
ICANN81 | AGM – ICANN Public Forum
Thursday, November 14, 2024 – 10:45 to 12:00 TRT

MODERATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Tripti Sinha, ICANN Board Chair.

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you for joining us today for the ICANN81 Public Forum. As we wrap up this week, I'd like to express my pride and gratitude in being a part of this community dedicating to advancing the public interest. This commitment extends not only to the billions of users online, but also to those who will join us in the future.

The ICANN Board is committed to facilitating the bottom up multi-stakeholder process to progress the work. And of course, we are committed to making continuous improvement in getting the job done together. This is why the public forum is such a valuable and significant opportunity for the ICANN Board and the community to come together. It is the Board's responsibility to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders and to hear directly from you about your hopes, your concerns, your ideas, and the challenges you may face as we work together to achieve our mission.

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I encourage you to take advantage of this session to ask questions, make comments, and share your thoughts in your respective languages. Please remember that this session is not a

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replacement for public comments, ICANN is seeking on various issues and policies.

If you are wanting to provide input on a specific issue that is open for public comment, please use the online system available on icann.org. It is the only way your comments will receive the proper consideration from the appropriate committee supporting organization or staff member. Before we begin, I would like to remind you that this session is a space to address your questions and concerns regarding ICANN's work and remit.

Statements that are political, ideological, or religious in nature and intent will not be tolerated. Please ensure you view the expected standards of behavior and let's maintain a polite and respectful dialogue, acknowledging our differences. Thank you for being a part of this session and for the robust discussions through the week, and we look forward to more dialogues. Now, I'd like to welcome the ICANN ombuds Elizabeth Field to make a few remarks. Elizabeth, the floor is yours.

ELIZABETH FIELD:

Thank you, Tripti. This is Elizabeth Field. I go by Liz. I'm the incoming ombuds. And first of all, I want to say I'm very, very proud to be part of ICANN and contributing to ICANN's critical mission. I'm also so motivated and committed to the multi-stakeholder model and all the strengths and possibilities and richness within that.

I also want to say a very sincere thank you to everyone for welcoming me to ICANN. I've had so many constructive, creative conversations with caring people over the last week, and I have observed really rich discussions as well, and I'm so struck by the talent and commitment in the community, so I'm really proud to be part of that. Just very briefly, the role of the ICANN Ombuds, I feel like I've said this quite a few times over the past five or six days.

So just worth mentioning again, it's set out in the ICANN bylaws, provide an internal evaluation of complaints from community members who believe they've been treated unfairly. I handle complaints under the anti-harassment policy, and I have a role to play in request for reconsideration as well as an advocate for fairness.

Two important points about the role. One is that it is independent, and the second is that it reports to the Board in line with the best practice in the ombuds sectors, the highest level in the organization. Just in terms of my background, as I've mentioned, I'm based in Geneva, but I'd really like to bring my two decades experience in ombuds inclusion and anti-harassment work to ICANN as well as my networks of professionals and academics working in this space to bring an evidence-based and data-driven approach to the work.

There's a very solid foundation to build on to evolve the office of the Ombuds, which I will be doing over the coming period. The office of the Ombuds includes an adjunct ombuds, Linda Mainville, and I have an outside independent council. Development of the office will be guided by data and your insights and the emerging needs of the community.

Listening to you and your input will shape my offer to you. So I really do want contact. Finally, just where we are. The now is just a reminder about our collective commitment to respect in the community.

To echo what Tripti said, there are two policies that are binding the anti-harassment policy, the expected standards of behavior. They apply to everyone and they apply in this setting. If you have a concern, you are welcome to reach out and talk to me, it is confidential. But while we have these policies, these are our minimum standards, if you will.

But I believe that our collective North Star is a community of fairness, dignity, and respect. And that's the bedrock of these multi-stakeholder participatory processes. I look forward to the public forum and to these enriching and rich discussions, and thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself.

ANDREA GLANDON:

Welcome everyone. My name is Andrea Glandon, and I am policy operations senior coordinator and remote participation manager for this session. As we are about to begin the ICANN81 Public Forum, we want to remind everyone that as a condition of participation, those who take part in ICANN's multi-stakeholder model are expected to understand and follow ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN's Community Anti-Harassment Policy and Complaint procedure.

Now, I will briefly explain the format for this session and how you can participate. Today's public forum is divided into three blocks. All blocks are open to any subject of community interest. Each block will

be facilitated by a Board member, starting with Chris Chapman, followed by Edmon Chung, and Sajid Rahman will moderate the final block. We strongly encourage you to use the headsets to take advantage of the skilled interpreters we have here supporting us as we often receive questions in languages other than English.

Once the first block begins, there are three ways to ask a question or make a comment. If you are attending the event in person, simply go to the microphone and wait for your turn to make your comments. Please remember to keep your comments brief and respectful to those attending online and in person.

If you are participating remotely, you can virtually queue up in one of two ways. If you want to ask a question or make a comment verbally, please click on the raise hand icon at the bottom of your screen, and you'll automatically go into the speaker's queue.

When it is your turn to speak, you'll see a message on your screen requesting that you unmute your mic. This lets you know that it will soon be your turn to speak. Once you've been introduced, please be sure to unmute your microphone.

Before stating your comment or question, either in person or remotely, please say your name, where you're from, and who you're representing or affiliated with if applicable. Please remember to speak slowly and clearly so that the scribes and interpreters correctly capture your words.

If you are unable to voice your question or comment, please write it in the Zoom Q&A pod. I will read the questions aloud. Please do not ask your questions in the chat as we are not tracking questions in the chat. And your questions will not be read aloud if written there. Each person will have two minutes to make a question or comment. You will see a two-minute timer on the screen.

We use this time limit to facilitate as many questions and comments as possible. The board facilitator will then either answer your question or turn to the board member who is Best equipped to answer your question. Please note that the Board may need a few seconds to determine who is best prepared to answer your question.

If you have a follow-up question, we ask that you reenter the queue. This ensures everybody has an opportunity to pose a question or comment to the Board during the allotted time. The two-minute rule also applies for follow-up questions and comments.

We do have real time interpretation available today in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Portuguese, and Turkish. The language spoken may vary throughout the session. For the best experience, we would recommend that you select the language you speak or listen to by clicking on the interpretation icon located on the Zoom toolbar. Our first board facilitator is Chris Chapman. Chris, the floor is yours.

CHRIS CHAPMAN:

Thank you, Andrea. And as you noted, I am the block one facilitator, so there you go. Encapsulating what you just very well expressed, we have sort of three buckets of expectations. There's the obvious behavioral ones. There's the content, no basis for political ideological or religious content.

And finally, and most importantly at the moment in particular, given that we have out for comment our statement of interest participation, please indicate your name and importantly for everybody in the interest of transparency, your affiliation. We'll get a natural cadence up here, but let me go to the microphone first. By all means, we'll start with you, sir.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much. My name is Tijani Ben Jemaa. I am an AFRALO At-Large member speaking on my own behalf. This new gTLD round was intended to be a remedial one because the 2012 round failed to bring diversity into the DNS industry despite the \$2 million of the applicant support program that at that time could support up to 14 applications.

Unfortunately, only three applications were received and none had been supported because two were dropped by the SAR and one was dropped by the community evaluation panel. Instead of being shaped to support application from underserved regions and communities, the ASP, the Applicant Support Program for this round will support applications from nonprofit organization, intergovernmental organizations.

