
ICANN82 | CF – GNSO: NCSG Membership Work Session
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ANDREA GLANDON

Hello and welcome to the NCSG Membership Work Session. My name is Andrea and I am a Participation Manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand and zoom.

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RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Andrea, and thanks, everyone, for joining us today. At the end of this day, after a long marathon of session, I have good news. This will be the last NCSG session this week, so you will be free after. Okay, so in terms of Agenda, it's quite open so we can move things around. But just to maybe to explain about the purpose or the rationale behind. So, we'll try to get some updates about the joint session. We had several of them this week. The idea is just to get a

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quick update, but to think about the follow-ups really to be outcome oriented.

Then also, if we can get some policy updates from the Policy Committee and GNSO Council session. We heard several of the updates on several topics. So, here is just maybe I will ask Tomlin to be brief and also just to highlight any pending matter that needs some discussion. And then also we have, we can get update about the NCSG issue forum and the other session, the Human Rights Impact Assessment on DNS Abuse.

Again, to get some update or report from the session. But the most important again is to see how we will follow up if there is anything we need to change or to tweak. And also, we'll have a guest and that will be Russ Weinstein, who is the new vice president for the Policy Development. So, I met him before with Kurtis for that CEO one-to-one, but I thought it's a good idea to bring him to discuss with us so we can hear from his side what his kind of plan or goals, but also from our side to share our thoughts or what kind of we are expecting. Also, we'll see if there is any other business. So, if anyone wants to bring something. So, this is the agenda for today.

Okay, so maybe we can start with a second agenda item, which is the update from the NCSG showing session. So, this time our first meeting was already with the Contracted Party House. So, kind of we resumed that interaction with them. And then in the same day and Saturday, we had our meeting with the Commercial Stakeholder Group. So, that's the Non-Contracted Party House meeting. And it's something we are trying to make it more regular.

And we had kind of interaction or outreach with the GAC on the morning of Sunday. It was 30 minutes, but it was a good opportunity for us to outreach the GAC.

And the last joint session with other SOC's was with the ALAC. We had this morning the joint session with the Board, but that's more quite a regular meeting we have in every ICANN meeting. So, what I would like to hear from get some feedback, your thoughts, what you think, anything kind of interesting from the session we had with those different groups.

Do you think we should keep to have those interaction? Any suggestion for improvement or any idea? So, they will take that to note. And so, when we schedule for the next ICANN meetings, just to take that into account. And already we have to prepare for Prague meeting. So, while we are still here in Seattle. So, seeing if there is any comment or question. Yes, Pedro, please go ahead.

PEDRO LANA

Just a reminder that the ALAC invited us for their session on the ASP and the next round of new utilities tomorrow. It will be, I think, right after lunch. Yeah, that's just that one thing.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Okay, thanks, Pedro, for the reminder. Okay, I'm trying to see if we have any questions. Anyone want to comment here? Okay, yes, Manju.

MANJU CHEN

Thank you, Rafik. So, I guess because I wasn't at the GAC and NCSG session, if anyone was there. I read your summaries, of course. But I want to, like, whoever was there, get a feel of the room. Like, did you feel it was useful? And after that, I will share more.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Okay, I will give it to the GAC. So, I think the purpose was more outreach and to continue what I believe was tried before. It was 30 minutes. And we just really tried to pick up the two topics about the Human Rights Impact Assessment on the DNA Abuse and the Applicant Support Program. So, we got several questions, I believe. I see some comment. I think maybe Pedro and Farzaneh can develop more about this. Is it useful? I believe so. It's good to talk to them, to listen to them, and also to be more visible so we can present ourselves. So, when we have the possibility, why not? The challenge is how we can fit within their agenda. So, they give us that 30 minutes was already the challenge it was against one of the GNS working session. It's not optimal to get other members to join.

For the ALAC, we tried to cover several topics. I was personally worried about that, kind of I regretted. But at the end, I think it went much better from what I expected. And personally, the goal was really just to resume that interaction with the ALAC. I believe we achieved that goal. What I see next is really how we can continue to work with them on some of the topics. So, I think maybe about we get volunteers or people from our side to work with theirs on some of the issues. So, something I would try to

follow up with Jonathan Zuck, the chair of the ALAC. And myself, I think we should try to keep like to meet them.

