd like to speak during the session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace.

I will now hand the floor over to Dennis Chang.

DENNIS CHANG: Good morning, everyone. My name is Dennis Chang. I am the project director for this policy implementation. And I think I know everyone on the table here. But first, I'd like to invite all the IRT members or those of you who is interested in joining the IRT members. Please sit at the table. Don't shy away. Not yet.

But today, we will be talking about the policy implementation, and this is the agenda that we will follow. We'll start with some introduction.

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.

This is our very first meeting, and even though I think we know each other, all of us, some may be new to others.

And then we'll cover briefly the background and the purpose of our implementation and talk mostly about our work plan. And then I'm going to introduce you to the tools that we will be using for this implementation project and talk about the next steps.

And finally, at the end, we'll reserve some time for community Q&A. So this is an IRT working session. And therefore, during the session until Agenda 5, only the IRT members can speak and participate in discussion. And I will ask the public, the non-IRT members, to hold your questions until the end for the community Q&A. Thank you.

Okay, so let's start with the introduction. As of yesterday, we have 47 IRT members sign up, and there's two GNSO liaisons. And three stakeholder groups have appointed their representative and an alternative for this implementation.

So here's what we'll do. For those of you in the room, starting with Eric over there—pay attention—I would like you to say your name and your affiliation. And then we'll keep going down the list. And for those people who are in remotely, please type your name and your affiliation in the chat.

Go, Eric.

ERIC ROKOBAUER:

Thank you, Dennis. Good morning, everyone. Eric Rokobauer, Squarespace domains registrar.

GREG DIBIASE: Greg DiBiase, Amazon registrar, Registrar Stakeholder Group.

BENNY SAMUELSEN: Benny Samuelsen, Registrar Stakeholder Group.

SARAH WYLD: Hi. I'm Sarah Wyld. I'm with Tucows and the Registrar Stakeholder Group.

OWEN SMIGELSKI: Owen Smigelski, registrar Namecheap. Thanks.

PRUDENCE MALINKI: Prudence Malinki, registrar MarkMonitor, RrSG. Thanks.

ZOE BONYTHON: And I'm Zoe, Registrar secretariat.

LUC SEUFER: Luc Seufer, Namespace registrar.

NEGAR CONRAD: Good morning, everyone. Negar Conrad, Layer 9 Technologies, independent stakeholder.

CHRIS LEWIS-EVANS: Hi, everyone. Chris Lewis-Evans, CleanDNS, participant by myself. Thank you.

JENN SHIN: Hi. It's Jenn Shin, ICANN Org.

STEVE CROCKER: Steve Crocker, Edgemoor Research Institute. I'm a member of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee and also the Business Constituency. But I'm participating here as a participant and not as a representative of either.

ROGER CARNEY: Roger Carney, GoDaddy registrar.

KAREN LENTZ: Karen Lance, ICANN Org.

ALAN GREENBERG: Alan Greenberg, At-Large.

MARGIE MILAM: I'm Margie Milan with Meta Platforms. And I'm representing the BC on this IRT.

WERNER STAUB: Werner Staub, CORE Association. Not on the IRT. Just sitting here.

CATHERINE PALETTA: I'm also not sure if I'm actually on the IRT. I started signing up yesterday. But I'm Catherine Paletta, and I'm with Name.com and Identity Digital.

DENNIS CHANG: Thank you, everyone. So about joining the RT, we'll talk about that a little. It's really easy to join the IRT, and we are encouraging everyone to join, of course. And if you want to participate, there are different ways to participate. And we'll talk about that.

So the Implementation Team we often referred to as the IPT. You hear about IRT, and you know a lot about IRT. IPT is the ICANN Org staff team with me as the project manager, and we have a core team that works this project daily. And then, of course, we have what I call an extended team that we bring in to help us as we go.

So the IPT, ICANN staff, is responsible and accountable for implementing this policy. And IRT is here to support us in making sure that we are implementing in line with the recommendation; and at times provide us with technical support and your subject matter expertise we will need as we go. Next topic.

I think that everybody probably is aware of the background. We started this in 2016, and we had an IRT. And I will refer to that IRT as the 2016 IRT. Let me see a show of hands. Who was a member of the 2016 original IRT? Let me see. 1, 2, 3—oh—5, 6. Wow. We're very fortunate to have you. Thank you for joining us again. Apparently, it was fun. You came back for more. Excellent. This is great news.

So [we do know] and with the IRT support, we put this implementation on hold because things were going on. And GDPR was happening, and there was redundant work that was happening, such as the Registration Data Policy Implementation.