And here I would like to underline undercover and intergovernmental. So we'll support intergovernmental organizations such as the UN, the European Union, et cetera, small businesses and indigenous community.

Over the five entries of the ASP, only one concerns the less developed economies that may include underserved regions, assuming that they are small businesses. If they are not, they are not eligible. And even this entry is not exclusively dedicated to small businesses from less developed economies, but shared with the indigenous and tribal community while there is an on tier entry dedicated exclusively to this community.

For the record, I strongly agree and encourage the support of applications from ingenious community as well as all other underserved communities and regions, which will bring the intended diversity and inclusiveness. I have been told that applications from underserved regions and communities may access the program through nonprofit organization and small businesses entries, which is right, but it is also right that the intergovernmental organizations and the indigenous communities can also enter from these gates.

Why then there is dedicated entries for them with the program as it is shaped in the handbook. We'll sure have at least 40 supported applications, but I am afraid they will be mostly, if not anteriorly from the global north. Where is diversity then? Thank you.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Well, thank you for that. We'll take that as a well-articulated comment. Sally, did you want to just quickly respond to that?

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you very much Tijani, and I appreciate the feedback. And that is a very specific set of observations about the qualification criteria for the Applicant Support Program. And we will, I think, talk about this more I'm sure in this forum today, and we've talked much about it this week.

Firstly, thank you, and I want to reassure the community that what Tijani is talking about, there are a lot of pieces of communication about this question, who can apply? How do you apply if you are this kind of organization from this country, which is what you're talking about? And also, that we are doing a lot of very proactive outreach.

We have been doing it for several months now. We'll continue right through the period that the application is open. Very specifically focused on communities, whether they are communities or geographies that are underrepresented at ICANN, and that is a learning from the first round, you mentioned that. So I just wanted to acknowledge that. Thank you very much for the observation.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Becky or Alan, did you want to add to that in any way? If not, Becky, were you not? We'll take the second question from the microphone and then we've got one online.

NIGEL ROBERTS: Thank you, Chris. My name is Nigel Roberts. I'm from .gg. I'm sorry to disappoint those of you who may be trying to anticipate what I might have to say. But Istanbul has been very, very welcoming here. I like to congratulate the Board and in particular everybody who has been involved in organizing this particular meeting. We've had a particular welcome from certain members of the community. And so my question for the ICANN Board is, should ICANN adopt one of the many cats which has been paying attention with us, what name would you give it?

CHRIS CHAPMAN: I'm gonna use my prerogative and ask the chair to deal with it. Nigel next. Andrea.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you. Donna Austin, you may ask your question or make your comment.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Hi, Donna.

DONNA AUSTIN: Hi, Chris. How are you? Can you hear me okay?

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Yes, I think we can.

DONNA AUSTIN:

Okay, terrific. All right. So Donna Austin, no affiliation. And this relates to a bit of work that's just completed. As some of you may be aware, the IDN EPDP has completed phase one and phase two of our work. The ICANN Board has approved all but two recommendations from the phase one final report, and yesterday, the GNSO Council unanimously supported all the recommendations in the phase two final report.

As the chair of the IDN EPDP Working Group, I want to publicly recognize the participants of this working group for their dedication and commitment to this three-and-a-half-year effort. And in particular, I thank them for their collaborative spirit in which this work was undertaken. And if you'll please bear with me, I'd just like to do one final roll call.

So here we go. Justine, Farrell, Manju, Satish, AK, Hadia, Christian, Mitin, Emmanuel, Michael B., Zhang, Maxim, Dennis, Jennifer, Jerry, Nigel, Lisa, Anil, Edmon, Alan, Akinori san, Sarmad, Pitinan, and Michael K., Saewon, Dan, Steve, Emily, Ariel, Devan, Julia, and Terri.

It was an honor to serve as your chair, and I'm very proud of the final reports that we have delivered to the GNSO Council. Thanks very much everybody, it was a great piece of work to finish my ICANN obligations on. So thanks very much. Thanks, Chris.

CHRIS CHAPMAN:

Thanks, Donna. That was beautifully expressed. I don't think you mentioned Chris, but you got everybody else. Nigel, we've decided to establish the Feline Advisory Committee, by the way. Sebastien.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Good morning. I will be speaking in French. Sebastien Bachollet, I am the representative of International Society and Chair of EURALO. I will speak in my own name, even though what I have to say should not be a problem.

The first thing I wanted to say was to thank all the people who work on the implementation in Zoom and on site on the interpretation services that are offered during the meetings in ICANN. I think it's a real improvement on the work of the community that we can use these services from interpreters and technical teams, not only during the meetings, but also during meetings in between our physical meetings and the services being integrated in Zoom. Thank you as well to the interpreters.

Well, I would like to welcome our new Ombuds. Welcome, Liz. I just wanted to remind the Board that we have not yet completed the work on workstream two, the second part of the implementation of IANA transition. And I think it is high time that we did that and we finished this work.

My last point was to say that we just learned that the IGF will be held in Europe in June, therefore within our fiscal year, we have not been able to prepare and to prepare a budget, a specific budget for this activity. I do not know, and I wanted to know if the Board had planned to set up a special budget for this and to make sure that we have a representation of all stakeholders within ICANN for the IGF in June, 2025. Thank you very much.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Thank you, Sebastien. Danko in the first instance, you might want to take the last part first.

DANKO JEVTOVIC: Yes. Thank you, Sebastien, for always reminding the board about the role of the Ombuds and the-- where is the sound coming from-- finalizing the work stream two recommendations. The Board is well aware of what we need to do and the importance of the Ombuds office.

As you know, we were in the situation that previous Ombudsman resigned, and we are very happy that we welcomed Liz here, and I think this community will be. But the Board is certain in our intent to finish the recommendations. And we started discussion with our new ombudsman about how to evolve the Ombuds office. And one of the key lines there is to finish implementation. So allow all the work stream to recommendations, including obviously on the Ombudsman. So I think we are well aware of that and I can confirm it'll be done.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Liz, do you want to add to that in any way?

ELIZABETH FIELD: Thanks. Just to say we've looked at the plan, it's straightforward, they're under implementation and it's a priority, so thank you.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Can we come back to your first part again? The essence of which was-

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: My second point, I'm sorry, interpreter, I will speak in English. It's that we learned that the IGF, global IGF will take place in Norway in June next year. It is within our fiscal year, therefore, we were not ready to be part and to have the budget to participate. And I would like to know if the Board will be considering to have a specific budget, to have a good representation of the stakeholders within this next IGF in the same fiscal year as the one this year. Thank you very much.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Thanks, Sebastien. Sally.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you, Sebastien. And thank you for clarifying that. It's a good question. We've literally only just found out 48 hours ago, I think, that it would be in Norway. And the honest answer is we haven't discussed it yet because we just haven't had time. And you make an excellent point because normally the IGFs are once every financial year, which is what you're saying.

So we have one coming up in, up in December, and normally there would be one in FY26, but this is an anomaly, so we will need to work out how to do that. But rest assured, we will, we definitely will. I just can't tell you exactly now how we'll do it, but it will be a priority. But all the reasons the community would expect. Thank you for raising it.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Thanks, Sally. We've got another hand in the Zoom. We'll go there. Andrea.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you. Lawrence Olawale-Roberts. You may ask your question.