I know that we disagree in some topics. That's quite understood. But just to try to find alignment on some other topic. And we kind of there are things that like appeared like when we talked about the operating standard, we saw that there is can be some common ground the same like for Applicant Support and so on. So, I think something we can continue. But the most important that's my request, really, we need to work on the agenda beforehand, just what kind of specific topic we want to focus on to get people to lead for that.

MANJU CHEN

So, yeah, I was specifically asking about the GAC because I don't know if I can say this on record, but I was personally kind of offended that we only got merged into open mic when they're like having full sessions with CSG and then CPH and we were like 30 minutes and it is open mic.

So, I complained personally to a person I know in the GAC. And he was like, oh, but GAC members were like, they don't know what you're here for. And they think the agenda wasn't solid enough. But the fact is, I mean, when they're meeting with the CPH, they have no problem with no agenda because they're just in listening mode. So, I guess this is a good try. I think we should continue to push to me with a GAC to make them realize we are worth 60

minutes too. And I'm not blaming anyone, I've mainly blamed the GAC for not knowing us.

It's not staff or us probably not preparing a more solid agenda to make them feel important to us. But I'm just saying that I heard this from them. And I know we have people here that are friendly with the future leadership after this meeting, the future leadership of the GAC too. Probably we can push from that side too to make them realize that we are worth their time. And we actually have more common grounds than we believe that and more topics we can discuss. Thank you.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Okay, let me check. I'm just trying to check who wants to speak just to be sure. So, I think we had Farzaneh and then Dan.

DAN GLUCK

Hey, Dan here from NCSG, but recently GAC support. So, I was here for when these sessions were made and the NCSG was a bit late in getting to the GAC schedule. They're already looking right now at their Prague and their Oman schedules. They schedule things pretty far in advance and they have pretty rock-solid agendas months out. So, this was a little bit on both sides here, just sort of getting a bit late to it.

I do want to say though that the compromise with the open mic session is actually a thank you from the GAC a little bit because of the person to my right, Farzaneh, who in San Juan was the only person to take the GAC up on their offer at their last open mic. So,

it was a bit of a way once they received the request from the NCSG to get there. So, they got the NCSG on the calendar. I don't think there was any problem with the agenda. I think the agenda actually had way more items than what we got down to. So, it wasn't like they were lacking an agenda. It was just that they needed to make sure there was enough to discuss within 30 minutes.

I'm looking at my notes now. It seemed like there was a good amount of support from the GAC in this session, like the who was speaking up, like multiple vice chairs and the chairs while participating. So, I don't think there's anything to really hang the NCSG's head on here. I'm sorry? No, no, so just to wrap up, I don't view it as a negative. The schedule's packed for everybody. But it's a really good starting point. Most of the GAC schedule is taken up by joint sessions. So, this is a way to get your foot in the door, get on some future agendas. Just we've got to plan early for those things. So, start thinking about that for whose agenda you want to be on for Prague, Oman, and beyond. Thanks.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Dan. I guess no good deed goes unpunished because I thought that if we ask for a meeting, well, it seems we have to ask quite early. I think we send like in December or January. So, it's a group. They have their own process and how they schedule the agenda. So, just that's one improvement we can start scheduling from now. And I can also take the experience like even like we could not meet with the SSAC, but we already kind of booked to meet them in Prague.

So, we have to take that into account. That's why I want to be sure if we want to keep meeting with those groups. And so, we can start early and just after we only focus on the agenda. Because one of the challenges is to find time slot. And I'm sorry there was some clashing, but that we cannot prevent. We work it with Andrea. But there are some limits of what is available. So, Manju, you want to add anything? If there is no other maybe question or comment, we can try to do better. Try to meet. Also, if you have other groups you want to meet, let me know. I cannot promise we can do that. But just to be sure that it's something we try to work toward.

If there is no other comment, maybe we can move to the next and discuss more about the policy update. So, get some updates from NCEC policy committee and the council. And I know you wanted to give update about the Continuous Improvement Process.

ABDULKARIM OLOYEDE

So, earlier on, just to give us a little background. Benjamin from NCUC, Wisdom, and I, as well as Manju, are on the Working Group. But she's not, I think she kind of stepped away. Sorry, I still need to give you credit for those few times you participated. All right. So, now we've been working on that Working Group. And they've completed, we've completed most of our processes. And Public Comments have been submitted. And at this stage, the current stage where we are right now, is that they are reviewing all the Public Comments from all the stakeholders that we have in ICANN.