And what happened is that the Registration Data Policy was published in February of 2024. So now we have a good, well-defined foundation of how the registration data works, and now we can get started again. And that's why we decided to resume, at this moment, to pick up this implementation.

Now, show of hands. Who was a member of the Registration Data Policy IRT? Very good. Thank you so much. And that will be important as we go because that is the foundation one.

Anyway, what we're doing is, of course, implementing the policy following our framework, which you should all be familiar with. And these slides will be provided to you after the session and posted. And [inaudible] Consensus Policy Implementation Framework, CPIF, is where we documented how we do the policy implementation.

So Agenda 3. I call it the General Policy Implementation steps here. This is typical, and we did this with the Registration Data Policy. Now, it seems sort of obvious, the workflow, right? The first thing you have to do is really understand the recommendations in the Final Report that GNSO approved and the Board approved and directed ICANN Org to implement.

So, number one, everybody on the IRT must understand what's in the recommendations because that is what we are implementing. We're

not here to develop a new policy on privacy. That was already done. And so we have our Charter and very narrow limit to implement to the language that we are given.

And then we're going to be doing what I call an implementation design. And you will see as we go on that there are many ways to implement the policy recommendations. And there may be options. We'll look at that, and we'll choose one. And we'll bring it to you to review our approach. And that's what you will do for us, this IRT.

And, of course, the design will produce a policy language. And I emphasize when I say "policy language" because many times I hear people's confusion that the recommendations in the Final Report is a policy language, but it is not.

What's in the Final Report that Board approved is the recommendations language, and our job here together is to produce the actual policy language that gets published on the consensus policy page, which in turn becomes the requirements and new set of obligations for the contracted parties and ICANN Org. That's what we're doing.

Of course, when we develop the policy language and any other supporting document we need for the implementation, we will go to the public comment. And we'll follow our normal process for incorporating whatever comment we get. And then we will publish the policy and issue or legal notice to the contracted parties. That's when the implementation activity actually starts. And everybody goes off, and then we are designing processes and changing, building new systems

to basically implement the policy and then to be compliant with the policy language.

And, of course, at the end, we'll have a celebration. And those of you who joined, who helped me with Registration Data Policy for five years, you all got your stickers. So look forward to your new sticker.

So the way we are going to do the PPSAI—and I call this work modules—we're going to be tackling this as modules of work. And the first thing, of course, is the Final Report Review. This will take some time, and it could get confusing. But I think it's the hard work that we expect all of you to do on your own.

And when we do the final review report, we will have discussions. But what I like to do is have that discussions and question and answers as much as we can using the e-mail. So do not rely on the meetings only to have that discussion is what I want to ask you to do.

So I'll tell you more about how the IRT task and instructions will be given, and then we're going to be tackling what we call threshold questions. There's, like, three important questions that the staff came up with.

And we discussed this with the GNSO Council and kind of vetted them to be appropriate questions to be asking before we delve into implementation. Why? Because so much has changed since the last time we were implementing. Now this is a new group. And with a fresh set of eyes knowing today's landscape and the business environment, we want to make sure that we are asking the right question.

And you should all be asking the question, too. Let me know and share your questions with the IRT. And we will have an IRT e-mail list that we will establish, and we will use that to communicate on a daily basis.

And, of course, those of you who worked with me on the Registration Data Policy, you know how I work already, so it's not going to be different this time. But if you're new with me, then you will learn very quickly the way I like to work is I try to make it as much as I can a "self-service model." I will provide and make available all information that I have to the IRT, and you can access them at any time.

So these are the three questions, and I will not go over it there. But also, then, we will analyze subject matter by subject matter. And I will show you what we think is the topic for the implementations in the workbook later.

So this is sort of a pictorial view of how the recent or near-term work will be versus an introduction and education. We're going to be talking about Final Report—what does this recommendation mean and if there is interpretation of recommendation. And there will be.

And we ran into this a lot on just about any policy implementation I was doing. The recommendations language could be interpreted in multiple different ways. And it's very important to me and, of course, to you that we consider all possible interpretations, document them, and choose the appropriate interpretation, and share that openly. And I have a way of doing that, and you're all going to help me to do that for this policy.

And then the scoping phase is what I would call thinking about the policy implementation and design of the policy, right? How should we

take this implementation approach? This is when we're asking all these questions, "high-level" questions.

And this will be challenging because the questions that we have to ask must be limited to the implementation of the recommendations language, not what we should do about privacy or proxy in general. It's going to be challenging. You will see what I mean.