LAWRENCE OLAWALE-ROBERTS: All right, thank you. I believe you can hear me now. Lawrence Olawale-Roberts is my name. I happen to be a member of the Business Constituency from Nigeria, but will definitely be speaking in an individual capacity. ICANN is indeed a multi-stakeholder community and must continuously prioritize participation from every remote part of the world and its processes. Now we also have national passports guarantee entry to hundreds of countries without the need for a visa.

Ironically, that is not the fate of some active participants who also volunteered their time and efforts to be involved in the ICANN processes. Now, not only did it appear that Nigerians were summarily blacklist by the Turkish authorities from getting visa in time to make participation of ICANN81 possible, the cost and requirements for securing these visas were also unrealistic.

Just for context, it cost an average about 350 to \$400 to have this visa for Istanbul processed. Now, while ICANN maintain that very, very little can be done to influence those to whom any country can issue a visa to, which is true, on the contrary, it is 100% in ICANN's purview and a Board

distinction to determine what countries can host ICANN public meetings.

I would want to ask that the ICANN Board does a review of countries that have been lined up to host ICANN public meetings with a view to ensuring that there is a guarantee that participants from all parts of the world, especially from the global south, will be able to secure visas to participate physically without the hurdles that we had to go through, especially as Nigerians in our quest to participate at ICANN81. Thank you.

CHRIS CHAPMAN:

Thank you, Lawrence, for that input, that thoughtful input. Sally, do you want to respond on that?

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you, Lawrence. And thank you for your comments. Yes, we have recognized for decades the challenge of countries granting visas to people who want to come to ICANN meetings. And as you rightly say in your comments, and thank you for pointing out, that ICANN has no ability to control any government's decisions about which country it allows people to come into their country. This is entirely unconnected to us.

You raise a specific question, which is about the cost of applying for visas. So I want to just be granular about it. The specific point you are making is you are not asking ICANN to intervene with countries to grant visas to, in this case you're talking about Nigerian, but you are

suggesting that we should review whether or not-- we should look at the question of cost and time of visa applications.

And you make a specific request that when we know, which we do in advance, which countries we're going to, that this is considered. And I wanted to reassure you that this is a key criteria when we select venues for ICANN meetings and that is published on our website. We're very transparent about what we require from countries to be successful to host an ICANN meeting, to be considered for an ICANN meeting location. And the ability to grant visas effectively, cost effectively, time efficiently, to the greatest amount of countries is a consideration.

But I also appreciate that if for some-- and there are always some people, unfortunately from some countries in certain circumstances who find this very difficult or even impossible. And I feel for you, and this is why we help where we can, we provide support from a specialist agency. If there are particular practical hurdles for you to overcome, we will continue to do that. And if anybody in the community feels they don't understand that, please let my office know and we will direct you to that as we go through future ICANN meetings.

So we do everything we can, but there are many things we can't do, and of course, our hybrid participation is an incredibly important part of making sure everybody can participate as equally as possible. Thank you for your comment, and it's appreciated.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Catherine, you've had a very keen insight on this. Would you just like to add to that?

CATHERINE ADEYA: Thank you very much. And Lawrence, and all those who are having challenges getting visas, I understand what you're saying because it also applies to even people like me on the Board. And the reassurance is definitely, ICANN and even the Board are looking at this very closely.

I know for Turkey, some of the regulations changed last minute. I mean, when I went to get my visa, the regulations changed, and we didn't have that update even by the time the location had been chosen. So these are some of the things that need to be reviewed and early enough assistance in getting visas. I had to get mine three months before, so you can't do it towards the end, but we are going to look at that and even sitting on the Board, I'll discuss with the Org a little bit more on what else we could do. Thank you.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Thanks, Catherine. We'll come back to the microphone.

NIGEL CASSIMIRE: Thank you. Good day. I am Nigel Cassimire of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union and Intergovernmental Organization of 20 Caribbean states and territories, and I was a member of the GAC. Our thanks to ICANN for the efforts made for facilitating our participation in

your meetings and processes for the resource limited governments and organizations in our territory. I have two points.

One, I am pleased to see ICANN participating and contributing more actively in multilateral and net-related activities in organizations like the UN and the ITU. And I agree with a sentiment I heard yesterday that there are distinct roles for multi-stakeholder and multilateral efforts.

And in today's increasingly converging and evolving technological landscape, these two roles must collaborate effectively to preserve and achieve ICANN's stated ideal of one world, one internet. The multilateral world is making room for multi-stakeholder input as can be seen in the wording of the global digital compact and recognition of the technical community as a distinct stakeholder.

So let us recognize the progress made and seize the open opportunities to progress even more and maybe even more rapidly. And finally, I would like to see the day when the GAC no longer needs to have an underserved regions working group. And I recognize that this would take more than ICANN to achieve.

ICANN must do its part with consistent and effective outreach to maximize inclusion in the global digital economy. You have regional representatives, but notwithstanding this, periodic high-level contacts must be made with decision makers in the underserved regions to sustain political will, investment and commitment to digital development in these areas. It has been more than 10 years since an ICANN CEO has visited our region to meet with Caribbean leaders. So I

hope this message of outreach is brought to the air and the priorities of the incoming CEO. Thank you.

CHRIS CHAPMAN:

Thank you, Nigel, for that. And well expressed here. We'll come stay with the microphone and then we'll come to the online. Thank you. Thanks again, Nigel.

OWEN SMIGELSKI:

This is the hardest thing. Hi, my name's Owen Smigelski. I'm with a domain name registrar at Namecheap. And at the close of today's meeting, I will be the chair of the Registrar Stakeholder Group. However, I'm speaking here in my very personal capacity.

So one of the things we've heard of this meeting has been the costs and the budgetary concerns with ICANN, and a lot of it keeps coming back to ICANN staff and how much they are paid. And so I would like to take this opportunity to address something that is one of my biggest pet peeves, and no, that's not about the cats here.

It is the misconception about the salaries of the ICANN staff. There are two data points which the community and those outside of the community point to that show that ICANN staff make a lot of money. It's the ICANN 990 form, which let me just get the numbers here, I looked it up this morning. It lists the 16 top salaries. I'm not complaining about those, but the ranges are from \$334,000 to \$1 million, and that's for FY22. The average salary is \$496,000.

With 450 staff, what's going on with the other 434? The only other data point we have is that ICANN says they get paid within the 50th to the 75th percentile for their representative region and industry, whatever that means. I spent seven years at ICANN, I still don't understand that.

And I also know that as I left ICANN after an attorney with 15 years experience, I was nowhere near those numbers. So I call on ICANN as there's pressure to reign in salaries and costs, et cetera, to provide some sort of accounting transparency, a report perhaps on what does an average staff member at ICANN make.

We all know that they work hard, but people are assuming, and I see it all the time in comments and public forum and stuff like that, that everyone at ICANN makes a ton of money, which is not really the case. So if there's some way that ICANN could provide a summary or ranges or averages based upon the various offices, that would be, I think, very helpful to help with this debate. Thank you.

CHRIS CHAPMAN:

Point well made, Owen. Danko, and I think then Sally may want to respond. And I'll be handing over to Edmon.

DANKO JEVTOVIC:

Okay, thank you. So thank you for bringing this extremely important topic from the Board's perspective. And Owen, as you know, I was chairing the Board's finance committee that I will be ending enrolling off today. So I just want to assure you that the importance of the staff for the Board is on the highest level.