And so, what I'm encouraging everyone to do now is that given that everyone has submitted their Public Comments, it's been curated

together. If you have anything that you are flagging within any of those Public Comments that you feel that it's not something that is in tandem with what we are doing in NCSG, please just notify myself, Wisdom, or Ben, so that during our next few meetings, we can at least flag some of those things. And yeah, so that's the update and things I'm encouraging people to actually take note of what is going on. Yeah.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Okay, thanks, Caleb, for the update about the Continuous Improvement Program Working Group. Okay, any question or comment to Caleb on this matter or topic? Okay, so moving over here to Tomslin. So, basically, if you can give us a quick update, and mostly if we can focus like next step or anything really critical that we have just to be able to update. Act on.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR

Thanks, Rafik. So, yeah, like Rafik mentioned, we've discussed policy already in the previous meeting on policy committee. So, I'll just talk or mention some topics that we've been looking at as NCSG in GNSO and the community in general. And I know that Farzi is going to talk on the Human Rights Impact Assessment, but I just wanted to mention that that has also come up in the council when we were talking about voting on the transfer policy review, Policy Development process final report, which we'll be voting on tomorrow.

So, I just wanted to mention that NCSG has requested that an assessment, a Human Rights Impact Assessment be done in that report after the vote, and we'll send that to the Board. We did speak about DNS Abuse during this week so far, and this is just in the context of the community questioning what next for the council on this topic. So, the council is still deliberating on what to do there. One of the things might be to initiate a small team, which the community is requesting for.

So, you might see that if that comes to pass, there will be a request from the NCSG community for people to resource that group. And then we also discussed billing contact. And for those who do not know what this is, there was a policy that is being implemented now, and this implementation group had an issue with this data set, billing contact, which the policy doesn't require for it to be collected, but it's not explicitly written in the policy.

So, the council's been discussing how to advise that group, the implementation group, how to implement that policy and address this. So, we do not have an outcome of that conversation yet, so you'll probably get an update from councilors on the outcome of that. The other topic is on Urgent Requests, and this, again, is another implementation group that is looking at implementing requests for data, of registrant data policy. And they had an issue on timelines, how to implement timelines for urgent requests. So, that's really what it is about.

Unfortunately, the Board didn't think that was feasible because there was no way to authenticate those who will be making this

request. So, the update here is that the council, the GAC, and the Board had a trilateral meeting, and the GAC has offered to develop an authentication system, and that will input into this conversation on how Urgent Requests can be implemented. Again, there is no outcome, specific outcome on that. That is still a conversation that's ongoing.

The next one is about Data Accuracy. And this is not a new issue, but it's coming back up to the agenda, only because eyes have been put on this in the past because there was no data available for the team that was meant to scope this issue. So, the community is asking for this to come back on the agenda. We had received a request to provide input into what we think, we believe this accuracy is about and its impact and all that. And so, the community is looking at the council now to see what they're going to do with this, just so you know that there are all eyes on the council on what the council is going to do following this information they've collected from the community.

No action at this time, but possibly a team will be formed or this issue will be bundled with another team. But again, you'll get feedback from councilors on the conversation on this.

Finally, for me, Public Comments. We currently have two Public Comments open. One is the proposed updates to the Operating Standards for Specific Reviews. The Second Is the Fourth Proceeding for Proposed Language for Draft Sections of the Next Round of the Applicant Guidebook. These are still ongoing proceedings. So, if you're interested in any of these two, please

reach out to me and I'll put you in contact with the current drafting teams.

Then we have an upcoming Public Comment proceeding which is a bit technical, but it's the second IANA Naming Function Review Team Draft Report. So, if you're interested in the technical aspects of IANA's Naming Functions, then you want to contribute to this. But yeah, that's it for me, Rafik. I'll answer any questions that you have. Thanks.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Tomslin. See if anyone wants to add to what Tomslin said or if you have any question or comment. Okay, so I guess just Tomslin, understand there are several points from what you listed. It will be decided tomorrow in the council or maybe there will be next steps also decided. So, I think just here the request is to confirm it for us, for NCSG what should we do. I guess that maybe what we should highlight, maybe not now, but it's something we have to follow up and we can share with the rest of the membership.