And it's part of IRT's duty. When a discussion comes up and evolves into "policy-making" versus policy implementation, I expect all of you to raise your hands and stop me. You know, don't let me go on with that. And I know some of you are very good at watching carefully how we don't do policy development here.

And those of you who have been involved in the PDP Working Group, this will be challenging for you because this job is completely different than PDP Working Group job where you were developing policy. So now, make sure that you're in the implementation mindset when you come here to work with us.

And then there is what I would call sort of a decision point where we have to decide are we going to implement it this way or that way. And when I looked at it with our internal team, there's a big gray spectrum of what we possibly could do, one extreme to another. And we're going to be thinking about that together and choose the optimum implementation approach to designing the path. And I would need your help there, too.

I've been thinking about it for some time, but I want to make sure that there isn't a new approach that we are missing out. And maybe you can see that and help me with it, too.

Let's talk about logistics and tools. So IRT membership. Very easy to join. So those of you in the back, you're not sure whether you want to join, you might consider just joining. It's very easy. Write to the irt-rsvp@icann.org, and what you will get back is an acknowledgment with a request for you to sign a simple form with a Statement of Interest.

Now, to end up as an official IRT, you must post your SOI because it's important for us to know, when you're speaking and when you are writing to the IRT, your affiliation. And I think that's a transparency we all need, and it's mandatory for the IRT.

One thing that's not mandatory is you do not have to belong to any stakeholder group. You can be an individual from anywhere. So I've had IRT members who have not ever been to an IRT meeting and not associated with any stakeholder group. But still, we invite them to join us and help us with the implementation.

And what we will use is IRT e-mail. And this IRT e-mail will be used for a couple of things. Number one, of course, to have conversations, e-mail conversation, among the IRT. And it will have all the IRT members and all the IPT core team members on it. And we're going to be talking about this implementation together.

So one thing that I want to stress is when we are here, we are one Implementation Team. We are one team, right? I know we have stakeholder representatives, and we will use that representation when

we need to. But I would like all of us to be one team and trying to go in the same direction to find the best implementation we can. And, of course, it is my job to make that happen. So if you see anything wrong with anything that is happening, please come to me.

The IRT e-mail will also be used to send meeting notices, meeting invitations with the meeting information. The IRT meetings are limited for IRT members only, so only the IRT members can attend the meeting and participate. If you're a non-IRT member, you will not know about the meeting.

An ICANN meeting is special because at every ICANN meeting, IRT working meeting is public. And this is a special meeting where anybody can come and join us. But after this, until the next IRT session at the next ICANN meeting, we will have many meetings. So if you're a public, you will not know what we were talking about, when we're talking about it.

Now, one thing about the IRT e-mail. There is a status that you can choose, and this is what I recommend. After you come to this first session and you decide, "Maybe this is not for me"—and maybe you do not have the bandwidth; this is too much work, but you're still interested in tracking what's happening—you might consider an observer status.

What that means is that you will have the ability to watch the e-mails flowing. So you can see what's happening, what the discussion is. But you will not be able to participate in the IRT meetings.

So let's talk about the meetings. Of course, the ICANN meeting is in person. And we are using Zoom here, too. And we would have a special

Zoom room set up for the IRT meetings outside of the ICANN meetings, and that's what we'll do.

Now, IRT workspace. To do your work, I use two tools. One is the public Wiki space, and the other is what I call IRT Workbook. This may not be familiar to you, so I'm going to show you what those things are.

So let's start showing you. I think you're familiar with Confluence. This is the IRT Wiki. And those of you who have been participating, you will see that we have a GNSO tab. And under the GNSO tab, we have all the links and all the PDPs and the Implementation Team.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible].

DENNIS CHANG: Thank you. So that's the page. So you can find it. But, of course, if you are an IRT member, we'll be posting this link because we will be using this as a space.

So this is the homepage. And in the homepage, it gives you status, some background, and maybe some meeting information. Then also, we will have the meetings and agenda tab. We will keep track of every single meeting that IRT has. And we will have the agenda, the meeting material, and whatever else information that we need.

Now, keep in mind this is public, so everybody can have access to this. Besides the meeting and agenda—oh, about the meeting and agenda. What I do is use the same space to post the agenda and the minutes. So

I don't use a separate document for agenda or meetings, and I use—it will just be here.

So when I communicate with the IRT about the meeting, they will be pointed to this Wiki space where we can update our agenda as we go. And then you will find the minutes for that meeting.

We maintain the IRT member list here. So far, we have—let's see. Let's go down quickly here to the end. The last person to join is Jeff Neuman. We're missing his affiliation and SOI, but we will go ahead and collect that from Jeff. But the important thing about this list is if you should wonder who are GNSO Council, it's Stephanie Perrin and Paul McGrady.