We do care for our staff and we care that our staff is well paid. The 4990 that you refer to is the US not-for-profit tax authorities requirement, and it is published for all not-for-profit organizations. Sometimes the numbers there are very useful indicator how the not-for-profit situation in US is. And obviously, the numbers there are for the top paid executives of the organization and also for the transparency needs the Board, these are also there and we do publish information about the Board.

But the most important point of your question is the staff, Board is very much aware of the work that staff does and is very grateful to the staff for doing that, and we think that staff is adequately compensated. There are surveys and there are mechanisms that Sally will speak a little bit about how it is organized within the Org. But in its oversight role, we do get reports from Sally and her team about the compensation for the staff, and also surveys about the staff satisfaction.

We are also aware that more than 60%, I think about 60% of our staff lives in the LA area, and the cost of living in US has increased, but we are in the situation that we also very much need to be cost conscious. So this is something that's very much is in our thinking, and we think, and the Board feels that the situation currently is as it should be. We care about the cost, but we care that cost stuff is well compensated. So maybe a few words more, Sally, from your side about the processes to go check on that.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you, Danko. Yes, thank you, Owen for your comment. And just so that everybody is aware, the compensation practices at ICANN apply to all staff regardless of their department, location, and role. So that's the first thing I wanted to say. And the compensation practice is published on our website, and it's been suggested to me, which I suggest we do now, that we post a link to that in the Zoom chat of this meeting just in case anybody hasn't seen it or can't find it. And it was approved by the Board in 2012.

So this is a very well understood, and just let me tell you a little bit more about what it consists of. It's a very specific remuneration, a compensation framework to ensure that salaries, all salaries are competitive with comparable positions at organizations similar to ICANN in activities, scope, and complexity so that our overall objective is to attract high caliber individuals to offer competitive compensation so that salary and benefits.

And to provide transparency, and this is something perhaps you may not be aware of, but I think it's important to point it out. Staff can see their own pay and where it falls in the pay range for their grade, and salary ranges are posted internally and externally when we post vacancies.

And finally, the target compensation, which Owen touched on is for all staff between the 50th and 75th percentile, which is reasonable and fair, and this is the element of the 2012 approval from the Board. So I'm always happy to take more on this separately if people want to talk to

me, please do. But I hope that you'll have the chance to have a look at that policy. And if you have any questions, let me know. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you, Danko and Sally, I will speak briefly in Chinese. My Chinese is not very good, but I still want to remind you that you can still speak Chinese in the ICANN meetings.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Yes, thank you. From Raymond Mamata, “there are rumors of some powerful countries taking over ICANN because of where its headquarters are located. How is ICANN preparing for such acts if it should be attempted?”

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you for the question. Seems like this is a topic that is well covered by workstream two, but I'll pass to Tripti first.

TRIPTI SINHA:

Thank you for your intervention. While ICANN is an apolitical, essentially a politically neutral organization with the technical coordination function, we do, of course, monitor events that might impact our ability to carry out our mission. And as we all know, there have been several changes in the United States, so we are focused on those changes.

We're also focused on delivering on our mission with excellence, and if there are proposals that would in any way adversely impact our ability to carry out that mission or threaten our mode of governance, we would ensure policy makers, and understand the importance that we have to maintain a global interoperable internet and the negative consequences of such proposals, that such proposals that might go forward. So we are monitoring the landscape, and I want to assure you that as of now, we don't see any adverse impact, but we have a finger on the pulse of these changes. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you, Tripti. I'll go to the mic now. Welcome back, Paul.

PAUL FOODY:

Hi guys. It's been five years. Paul Foody speaking on my own behalf. Our last meeting I was at Montreal and Covid has plagued my presence here ever since. But I haven't been totally idle. I've spent much of the time trying to communicate with all my digital providers about why I'm not getting communications and with the Vancouver police trying to persuade them not to try to murder me. And so far so good.

But I read with interest the SubPro report of 2021, and I don't know if you recall it, but it was a 400-page document. And on page 355, page five of the appendix, it read, ICANN cannot have a repeat of 2012 practices, blah, blah, blah. As many have pointed out during our deliberations, we could not have known in 2012 about the cottage

industry of private auctions that would blossom with so many contention sets.

We could not have anticipated that the largest new gTLD applicant operator would bring their own auction provider to the table to settle these contention sets. We could not have known that tens of millions, if not more, would change hands during these auctions. We do not know the true extent of the private auction activity in 2012 because these transactions were cloaked in NDAs.

Now, this came as a surprise to me because back in 2009 in Mexico, and this is in the record, I said the internet, capitalized it, we're looking at something worth a hundred trillion. That a hundred trillion dollars is currently 50% owned, I guess by .com owners. I'll come back.

EDMON CHUNG:

Okay. Basically, the question about auctions and the surprise that the private auctions took place. I guess I'll ask Alan.

PAUL FOODY:

No, no, no, I've got way more to say and I'll go to the back of the queue and come back. I've only got two minutes, but.

EDMON CHUNG:

Should we respond to the auctions, private auctions?

PAUL FOODY: How about this for questions right now. Why is it, in the 15 years I've been coming to ICANN expressing the only opposing view to your idea that the new gTLD is a wonderful thing, have I never been given more than two minutes at the mic? I'll get to the back and I'll ask another question.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Paul. I would certainly encourage you to participate in the working group and have a lot more time to discuss. I don't know if Alan or Becky wants to respond briefly here or we should-

BECKY BURR: The public forum is one venue for input, but as we heard at the very beginning of this, it's not the only place to provide input in. In fact, it is our formal policy development processes, both the SubPro PDP and the SubPro IRT that is going on now. So while we do limit comments to two minutes in the public forum so that everybody has an opportunity to speak, there are many opportunities in ICANN both in the comments and in the formal policy development processes,

PAUL FOODY: Those groups, if I might point out, are all consensus based. So anyone joining with an opposing view within the group is basically silenced. But I'll get to the back of the queue. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Paul. Next, Mason.

MASON COLE:

Thank you, Edmon. My name is Mason Cole. I'm chair of the Business Constituency, and I have a brief statement to read in my capacity as chair. I rise here to, again, acknowledge the community's help with DNS abuse and ask for its ongoing help with his persistent problem.

We've had a collegial and productive discussions here in Istanbul with the Board and with our contracted party colleagues on the subject of abuse. While we recognize the April contract amendments are still somewhat new, we did hear from the community prior to their ratification that the amendments were a first step and there is additional room for further collaboration.

We received not only helpful briefings on the current state of the abuse problem, but useful feedback on the initial ideas for further combating abuse advanced here in Istanbul. Over the course of the months to come, we have an opportunity to work together to impact this problem, and we look forward to a collegial discussion on this matter with our friends in the contracted party house. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you, Mason. Very important topic on DNS abuse. Jim.

JAMES GALVIN:

Yes, thank you, Mason. I'll just say on behalf of the Board, and we talked about this during our bilateral with the NCSG. Thank you and we do

agree this is an important topic and I'm very pleased to hear that you're going to engage in further discussions in the community. Thanks.

MASON COLE: Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you. We have a hand up on the Zoom, so.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you. I do have a comment from Zoom from Raymond Mamata. ICANN81 has been beautifully organized. Congratulations to the organizing team. However, I observed three things that ought to be improved upon. One, unlike in other meetings, we did not have enough cameras around to capture the event.

Two, we were invited for a welcome reception by the host, but we were served water and tea, this wasn't the best. And three, most of the meeting rooms did not have the usual black table covers that ensures our legs didn't show while sitting down. I noticed this made mostly the ladies very uncomfortable in such round table settings. These things need to be improved in order to keep the high ICANN meeting standards.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you for the question. I think it's noted. Does Sally want to respond briefly?