Okay, no question or comment. I know it's the last, really, we are at the end of the day. I sympathize, but please also sympathize with me. I'm trying to manage this session. So, if there is no other question, I guess we can move to the item number four. The idea here is to hear also again, really brief, quick update. But again, it's to think what we should do next, what kind of outcome we are looking for. Because I think there are some updates that was

shared, but hear more to think about the next steps. So, who want to start first, Farzaneh or Pedro?

FARZANEH BADIEI

Okay. Thank you, Rafik. So, what should we do next? Manju asked a great question on whether, like how are we going to make these GAC meetings and meetings with other advisory committees useful? And I think that first by starting the conversation, we have come a long way. But what I would like to see is to see human rights language in their communiqué and in their conversation. I know I'm ambitious in their conversations. And one of the things that I was thinking about when they were discussing accuracy.

So, what I want Manju to happen is that I want them to automatically when they discuss accuracy, they think about human rights as well. I know I'm just ambitious. So, what I thought that maybe for the communiqué, we can have a group that works on analyzing the communiqué and see how that, what sort of Human Rights Impact some of their requests have and raise awareness about it with them. Like in good faith effort to say, hey, you're asking for this, but there are implications for human rights. And here we have laid them out.

So, then we can have like a great agenda. We can go through the communicate. We can tell them what sort of human rights implications they have because I think governments are mainly there to protect human rights. And not to violate them. So, that's one thing that we can do. The Human Rights Impact Assessment session that we did with the support of the Contracted Party House

DNS Abuse group on Saturday was very well received. And I think we have made great progress on like being objective and wanting to do something practical.

So, the next step after that session is to work on guidelines for Human Rights Impact Assessment when they mitigate DNS Abuse. And we can have like a deadline and come up with those guidelines kind of be with the community and we can get feedback from the community and we can also like socialize it during our meetings with all these other advisory committees.

If Michaela is online, I would like her because we did that session and we are doing the whole HRAA with Sarah and Michaela. And if she's online, I just wanted to know if she wants to say a few. Yes, great.

MICHAELA SHAPIRO

Yes, hi, I'm here. Thanks so much Farzaneh. Thanks everyone. Just bear with me. It's a bit late London time. But just to say, yeah, Farzaneh summarized that perfectly. What we are really keen to get out of this is essentially more feedback, more buy-in from the different registrars that we've been working with. And ideally, beyond some of those, just the two big ones that we've been working on or working with.

So, we'll be preparing, we'll be doing some work on the side in preparation for what we'd like to do for the next session, which I think the exact format is still to be determined. But really the aim is to have something on paper and some guidelines that we can

really get some kind of buy-in for somewhere like in the next year, but before the end of the year. But that's kind of the ambition at the moment. But yeah, anything I've missed there, Farzaneh?

FARZANEH BADIEI

No, great. Thank you. So yeah, we are going to get back to you on the mailing list. Tapani has made some great comments. We are going to consolidate those and continue to work. Another, I don't know if I can, yes. Is Russ coming at five? Okay, so very quickly. Oh, he's not here. So, okay. I'm your representative on RDRS standing committee. RDRS, for those who don't know what it is, RDRS is this triage system. When WHOIS private domain name registrant information was redacted from WHOIS, then the community asked to have disclosure systems.

So, ICANN came up with this Pilot project for RDRS. That's called RDRS registration data something, something. And so, this is not to disclose the domain name registrant private data to the requester, but it's a triage system that they receive the request and then they will send it to the registrar that has opted in to receive the request. But then the registrar will look at the request and will respond. And it's not affirmative response. It can take the analysis.

So, basically, we are on that. We have this standing committee that works on how this system is working. And we are looking at a few recommendations. And from NCSG part, I have mentioned this a few times. I will also go on the mailing list and mention it. We need to ask for transparency and accountability of the system. So, the requester's transparency, for example, if there are law

enforcement, we need to see in the report that this many law enforcements from these countries have requested, have submitted requests.