Paul, you joined us. Please introduce yourself.

PAUL MCGRADY:

Good morning, everybody. Paul McGrady. I am your GNSO Council liaison to this working group. Apologies for being late. They have us triple-scheduled this morning.

Stephanie and I are going to be keeping the Council up to date on how the work is progressing. We are also another resource. In the event that anybody thinks anything is going off the rails, feel free to reach out to either Stephanie or me. I will attend as many of these working group calls as I can, but I can't promise perfect attendance. And, apparently, I can't promise showing up on time either. Thank you.

DENNIS CHANG:

Thank you, Paul. So, Paul and Stephanie, you two and I will be communicating on a regular basis. And checking with each other even between the IRT meetings to make sure that the three of us are in line.

And if there's any communication that needs to happen to the GNSO, Paul and Stephanie are the conduit to the GNSO. So I don't go to the GNSO myself. It's our liaison who will do that for us.

And we have Margie, as we heard, is the PC Representative. Steve, SSAC, as noted here. And let's see. NPOC, GAC, Brian, Registrar Stakeholder. Okay. So you can find this page for our membership, and then this will be updated as we go. What else can I show you? I think that's all that is important now.

Let me show you the workbook. We call this the IRT Workbook, and the About tab tells you what this is—that's what we're trying to do—and how to use it. And then this also has a membership. And it has sort of a different layout of our members.

And this is the important part, this tab here. So IRT and its work is defined and focused and directed. So I will ask you to help us in exactly how we need the help. So it's not in general, but I will tell you step by step what I expect the IRT to be doing between meetings and when we need results from the IRT.

So first job, your homework, is to submit the SOI. If you haven't submitted the SOI and if you're not going to submit the SOI, what we will do is to not bug you about it. But we will just move you to an observer status, which means you can track our work. But if you're not

doing the SOI, we take that to mean that you do not want to participate at the IRT level. And that's fine. That's not a problem.

So first of all, I would like all of you to fill out that form and submit and post your SOI. Okay?

Next is the Final Report. Of course, that's what I said, right? This is the textbook or the Bible, if you will, that we will be working from. And this was produced by the PDP Working Group.

So here's another question. Who was a member of the PDP Working Group that produced this final report? Let me see a show of hands. Wow. That's great. Thank you so much for continuing to help us. When did you guys get started? What year? Do you remember when you started with the issues paper?

PAUL MCGRADY: Yes. It was after the ark rested on Mount Ararat and the dove ...

DENNIS CHANG: Anyway, this—

PAUL MCGRADY: [It's been a while].

DENNIS CHANG: It's been a while, yeah. I think the day for me that's important is when it was published. I think it was very relevant in 2016 when it was

published. And I think that's the date that I have to keep in mind—how has the world changed from 2016 to 2024—when I look at this report?

So this is—how many pages is this? It's a long report. 93 pages. So IRT members must read all 93 pages. And one thing that I will listen carefully for—and I hear this time to time—is somebody saying, an IRT member saying, "I have not read the Final Report, but ..."

This is a red flag for me because for us to have a meaningful, productive discussion, we all have to know what the recommendations language says so that when we produce our policy language, then we can talk about [if it is] aligned or not aligned. So first up for you is Final Report.

Let me tell you about the due date. So I decide on the due date, and I push it out. And the way I push this assignment out is using the IRT e-mail. So all IRT members get the assignment at the same time with a due date. And this is my request, that you finish this homework by this time. But if there's a reason why you need more time, please let me know because, yes, things happen, right? Typically, if the ICANN meetings happen in the middle of that period and you need more time—maybe you talk to your colleague to do some research—please let us know because we do revise due dates per your requests and as you need us to do.

The first homework, the Final Report, let's just make sure. July 10th. So next month, the 10th. Let me see your reaction. Not those of you who wrote this thing, but those of you who've never read this thing. Do you think that's a reasonable due date? Okay. Got thumbs-up. Good. I wasn't totally going ...

So we'll get to know each other well, but I have a tendency to drive things and may be more demanding. And I don't mean to be pushy, but you can push back and I'm just fine with it. Sarah and I have been doing this for a while together, and she's the one who's very good about changing dates as we need to.

Next, we call this thing Implementation Analysis. So the staff here has done an analysis of the recommendations recently. This is a recent document. So this document looks like this, and it goes through all the topics. It's designed by topics and what we feel is the level of the complexity, difficulty of implementation, the things that are easy to do, hard to do. They are more significant in terms of complexity and needing to discuss, perhaps.