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you very much for the feedback. And thank you for being so specific. And I know that our meeting operations team are here in the meeting with us and they will take that feedback on board. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: All right, I'll go to Mike.

MICHAEL PALAGE: Thanks, Edmon. Michael Palage speaking in an individual capacity. During my 11-hour red eye flight from Cape Town last night, I had a lot of time to think on what my intervention would be here today. On the plane, I was listening to the geopolitical legislative and regulatory update session from Monday, and it brought to my attention one of the first conversations I had with Marilyn Cade at ICANN3 in Santiago, Chile in 1999.

Marilyn approached me after I had just finished chairing the Registrar Constituency Group, and she said, Michael, you may not realize this, you and your registry and registrar colleagues may not realize this, but you're living in a golden age. She says, right now, governments do not understand what you do, so they're not going to regulate you. She goes, but take it from a telecommunication company, they're going to learn and they're going to regulate you. And I think as we look at the current situation and what was detailed on Monday, governments are getting very comfortable coming up with ways to regulate this industry.

Now, what I think is important is to go back to one of the interventions that Bruce Tonkin made during the public forum in Kigali, where he talked about the inefficiency of the ICANN policy development process to come up with a policy and implement in less than a decade. I think when you look at what the European Union did with NIS2, with addressing a problem and implementing in four years, while ICANN has spent over a decade trying to figure out what is the definition of accuracy and what is privacy and proxy services really problematic. So I would really like to hear from the Board how you are going to address these inefficiencies where governments are moving faster than we are. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you, Mike. Well, I think the Board is very clear that the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy development process and then the Board process needs to be improved. But I guess Tripti, do you want to add?

TRIPTI SINHA:

Michael, thank you for your comment and question. Indeed, we have reached a point of inefficiency, which is not sustainable, and we recognize that, and we actually have had several discussions at this very meeting. We're taking feedback from the community on what should the priorities be knowing that we're getting a new incoming CEO and so forth.

And what has percolated to the top and confirmed, our own observations is that we have to do something about how we could make our processes more efficient. Now it is a priority for us. Do I have a response for you right now? No. But rest assured, we recognize that is a problem and it has to be addressed. And we're moving at the snail pace. Not acceptable.

MICHAEL PALAGE: Thank you. And I guess for the record, 2024 is probably when Marilyn Cade's prediction was noted, so just want that on the record. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Mike.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. We know the ICANN language policy very well, the ICANN language policy to provide translating and interpretation in the six UN language. So the languages are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish. I'm from the Bangali community, especially from Bangladesh. We know there are over 290 million people there speaking in Bangla. So it's a bigger community than Russia. So do you have any plans to increase the languages in your ICANN authority and your community?

EDMON CHUNG: First of all, I thank you for the question. I guess I can speak safely that ICANN obviously would like to address to multiple languages. But of course, there's the cost consideration. Hopefully, one day AI can help us a little bit further on that. But did any other board member want to respond? Sally, maybe.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you for the question. Yes, Edmon, you're absolutely right. And this has been a topic of discussion for all the time I've been at ICANN, which is over a decade. We take it very seriously and it is a balance between what we can, it's about resource prioritization, but also recognizing that technology is changing continuously and it is opening up new opportunities. I can reassure you that we keep this topic under constant review and we will keep communicating with the community as we can identify opportunities to expand and on what basis we can, because we do lots of different kinds of translation interpretation for different types of activity.

So that's one of the things we're looking at is, are the ways in which we can expand languages in some areas, but not necessarily in all areas. So I thank you for the observation, it remains a very high priority, and it's very, very important on our strategic plan and our operating plans, as well as our ongoing thinking about how to encourage participation.

EDMON CHUNG: And for the transcript, we didn't quite get your name, please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: My name is [00:53:59 - inaudible].

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you.

ANDREA GLANDON: Excuse me. I just wanted to announce that we have now closed the queue.

EDMON CHUNG: Okay. Thank you. And I'll go to Manju.

MANJU CHEN: Sorry for being too short. Hello, this is Manju from UTC +8, so you might have guessed what my topic is by how I address myself. Yes, I'm talking about time zone. So this year I had to sit down from a community working group, well, not working group, community group, because the meeting time is my 4:00 AM.

Before it started the meeting, the group decided to do a time rotation because to serve the global gather groups. And after doing the poll, that listed zero APAC friendly time, the time they decided to rotate was 14:00 and 20:00 UTC. To put us in perspective, it's 3:00 PM and 9:00 PM for those who are based in Europe, 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM in the east coast of the United States, 6:00 AM and 12:00 PM in the west coast.

So it's one a little bit of an inconvenient time and one perfectly fine time. However, the same time slot translates to 10:00 PM and 4:00 AM for me in Taipei, 7:30 PM and 1:30 AM in New Delhi, and 1:00 AM and 7:00 AM in Sydney.

As you can see, one of the times is less than ideal, and the other is simply impossible. So this is not time rotation, this is claiming to be an inclusive and diverse global community while dismissing and marginalizing the already weak voice from this vantage time zones. And this is not an individual incident, this is a recurring theme among APAC community.

We're left with no choice. Either we attend meetings in human hours and make our voice heard, or we just miss the meeting, and then we lose the APAC perspective in the multi-cellular system. This is a version cycle, this is simply unsustainable. While we're working hard and trying to bring a lot of brilliant young minds from the APAC region to ICANN community, we cannot false promise them that they're gonna continue easily in this path due to the difficulty they're gonna face in terms of time zones. And the time is now to get us right.

The stakes are very high with global IG processes as well as the next round around the corner. We cannot afford to have a flawed multicellular process where people from certain regions are discouraged to participate. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Manju. And as someone from Hong Kong, I share that view, and I think many of our Board members, Sanjeep, Chris, and others share that pain. And earlier this week, actually, there were a couple of occasions that I was asked if there was a magic wand, what would you do? And a couple of Board members said that we would wish away the time zones. But that is a reality and it is a difficult issue. Tripti, I think you wanted to add a little bit to that.

TRIPTI SINHA: Essentially, I was gonna say the same thing, Manju, we recognize the problem, it's huge, it's across the community. And as Edmon just said, even on the Board, we're struggling with this issue. And don't forget, our incoming CEO now is gonna be based in Geneva, which is going to add to the complexity, and I wish I could make time zones go away, but we'll do our best. We are gonna continue looking at this problem more seriously and do a fair rotation. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you. Next.

THOMAS BRACKEY: Good morning, everyone. My name's Tom Brackey. I work at Blue Water Law in Los Angeles, California. And I'm speaking here today in my individual capacity. I've been kicking around ICANN for about 15 years now, and myself and a group that I worked with, we applied for, I think it was 11 TLDs in the last round. We navigated the contention resolution process, including the private auction landscape, and we still own and

operate three TLDs. It's been a rewarding experience for myself and my group throughout. But it's that contention resolution process in the upcoming round that I wanted to address briefly today.

It's come to my attention that there are concerns about the financial incentives and distortions that arise from the contention resolution process when it gets into the private auction space. And I think that's clear to everybody. It had some unintended consequences, there was a lot of money changing hands, and it's created some incentives to participate in the ICANN process that are not aligned with, and perhaps even at odds with a lot of the core values of ICANN and the type of community that we're trying to build.