And so, we need to work on our recommendation. And I suggest that we come from it from the angle of transparency and accountability of the system. But also, I suggest that we do a mini-Human Rights Impact Assessment of how if the system at the moment has potential Human Rights Impact and what can be done to improve it. Yeah, that's it. Hello, Russ.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Okay. Thanks, Farzaneh. So, just maybe to wrap up on this. So, Farzaneh, I will follow up with you if we will want to schedule a next session. So, we need to be clear about what we can get. And yeah, so we can follow up on that. And about the idea of analyzing the communiqué, I think that's something interesting. And we can also, I take that that's an action item and we can follow up on that.

So, sorry, Pedro, maybe we'll try to cut, go back later about the issue forum. But since we have now with us our guest, Russ Weinstein, who is just to be sure about the title, the Vice President of Policy Development. So, he was just appointed lately and I had a chance to meet with him and Kurtis a few weeks ago. And I thought it's a good idea to have an interaction with him from NCSG just to understand what kind of, I know he's now kind of listening mode, trying to hear from the different part of the community. But we want also to hear from you, Russ, about your thoughts, your

goals. And we hope we have interaction. So, maybe you can say some words.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

Sure. Hi, everyone. As Rafik said, first of all, thank you for having me. And thank you to Rafik for reaching out and asking me to attend and join the NCSG for one of the sessions. And I'm glad we found time to do it. So, I'm honored to be here.

My name is Russ Weinstein. I'm the Senior Vice President, Policy Development Support for ICANN. I started in mid-January. We announced it in early January and got started pretty quick after that. As Rafik said, I've been in listening mode. I had the opportunity to sit with our CEO, Kurtis Lindquist, and do one-on-ones, essentially, with nearly all of the different constituencies across ICANN over a course of about 45, 50 days or so. But it was really enlightening, and it was really helpful.

It was like such a good welcome tour, virtually, to get a touch base with everyone at the leadership level. And then now I'm trying to do my part to try and get around to different parts of the community in this environment, since we have the opportunity to be hybrid, face-to-face, and virtual as well, thanks to those on the phone and zoom. And just an opportunity for me to get to know you, you get to know me. A little bit about me.

I started with ICANN back in late 2012. Before ICANN. I was working in the aerospace industry, supporting the build of rocket engines. For NASA and Air Force and things. I was not a rocket scientist. I

helped the rocket scientists get the parts they needed to make rocket engines. But it is helpful to be able to look at some of the complex discussions we have in ICANN and take comfort that it's not rocket science, and we'll find our way out of it.

I joined ICANN to support the New gTLD program back in 2012. So, I'm starting to experience a little bit of nostalgia and déjà vu for what's going on in ICANN right now. I joined after we had collected applications, collected the money, had some issues with some of the systems, and the team evolved quite a bit. And I joined sort of after that wave to help get the program back on track and processing applications. And I experienced a lot of cool things about having to scramble and build new tools and programs and processes to make them work and make it work effectively. But it was really rewarding.

And in that process, I got to know lots of different parts of the community because we were still sort of building the thing on the fly and had to do so in a very open, transparent, multi-stakeholder way. And lots of people had opinions. And we got to listen to those and experience that. And in that process, I really fell in love with ICANN. I joined from a very business-minded perspective of I'm just coming in to do a job. It's getting applications from one side of a process to another, figuring out processes and tools and things. But as I said, I really fell in love with the multi-stakeholder model. And most of my career with ICANN so far has been on supporting the Contracted Parties or supporting ICANN's relationship to the Contracted Parties, I should say.

I think it does sort of get labeled as supporting the Contracted Parties, but that's really not that role. It's supporting ICANN's relationship with the Contracted Parties and doing what's right for the end-user and doing what's right for the industry as a whole, the ecosystem as a whole. And through that, one of the projects I led was our DNS Abuse initiative, anti-DNS Abuse for clarity, and helping the community come to alignment on the initial definition of DNS Abuse and some reasonable balanced contractual requirements related to mitigating DNS Abuse once it's been identified.

That hopefully sets up the GNSO for discussions about what, if anything, is needed next related to DNS Abuse. Certainly, a continued topic in the ICANN community and one I'll watch carefully and support where I can. In my new role, just getting started, trying to get to know people, understand your experience with ICANN and the policymaking process with the other processes. Reviews have been a real topic this week and we've heard a lot about those. And how can I and my team help each and every group within ICANN continue to participate, continue to be efficient and effective or get better at those things?