This is our first cut at what we think the recommendations language says for implementation. And this will take some time for you to read, but you're reviewing our analysis, right? We're not asking you to go ahead and read the Final Report and product an analysis report for us. No, that's our job. We did that.

Now, your job is to review our work. Did we do this correctly? Was there anything that is what I would call—and I continue to use—misaligned with the recommendations language? And there's a difference. There's a total misalignment, not complying with the recommendation language versus a different approach, right? Perhaps, yes, what we did was align, but maybe there's a different interpretation and different approach. So we're going to be listening carefully for that subtly as we do our analysis.

So this document is pretty thorough, and it took months, literally, for us to do this. And lots of eyes, internally, has gone through this. And not only the core team as I said, but the extended team has gone through this. And now we end up with 34 pages of our analysis document.

But if you'll notice the due dates, this is designed intentionally to be after you finish your recommendations review. So the first thing you've got to do is read the Final Report, understand that; and then come to this analysis and look at the analysis report. Okay?

So it's about two weeks after the due date of the Final Report—analysis. Okay.

So this is a task list. And the other tab that we would carry is this work plan, I called. And you've seen some of this. But here is where we will go ahead. And each individual topic is our work module. And we will approach this together and talk about it and get through it. And all the topical, by recommendations and by requirements, is what we'll be discussing. And this is where we will be adding the work modules as we go.

So this is our first meeting. This is a start, but I'm showing you what we've done so far and letting you know this is where we will do the work in the future.

This is a meeting attendance. Note that we will be taking attendance.

JENN SHIN:

Yes.

DENNIS CHANG:

Everyone who attends will get a 1. And we will keep track of how many people attended each session, and how many meetings you have attended, and whether or not you were at the meeting or not when we talked about a certain topic.

And here is another requirement for the IRT. If you miss a meeting, the meeting will be recorded and documented with full transcript. It's your job to catch up with the rest of the IRT by listening to the recorded session. Okay. So you can come here and look at this.

Now, about this workbook. Only the IRT members have access to the workbook. And this is an editable workbook tool, so you can edit as much as we can edit. And that's fine. And we'll work at it together.

And when we start talking about timeline, this is where we will sketch out our timeline. Now, the first question that you will all get outside this meeting—because you're part of the IRT—when you go back, you're all going to be asked, "How long is this going to take?"

The true answer is that I don't know. If you know, then you can tell me. But I don't think that we can say how long it's going to take because to figure out how long a implementation project will take, we have to first scope the project, right? So this is what I meant by let's study the requirements, let's understand the requirements, and then let's scope out the project. Then we can sketch out our timeline. And we'll do that together. It's not a surprise to anyone. And I will make sure that I get plenty of inputs from the IRT to make the project schedule achievable and realistic by something that we can all support.

This is 13 steps I sketched out, and I gave you a one slide. But the steps that I follow on how a implementation gets done. And then that's it.

So this workbook is a free-flowing, changing, living document. And we will add to it and delete from it and make it useful for us. Any questions about the workbook? Is this new to some of you? Yeah? Okay.

So I think I talked about all the work tools, e-mail meetings, workspaces where you can find things. Is there anything else missing? As we start doing our work, do you feel like we need anything more than what we have here that you've seen? Questions to the IRT?

ROGER CARNEY:

Thanks, Dennis. Just a question on the workbook since it's IRT only. Are you sending that link, once we leave here, to the mailing list? Dennis said yes.

DENNIS CHANG:

Yes. I said yes. IRT e-mail will be created. And to get on the IRT e-mail, one more time, you must post your SOI. If you don't post your SOI, you will not be on the e-mail and you will not get the access to these working tools. It's very important. And once we work together, this will be very, very familiar to you. It's going to be a daily activity almost.

So let's talk about next steps. So when you leave this room, you're going to be studying the—what? What are we going to study? The Final Report, right? The Final Report. Where do you find the Final Report? You're not on the IRT e-mail yet, so how would you know where to go

find the Final Report. Let me see if anybody has an answer for my question. You want to join the IRT ...

NEGAR CONRAD: Well, one easy way was it was linked in the call for the IRT membership.

DENNIS CHANG: Yes. Who does not have access to the Final Report? I don't see a single hand. This is a good sign. Everybody knows how to get to it, and that means you can start your homework today. Perfect. Thank you. And, of course, the other homework assignments that's on the list, right? On the workbook that I showed you.

These slides will be posted on the Wiki after the meeting, so you can look at this again.