So I understand in seeking to address that issue, why the decision has, as I understand it, largely been made to say there will be no private auctions in the next round. There will be auctions only administered by ICANN with ICANN receiving the fees. Fair enough, I don't question that, but I do point out what I assume is an unintended consequence from that course of action, I think should be addressed. There are many small businesses and small stakeholders including nonprofits that are considering participating in the next round.

And to say to them that you may well, go through this process, pay your \$227,000 fee, and end up with nothing, has a chilling effect on those applicants. And at scale, it is going to push away many of those very participants, which we are seeking to welcome. The business calculus, I'll finish in a second, shifts fundamentally from where it was before.

Whereas if I go through, I'm successful, I get involved in contention. At least if I'm in a private auction, I'll get my money back. That's one thing when you're going through the process, and you're faced with losing it all, it's another one simple solution would be if you're in a contention set and you're not successful, give the application feedback. There's a variety of other solutions that are out there, I'm sure, but I wanted to bring what I perceive to be the problem to everyone's attention. Thanks.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you. Certainly, very interesting perspective, and we've heard a lot from the community and especially from ALAC and GAC on this as well. Alan, please.

ALAN BARRETT:

Thank you. This is Alan Barrett. We do think that it's a problem if you apply for a string and end up with nothing because you're in contention, and the plan is in the next round an important way of dealing with that or reducing the likelihood that you end up with nothing is that when you make your application, you can provide an alternative string like a second choice in case your first choice is not available because it's in contention.

You can also provide a second choice and it would be to your advantage to choose a second or alternative string which is much less likely to be in contention so that you stand a good chance of getting your second choice, even if your first choice doesn't work out. Thanks.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Alan. I'll now take a question from Zoom.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you. A question from Gopal, Ted Polly. Are there any efforts to distinguish between public and social for the purposes of ICANN?

EDMON CHUNG: That is a very interesting question. Very philosophical. I guess we talk about the global public interest, and of course, we are in a social world. Any Board members would like to add to this? Thank you for the note, Gopal, and at this point I'll toss it over to my colleague, Sajid.

SAJID RAHMAN: Thank you, Edmon. We have a rather long queue to go through, so let's try to be as efficient as possible, please.

ANNALIESE WILLIAMS: Thank you. My name is Annaliese Williams. For transparency, I work at Alda, but this is a personal observation and I wanted to start by supporting everything my colleague Manju said before about time zone participation. And this is just an observation that this is the Asia Pacific meeting, and I am from the Asia Pacific. It took me over 22 hours to get here, compared to four hours flying time from London or around 10 from DC.

We do have remote participation, but right now it's 8:30 PM in Fiji, 9:30 PM in Samoa, and 10:30 PM in the Cook Islands. And while I don't wish to speak on behalf of Pacific residents, I wonder how many people here realize that many people in the Pacific don't have the internet at home. They can only access the internet during working hours. We can't wish away time zones, but if we are striving to be a truly global organization, we need to give consideration to how we ensure that the burden of participating is not unfairly born by any particular region. And we need to get serious about avoiding further disenfranchising those who already have so many obstacles to participation. Thanks.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you. Valid and a challenge that we are facing every day. Sally, you want to make any comments?

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you for your observation, and I feel it deeply and our staff are in exactly the same situation, and particularly the point you make about the Pacific. I think that is often a misconception that there is sometimes an assumption that everybody has the internet in their pocket and they can just dial into something from wherever they are. And that is not true, and it's not true in parts of the Pacific. It's not true in other parts of the world as well.

So we spend a lot of time in the staff team, particularly with combination with our technical colleagues to say, you know, what can we do to improve not just our remote participation, but our

asynchronous participation. So ways in which people can contribute to discussions, they can get download recordings, they can be part of ongoing discussions and chats in their time zone, not necessarily at exactly the same time as everybody else, because we also have, as somebody who said in the earlier comments, and I have this a lot with the staff team, finding the magic point at which you can have people from Los Angeles, people from the east coast, from Africa, from Istanbul, and from Singapore on the same call, there's a slither of time.

And I mean, a slither in the middle of the day of about an hour when that can be done. And clearly that isn't enough time to get the work done that we need to get done either inside the organization, probably also inside the Board, but also in the community.

And so I think that is, given we can't change the times, as in that is where we have to lean in is that question of perhaps we don't all need to be in all the meetings all at the same time all the time. And how do we establish mechanisms that we trust and that we feel confident in wherever we sit in ICANN's work to begin to evolve those. So ongoing work for us as a community as well as inside the organization. Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you, Sally. Mic.

WERNER STAUB:

My name is Werner Staub. I work for CORE Association, and I've spent the last 25 years working with registration data and we all know how

hard we find that problem to be now, when actually it was a very good fit back 35 years ago. It is not now, and we haven't found a way to deal with it.

Now, I would like to propose in a different approach to the one that we've been taking up to now. Whenever we talk about registration data, we talk about compulsory requirements that people have to deal with, the compulsory definitions and so on. And I've come to conclusion there is probably just no solution on that path. However, if you look at other industries, for instance, you look at the financial industry, we just dealt with that kind of problem a hundred years ago. They came up with very good solutions.

Those solutions were called auditing companies and they were called rating agencies. Those are private sector solutions. They were not things that governments came up with. They were embraced, of course, later by governments, but they're private sector initiatives.

So our focus in registration data should be enabling people to use private sector initiatives to demonstrate their creditworthiness, their trustworthiness, and their accountability to use modern technologies, including the progress of technologies used by governments to prove that a domain name is trustworthy as opposed to being in a permanent game of make belief that people don't want to be in when they're actually accredited and trustworthy.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you. Becky.

BECKY BURR: I think that those are all interesting suggestions, and as we look to make increased confidence in the DNS space, we shouldn't take anything off the table. I'm not quite sure if this is about the confidence in the website itself, in the domain or its registration data. So I'd love to talk with you a little bit more about that offline.

SAJID RAHMAN: Thank you. To the mic.

RAJIV KUMAR: Thank you, sir. Rajiv Kumar from India speaking here at individual capacity. I request ICANN to facilitate the translation key website content, everything Hindi. Over 1 billion internet users in India and more than six million in the Hindi speaker worldwide. I request a non of maximum majority of non-English speakers making resources available in Hindi on ICANN website and other platform which empower the borders more delivery groups participate in ICANN progress.

This step aligns with ICANN goal of promoting global engagement and diversity, ensuring that community and multilingual background are fully participate in and contribute in the global internet governance ecosystem. It's the multilingual internet also, so I request ICANN to add Hindi in our resources.

SAJID RAHMAN: Thank you. Tripti, you want to speak in Hindi, the reply.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Okay. Thank you. Yes, this is very similar to the-- it's a very specific question you're talking particularly about Hindi, but this is the part of this bigger question about to what extent can we expand languages of our content? And one of the things that has come up in the discussions with the GAC and the At-Large in recent weeks, and also specifically at this meeting, which you might not be aware of, is that we are all agreed that for the Applicant Support Program, for example, where it's critical that we have documents and information available in as many languages as you can, we're encouraging community members who will volunteer.

And I know, for example, I was told yesterday that our Polish colleagues, some of them in the community from Poland has volunteered to do this. That we will as staff coordinate with any community members that are interested in translating some of that type of content, particularly if the applicant support program, this may be very relevant in your question as well into whether it be Hindi or any other language that is not part of our core language set today.