And then let's see. The next IRT meeting is what I was thinking about. And I was thinking that tentative, tentatively, we're going to target 11 July on Thursday. I don't know if Thursday's a good day for all of us. And this is one of the challenges, finding the optimum time slot for all IRT. Extremely difficult. But we have to try and do the best we can.

So I picked a time slot. And there will be a [poll] sent out to the IRT members, and we will see if this slot works or another slot works better. But we can be flexible. But what I like to do is set a time slot and stay with it. And that, I find, is easiest, instead of trying to change it as we go.

And next time we meet, the agenda will be the recommendations language, right? Your reaction to it, questions about it. And I would like

to have a very comfortable feeling that everyone is on the same page on the recommendations language. And that is our goal for our next meeting.

DAVID HUGHES: Dennis, how long do you plan to have each one of these sessions? One-hour sessions, is that what you're going to start with?

DENNIS CHANG: What's a good question, actually. I know that I started with 90-minute sessions, and then we cut it back to one-hour sessions. And then we modulated the frequency as well. And now that you're first, let me hear your first input. How long should our sessions be to get started? Go ahead.

STEVE CROCKER: [inaudible] cadence?

DENNIS CHANG: So Steve is asking what is the cadence? What do you think? Give me some inputs.

DAVID HUGHES: Well, my first input is that if the first call is an hour, we're not going to even finish the first discussion, probably. But that's just my gut feeling. I think what you said before was start with longer calls more frequently,

and then shorten them and make them less frequent if things are going well.

DENNIS CHANG: Steve, do you have an input?

STEVE CROCKER: We've got a sizable group here, so that slows things down, just naturally. You're driving this. It's fine. I was waiting to see whether or not you had a cadence, whether it was weekly, bi-weekly, or whatever. You've given us four weeks from today for the next meeting, but I presume that things are going to speed up after that.

DENNIS CHANG: Yeah. I think it depends a lot on the IRT, whether the IRT is responsive and they can have meaningful, productive conversation online using the e-mails; or moreover this IRT has the characteristics of a talking IRT. And you need that. So it's highly tailored to each IRT and the job on hand.

So the reason that I gave four weeks—it's maybe a long time—is to make sure that, number one, you had enough time and plenty of time to review the Final Report. But also to give the opportunity for other people to join the IRT.

And while I'm here, I noticed that a lot of people didn't know that we are starting this IRT. There was an announcement made and a blog written, but, of course, not everybody is attentive. So I'm looking in the back,

and we're going to be starting the community Q&A. Anybody who wants to join the IRT, you have a chance to join. And if you join, then you will still have enough time to do your first homework, is what I was thinking.

Before we go to the public Q&A, I just want to leave you with this one slide. Go ahead.

PAUL MCGRADY:

Thanks, Dennis. I know you said we can't know how long this is going to take without scoping it out. When will we know how long it's going to take? I mean, it's not fair to ask people just to write a blank check to Foreverland on an IRT. And so what's the point in which we know how much longer it's going to take?

Because every other working group I've ever been on has a working plan that you work against. And if you start to slip, then you know you're in trouble. So when will we know the timing? Thanks.

DENNIS CHANG:

So let me give you another homework, then. Our next meeting is being targeted for, tentatively, on July 11th. And by that time, you should have finished reviewing the Final Report but not have done any analysis yet.

And if you look at this chart here, we have this scoping phase that we like to consider. And that's when I think we should be talking about timeframe. Now, of course, I can independently go and just set a time. But what I would like to do is ask the IRT to help me to set a good, reasonable timeline for this implementation.

There is a ton of expertise and experience in this room. Some of you have written this final report and worked on this implementation. You know more about this than I do. So I would like your advice to me.

JENN SHIN: Karen raised her hand.

PAUL MCGRADY: Thanks. Can I just do a follow-up real quick?

DENNIS CHANG: Yes.

PAUL MCGRADY: So we look at three to four meetings. And in six to eight meetings, as far as I know, we've not settled on the cadence of the meetings. Right? So why don't we? Because this chart doesn't have any meaning to me. Because if our meetings are once a month, then that's a one-year timeframe to get to the end of scoping. That seems nutty.

DENNIS CHANG: Okay.

PAUL MCGRADY: I guess I don't understand why we can't answer these questions now while we have everybody in the room. And I'm sorry if I'm being way too Type A here, Dennis. But why not ask? Do we want to meet once a week?

Do we want to meet twice a week? And so that way, we can attach numbers to these things and say, "Okay, it's"—not twice a week. Once every two weeks.

So if we know it's once every two weeks, then we know what three to four meetings mean. We know what six to eight meetings mean. And then we'll know at the end of the scoping phase is. Thanks.

DENNIS CHANG: Great point. And we'd love to hear from the IRT on this. Karen was next.

DAVID HUGHES: Okay, go ahead.

DENNIS CHANG: Go ahead, Karen.

KAREN LENTZ: Sure. So I think our intention coming out of this kickoff meeting is, as Dennis said, to update the e-mail lists, send out the poll with regard to scheduling, and then be able to provide a work plan for the next X number of meetings that follow the general outline here.

But the thing I raised my hand to say was I guess a little bit what Dennis said, but also the establishment of a project plan with a timeline is essential.

And what we envision here is that once we have answered the threshold questions we've decided, are there any policy questions that are going

back to the GNSO that affect the timeline we've agreed on and what particular model we're using? Then we can build a timeline based on that. So that decision point, that big line is where we establish, then, this is the time that it takes for the rest of the project.

Our estimate for the first two pieces, again, it will vary a little bit depending on how long we take to discuss those questions. But it shouldn't take longer than, I would say, a quarter or a quarter and a half, maybe. Thanks.

DENNIS CHANG: Go ahead.

DAVID HUGHES: Yeah. My comment was where do we want to be when we meet again in person in Istanbul in terms of this line? And maybe we can just use that to determine our cadence.

DENNIS CHANG: That's a good way to think about it. Yes. I'm sorry, Brian. Next. Why don't you introduce yourself, Brian?

BRIAN BECKHAM: Good morning. Apologies. I was sitting in the back earlier. First of all, happy birthday, Owen.

OWEN SMIGELSKI: And also to you.

BRIAN BECKHAM: My question was, when you mentioned the homework for the first meeting and Paul mentioned scoping; and then I think Karen sort of answered the question and mentioned a potential need to go back to Council if there were any policy questions. Which, of course, raises its own question because this is, by its name, an implementation group of an existing policy recommendation.

So I guess what would be helpful, for me at least, is if you could point us to any guidance on how that concept of if there are policy questions that have newly emerged from the existing recommendations that would need to go back to Council, are there guidelines for how to size that up?

Otherwise, it strikes me as pretty clear from the title that this is here to implement existing policy. And so I'm just kind of curious the contours of this question that Karen raised.

DENNIS CHANG: Okay. We'll discuss that, but let me see. Alan, you wanted to speak?

ALAN GREENBERG: Well, actually, Brian covered what I just wanted to ask, that we're here to implement recommendations, but the threshold questions which we're supposed to look at first very clearly say, "Are these the right policy recommendations? Does anything need to be changed? Does anything need to be added?" Which, clearly, if the answer is yes to any of that, is really going to skew what we're doing going forward.

I mean, if we decide, "This recommendation needs to be added or changed," it will be foolish for us to then carefully implement it in detail knowing that something's going to be different. So how do we handle that? I mean, this is not normal for an IRT.

DENNIS CHANG:

Well, actually, it's not that unusual. But the IRT, when we run into issues like that, and we do, if you need to consult GNSO, we have the GNSO liaison exactly for that. And that's why Paul is here. Stephanie is our—we have two GNSO liaisons. And we will be talking about it, and if we feel the need to, we have a channel built into the IRT process.

ALAN GREENBERG:

It just struck me that accidentally discovering something along the way is very different from asking the questions at the very beginning.

KAREN LENTZ:

Yeah. That's exactly why we have this at the beginning, so that if there are areas that are going to potentially need to go back to the Council for guidance, that we do that at the front and not midway through.

But here's maybe an example. So we've tried to make this not just an open-ended question in terms of what policy issues would people like to discuss. But rather, is there something in the Final Report, in the recommendations or in the text that raises questions about, "Does this work anymore? Does it make sense anymore?"

Potential example. There's a request or a reference for somebody to be able to request either to reveal or publish registration data. And there has been a lot of work going on in the disclosure area, but the concept of publishing, somebody goes to a contracted party and says, "I'd like to submit a request for this to be published, this data to be published," does that work anymore? Does that make sense anymore? But that's what the policy says.

So it's those kinds of questions in terms of, you know, is there a different way to do this to implement the spirit of this, or have some of the events that have occurred in the last several years since we worked on this, do they raise more questions? So that's what we're trying to get at in this number one.

DENNIS CHANG:

Steve, did you want to speak? Go ahead.

STEVE CROCKER:

So the question that Brian is raising and that Alan is speaking to, the form of the question was, well, what happens if existential questions that are raised in this process where we can't find a way forward because there's something flawed within the policy itself, and what is our procedure for raising that? And that was their question.