So there is a, that we are going to experiment with this. We think this is a logical and sensible thing to do, and we have a finite amount of content that we can translate, which is very specific and targeted at a particular purpose and in a fixed timeframe.

And I think this is also gonna act as a very useful experiment for us collectively, because there are questions as to what about affordability? What about resources? Can AI play a role? And we need to move

forward, and this seems to me to be a very logical way to, if you like, pilot experiment.

What if we take something quite fixed and manageable and we use that as an experiment to see if there is the appetite and the time inside our community to partner with us on a not huge lift. Because if we start having community members translating all our content, I mean, this is unreasonable. So I hope this helps and I hope it's useful for the rest of our community, and we'll keep you updated on progress. So if you are interested, anybody in helping us to translate content for the applicant's support program into your particular language, please let us know, let me know and we'll be in touch with you. Thank you. Thank you for the question.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you, Sally. We go to the next.

BASHAR AL-ABDULHADI:

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh. I would like to say a few lines in Arabic please following my colleague, Edmon. My name is Bashar Al-Abdulahadi. I came from Kuwait. I want to thank ICANN and their support to the Arabic languages and all the different documents that they have translated on their websites and also the domain system in the Middle East, the translators and the community.

My concern today, for transparency, I come from an ICANN accredited registrar, and I do work with the government of Kuwait on the ccTLD, but I'm today here on my personal capacity. ICANN has a lot of policies

and rules and regulations to help their registrants protect their domain names. And I've been mentioning maybe on several occasions how ICANN is trying their best to help the registrant to secure their domain names.

But unfortunately, on the recent years, the Arabic community, which is more than 400 million users, are suffering to secure their domain names whenever they are lost with the international registrants. And I've been involved recently with the compliance team in ICANN to try to help a registrant to recover their domain name from international non-Arabic speaking registrar.

And all I get is actually links on the ICANN website to submit a compliant and eventually try to reach out to the legal authorities to try to recover the domain name, which I believe registrants will pay an arm and a leg just to try to recover their domain name.

If I can mention on the stage where ICANN could actually help or support their registrants securing their domain names and what would ICANN moving forward from compliance team or from the Board to support the registrant, either securing their domain name, which was stolen, not expired, and very reregistered.

Because I know that's not the ICANN policy, but whenever it was stolen and they were the registrant, how does ICANN propose moving forward, helping the registrants to recover their domain names or setting policies on registrars, including myself as a registrar, setting policies to enforce returning the domain name using, for example, the transfer dispute resolution policy, which seems not being very actively used

recently between the registrants, and they just want to point the registrants to the legal authorities which cost a lot to recover the domain names.

And as we speak, I'm involved in couple of cases with ICANN and the registrants. One of them is an individual which cannot afford legal fees or lawyer fees, and the other company which owns the trademark and owns everything, and the ICANN team just under registrars, which were involved says, go to UDRP. And we know UDRP is just to protect the trademark and not protect the registrant legal rights. Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you. And we are doing quite good on the question timing. Sally.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you. Thank you. It's a very specific and detailed question. I'm gonna ask our head of compliance, Jamie Hedlund to take that question. Could somebody, oh, mark. Jamie, can you come to the mic? Thank you.

JAMIE HEDLUND:

Hi, I am Jamie Hedlund. I'm head of compliance. Thank you very much for the question. We do enforce the obligations as they are in the agreements. As you are aware, some of the rules around transfers are complicated and very fact specific. I am sorry to hear that you have not gotten the attention that you believe you deserve. For your complaints,

I will look into it and I'll follow up with you after the meeting. Thank you.

BASHAR AL-ABDULHADI: Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN: Thank you. And we go to the make again? Yep.

PAUL FOODY: Hi, Paul again speaking on my own behalf, continuing on from before. So they said in that 2021 report, ICANN cannot allow this to happen again. That is emphasized by the fact that in 2011 at the Singapore meeting, just before the approval for the new gTLDs was given, I asked Peter Dengate thrush on a separate note, I have an estimate that the Internet's worth around about a hundred trillion dollars.

I just wondered whether or not the Board has ever carried out a valuation itself. Peter's response just a month before he joined Mines and Machines and then tried to register a hundred for that company, I believe, no. So given that, there is no way in the world that ICANN can let the transfer of a hundred trillion dollars asset proceed.

There are only two ways of avoiding that so far as I can see. One, you keep kicking the can of the new gTLD registrations down the line. The second is that when it gets transferred, it's worthless. Now how is that possible? Well, we just had an election where probably the most gung-

ho president in American history has been elected, and he is already made noises about New King Iran.

Now, what I'm wondering is if America was to react to the slightest provocation from whoever to whatever, and they were to launch nuclear missiles, does ICANN have the ability, did it somehow seize a backend into the US military system on which the internet was based, and which in 2016 got transferred to you guys, and which prior to 2016 could only be changed in either Los Angeles or in Washington?

Does ICANN have the ability to wrestle control of the US defense system? Because if it does, the US is finished and everyone here is just a sucker queuing up to buy worthless rubbish. So my question is, did ICANN, did anyone, and anyone with any involvement at ICANN, perhaps could they possibly have managed to get a backdoor into the US' military system?

That would mean that the US is no longer in control of it, so that if, God forbid, we'd find ourselves on the eve of the nuclear war, some tech wizard can come up and be the hero.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you, Paul. Tripti, you want to respond to this?

PAUL FOODY:

I know nuclear war is hilarious.

TRIPTI SINHA: I have few comments. Simple answer, no.

PAUL FOODY: Thank you.

TRIPTI SINHA: Oh, thank you. If you're happy with my response, good. Please, please, please, next person.

PAUL FOODY: If you can guarantee me no, that's great, because it means the US will survive a little longer. Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN: Thank you. Oh, Chris.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Good morning, everybody. Chris Disspain. I wasn't actually intending to come to the microphone today, I promise you, but I stood up for one reason, and while I've been in the queue, another one's popped up. I'll deal with that one first, just on the time zone issue. Sally, I agree with you, there is a tiny piece of time that works.

But there is a short-term fix, while we work on abolishing time zone, which is a fair rotation? And it works, it just means you have to accept that no single meeting will make a decision, everything is twice, and I know that means it takes longer, but actually that is the solution.

But that's not why I stood up, I stood up because a comment was made and has gone into the transcript, and I think it needs to be responded to. And it hasn't been. It was a comment that was made in response to Becky talking about various different ways that you can participate in ICANN and that this is not the only one.

And the comment, and I may be slightly paraphrasing here, but the comment was ICANN's working groups and so on, work on a consensus-based process, and that means that dissenting voices are silenced. That is simply not true. Dissenting voices are heard, dissenting voices are welcome, dissenting voices actually contribute to the consensus building process. And by far, the best way of involving yourself in ICANN is to bring your dissenting voice to the table, sit down and take part in the processes rather than grandstanding at the public forum. Thank you.

PAUL FOODY:

Do I have the ability to respond to that as it was directed at me?

SAJID RAHMAN:

Sorry, Paul just before you go. Thank you, Chris. Anyone? Any comments?

ANDREA GLANDON:

Amen.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Amen.

PAUL FOODY:

If anyone can find my formal comment back in 2010, do so, please. It's on the record. Personally, I think it was silenced.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you. Please. The next one on the queue.

JASMINE KO:

Thank you. This is Jasmine from Hong Kong. I wasn't aware that I'm so privileged to be here. Very grateful. With Edmon's reminder, I can speak in Chinese as well, so. I would like to say something in Chinese. if you see the CEO goals, it's about the environment. I would like to say that about the logistics and the resources, we still have room to improve.

Now, I would like to say it in English. The report about environmental sustainability on staffing, logistic travel, whatever. But then like, I was just wondering how we could see that there's actually a progress on groundwork that have been done to ensure that the entire conference, it's actually planet friendly.

I'm saying that because this is not just my planet, but it's also your planet. So given the fact that there's so many thousands people or whatever, like this big number of people traveling, consuming every day, and, everything that we have been consuming, we might not be aware because we are just so busy on meeting, right?

I know that there are also many important agenda that we need to discuss, but I also want to say that while we are like doing our work, working hard, the electricity or whatever resources that we're consuming, it's very valuable. And I really want to echo that when community talk about agility and efficiency, it's valid because the time is our competitor. We have not much time to just work on how to make our internet more inclusive, but also sustainable so that we don't just migrate to metaverse. We are not gonna eventually migrate to metaverse eventually. So the physical work have to be done as well. Thank you very much.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you. Climate and environment remains a key point in our strategic plan. Maarten.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Yes, thank you for that. And you care, many of us care, and in the community, there's actually people who've been actively working on this already. At the Board side, same thing, in Sally's priorities, the CEO priorities, it has been mentioned several times and also for the upcoming year.

If you look to the strategic plan, you find it back as explicit recognition that going forward we need to embed ecological responsibility into ICANN's operations. And we are firmly committed to do so and step by step, move forward with a clear understanding where the real difference can be made.

So have a baseline, take it on from there. Very much recognizing also that with regard to the meetings, it's not up to us to mandate that top down. That needs to be something we engage in together to see how we can find a balance there, not only with costs, but also with environmental pressure. Thank you for your question. Really appreciate it.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you, Maarten. Wes, you want to

WES HARDAKER:

Yeah, I'd be happy to. One additional point about environmental thoughts. It is being thought about widely, and one of our parallel organizations, the internet engineering task force, there's actually three separate efforts going on. I serve as a member of the internet architecture board, and we have a program called E-Impact that is looking into better ways to facilitate the internet on the planet in a sustainable way.

There is a new green working group that has just been talked about, and there is likely going to be a new internet research task force looking at the long-term effects of how to make a more sustainable internet with respect to technology. So all of that is being actively worked on in the internet engineering task force, which actually met last week and had extensive talks about it. Thanks.

SAJID RAHMAN: Thank you, Wes. We go to our last question of the day. We might be slightly over time, but please go ahead.

JEAN FRANCOIS QUERALT: I'll try to be brief. Thank you. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. I got no idea which time zone am I anymore. Supporting what Manju was mentioning before and some of the speakers as well in terms of the difficulties with the different time zones, as many of you may have imagined, I live in Malaysia. I really look like it, and I'm pretty much me and the people in my organization also facing exactly the same problems, having very light calls, one o'clock, three o'clock in the morning. Now, the topic that I wanted to discuss, so I'm part of NPOC and NCSG, although I'm gonna be speaking on my behalf and my own organization, the Area Foundation.

We've been actively participating in ICANN ever since ICANN75 was quite on point since the AGM was happening in Kuala Lumpur. So that's been what? Two or three years, which by general standards you would consider anyone here to be a newbie. And so we're still trying to figure out a way around finding some information, where to find things. And specifically, one of the things that we do is we try to encourage more technologies and most policy makers to come and participate in SDOs.

And so we are facing with a lot of questions, and a lot of them, those questions are where do I find stuff? And when it comes to ICANN, I could go through a list of at least 70 links that I can think of with public comments. What happens in GNSO? What happens in ccNSO? What happens in the ASO? What happens in each one of the IRs? All of those

places where the IRTs happen, all of that information is scattered all over the place.

And each of one of them have their own ways to signal status in which position they are. So if anyone comes right now into ICANN and wants to have a general picture about what happens in ICANN, they got no bloody idea, there's no way to find it out. And there's also no one specific person in ICANN staff that you can go and ask them. I've tried, and everyone tries their best, but they don't have one single specific source of truth.

So my request to the Board is, aside from the request that was made last year, you remember Sally, as to open source part of the information to be able to have access very much in the way that the IETF has the data tracker that allows you to have an idea on numbers, but also in the same way that the data tracker, I'm sorry to put you guys on the spot all the time, where you can actually have a sense of the pulse of what's going on, what's happening in IETF and IRTF.

With that platform, it would be good to put constantly data information and try to have one single source of truth for that information so that all the efforts that we have with the fellowship and next gen also have that information of reference. And also, those who don't come through those channels, you may well know that not everyone actually is selected. So that's not the only thing that we should consider. Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you. And looks like clearly for Sally.

SALLY COSTERTON:

Thank you, Sajid. Thank you for that detailed feedback, it's very helpful. Yes, I hear what you're saying. Well, let me just, I do hear what you're saying. I think what you're saying is there was a lot of information available. You're not saying there isn't information available, you're saying it's scattered, and that's the key point I want to make here. So we are very aware of this inside the organization. I mean, not necessarily that it's scattered, but in a perfect world, you have a sort of a single-entry point, which is what you were describing, where it kind of, you can follow exactly the threads you want to follow.

So I think we understand the desire for that and we can understand why that would make a lot of sense. Achieving that is not as straightforward as people might imagine, but that doesn't mean it's impossible. And over time, you know, we've invested a lot over the last few years in the way we structure data and the way we manage documents that serve our web platforms. Those plenty of engineers in the room that know better than me how to do that.

But there's a lot of documentation in order to provide that in a way that makes sense, and we are working on an ongoing project to make sure that, that we get to that sort of destination. So I think exactly how you would describe it. I think we all broadly understand what you mean. I think there's a good common understanding that, yeah, you know, and then you get to the language question. So if I can get to that portal or whatever word you want to use it, we don't just want it to be in English

because we've just been having long discussions today already about the need for a multilingual internet. So thank you, it's really important.

We are doing lots of work on it. I'm happy to say technology is advancing quite fast and is making this much more feasible, I would say, in the way you envisage it than perhaps it would've been three or four years ago. So this gives me a lot of hope that we've made a lot of difference already, and I think that availability is much better than it used to be. But that sense of how do we bring it together, that's the priority we're looking at now. Thank you.

JEAN FRANCOIS QUERALT: Thank you.

SAJID RAHMAN: Thank you, Sally. And with that, we close our block three, and I hand over the mic to Tripti Sinha, our Board chair.

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you, Sajid. I'd like to thank everyone who participated today. Wow, those were a range of questions that ranged from being very practical, pragmatic to very striking and fantastic. I hope we were able to answer all your questions. If you were not able to ask a question or make a comment, please email it to publicforum@icann.org and we will respond to you via email. If you had a question written in the Q&A pod that wasn't answered, we will forward a response to you.

To my colleagues on the Board, thank you for this discussion. And on behalf of the Board, I extend our appreciation to the language services team for your exceptional support during this session. And to Andrea Glandon for managing the remote interactions so well. We will see you next at the ICANN Board meeting, which will be held in this room at 16:30 PM local time. This session is open to all. We look forward to your participation at the ICANN81 annual general meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, whether you are here physically attending or have participated virtually. Again, thanks for being here and for making your voice heard. This meeting is adjourned.

ANDREA GLANDON: Thank you. You can stop the recording.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]