So in a bonding experience between Dennis and me in the last IRT that we participated in, we had such an issue raised with respect to the notion of "urgent requests" in the matter of the EPDP policy implementation.

And so I, too, was puzzled as to what the process was for that, and it took multiple attempts. And, finally, we found what the process turned out to be, which was multiple attempts within the scope of an IRT. The answer was, "We can't make any changes. We can't make any changes. We can't make any changes," because that would require going back and reopening the policy development process, and we don't want to do that.

So [we] went around in other quarters and published a document out of SSAC about the notion of fit for purpose and managed to get the idea of if something's not fit for purpose, that in some sense trumps—pardon the word—the basic assumptions about consensus, multistakeholder, bottom-up process, and so forth.

And the net of it is—which has been published and published with a little bit of soft landing. But, basically, the Board, not the GNSO Council, but the Board interacted with various parties. And the net of it was that that requirement [was been] removed from the policy, set aside to be determined later, basically.

So in simple terms, a sort of rocket to the top and a small explosion, and that got dealt with. So there's your process.

PAUL MCGRADY:

Thanks. So the reason why these questions are upfront is a couple of things. One, the Council doesn't want us to spend however long it takes to get to the end of the implementation process only to have years of work thrown away because there has been a lot of change that was knowledgeable at the beginning of this process.

And if there haven't been any law changes or any things to the ecosystem that we need to worry about, great. We'll move forward. If there are things that need to be considered, better to do it now. The Council has, in its toolbox, all kinds of things that are not PDPs in terms of being able to resolve questions like that. I don't think anybody would be particularly happy if we spent a couple years doing this, only to find out we had to scrap it. So that's the reason why they're upfront.

Agree, Brian. Normally, you would just plow through this and see what you see. But the Council wants to be a good manager of time. Also, it goes to Council workload. And if there are issues that need to be resolved, that has to be baked into all the other work the Council's doing.

So it is meant to be a way to make sure that we keep moving and that at the end of the day, we have something that is actually implementable. It's not meant as a delay. And I hope you guys can tell from the tone of my voice this morning, I don't want any more delay on this than we've already ...

We've had years and years and years of—forgive me—staff delay, and it's time that we get this across the finish line. So I understand the skepticism because it's working a little bit different. But I will say that if people don't take the time to read the report, consider the ecosystem, and don't raise the issues at the beginning, we will all have long memories on this.

And if folks start to lob grenades into the mix at the 10th hour, we will say there was an opportunity to raise these issues, right? So it's incumbent upon everybody to do their homework.

And that's one of the reasons why Dennis has given us a month to do the initial homework. It's not because the report's long. It's because he wants you to read the report, talk to the people in your constituencies and SGs and ACs, find out whether or not they see any issues, find out whether or not you see any issues, read up on the law, and come back fully informed and ready to talk.

But it's going to be important to raise the issues early so that Council can resolve them if they need to be resolved. So, thanks. I hope that's helpful.

DENNIS CHANG:

Very helpful. Thank you so much. Who's next?

ROGER CARNEY:

Thanks, Dennis. I appreciate the question here, and it is interesting that this question is first. But having worked in an IRT multiple times, this question is a constant question as you work through an IRT. So I'm surprised that there's so much discussion around it because this is a constant question on every step of an IRT. Every IRT I've worked on has not openly started with this, but this question exists in every IRT. Thanks.

DENNIS CHANG: Anyone else? No.

JENN SHIN: Nothing on the chat.

DENNIS CHANG: Nothing on the chat? Okay, so let's go to the public open Q&A session. So the public here and online is now invited to ask questions about the policy implementation, the process, about the team. And you can ask questions to me, or to staff, and the IRT that we have around the table and online. And we'll see if we can cover all the questions.

Let's see. How much time do we have left? I think we've got plenty of time, right?

JENN SHIN: [inaudible] eight minutes.

DENNIS CHANG: Eight minutes. That's plenty. Okay. Let me see. Any questions from anyone here? Okay, thank you so much.

I don't have any issue or any problem ending the meeting early. I know that this was a 60 plus 15, 75-minute session. And we got through all the agenda, and we answered all of your questions, hopefully. Now, what we have done is set the expectation with you of what the work is. So please join us in the back and help us do this work. And do your homework.

And as soon as I get the IRT e-mail setup, we're going to start having a conversation. So look for that to come next from us.

Thank you, everyone. Go ahead and stop the recording.

JENN SHIN: Yes.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]