What are the tools you need? The skills you might need? Are the processes in place that help you? Are they hindering your work? That sort of thing. So, that's what I'm here for, is to hear and listen and then be able to communicate where I can. So, my agenda for today is sort of ask me anything and I'll see what I can do. Thanks.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks for us. We take this offer. I mean, I can promise we are not going to grill or interrogate you. Just more question and interaction and dialogue. And I think first we have maybe a question from Tomslin.

TOMSLIN SAMME-NLAR

Hi, Russ. Nice to meet you in person. So, I put my hand up because we have a lot of newcomers in the room and a lot of people who might even be all members, but not very engaged in the Policy Development process. And I can say, I just wanted for their benefit to ask, what does a senior vice president Policy Development Support do for the community?

RUSS WEINSTEIN

As soon as I find out, I'll let you know. I'm just kidding. So, I'm one of the CEO's direct reports. I'm responsible for a team of about 37 folks within the policy function, Policy Development Support function. The function as I see it is responsible for a couple of things. We have folks in the back like Andrea, Dan, who help you arrange your meetings, help you design agendas, help you advance work from the way you're thinking about things and synthesizing what you want to talk about and what you are talking about and trying to put that into Policy Development processes or your own statements or those kinds of things.

We manage your membership or we assist you in managing your membership and getting time at ICANN meetings for these different events and meeting with other constituencies or other SGs. So, I

think I said it the other day, basically any call the community is having, my team is involved in helping produce that call from both thinking about when it can be and getting your input on when that can be, arranging it, getting the recordings done, getting them back up on the wikis so you can have it available later, taking notes and feeding that back into leadership.

So, really trying to help you all make informed policy decisions and make that as easy as we can. The topics are hard. We can't do the work for you, but we can try and help you both in getting to consensus and understanding the issues. So, if there's things where we need to find resources who might be in the organization that are experts at a particular subject or whatnot, we can pull those folks in where we can. We can provide information. So, that's my job, is to help them make your job easier.

RAFIK DAMMAK

So, we have a question from you and then you.

MIRACLE ONYEBUCHIM

Thank you very much. My name is Miracle. ICANN Next-Gen participant and of course my first ICANN meeting. I just can't get the image of the rocket scientist off my head, but I'm not trying to interview you. So, this is the next question. But in my interactions so far, something that's been very consistent when people talk about Policy Development at ICANN, two things, one is it takes time. And one of the challenges with that is that by the time an issue is raised and the time it goes into effect, the problem that has

morphed into something else and then you start the process all over again. So, it's like an endless loop. And then the second thing is, you talk to different stakeholders and they say, yes, ICANN has a multi-stakeholder model, but there's still some stakeholders that are not happy.

Some stakeholders that still feel they've not been heard or included in that process. Of course, I know that you can't make everybody happy, but I'm curious. Maybe you answered this in your interview. You've been at ICANN for 13 years. What sort of improvements do you think, do you have in mind to bring into the current Policy Development process, especially to take care of these two things?

And I mean, the reason why I've joined this is because I'm also interested in some of the work that I do personally and you would need a lot of policy reviews and development and my generation, we don't want to spend time. We want things done fast, right? So, I'm curious to know just sort of how you've thought about it and the changes you want to bring to that process to take care of these two key things, time and some of the minority groups that still don't feel fully included. Thank you.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

Yeah, thank you. First off, welcome. Thank you for joining. You said it was your first ICANN meeting. That's fantastic. Glad you could make it. Tell your friends, bring them in. I think these issues are related, right? I think it's hard for some participants to stay the

course with Policy Development if they feel like it takes a long time and they don't have necessarily the time to put into it.

So, I think there is some correlation to those two problems of how do you bring in groups that aren't feeling heard as well? And do they really have the stamina to stay in as he's talked about? I think it's not for me to say how policy should change, right? That's a GNSO owned process. So, that's our stakeholder or supporting organization that's responsible for Policy Development. So, it's not a top-down situation where I can just tell them, go fix this and do it this way. But I can, through my team and myself, communicate that this is something we're hearing that needs attention.

I think there's definitely things ICANN can do that we've talked about. I think Kurtis, the CEO talked a little bit about it in his opening remarks. And he's talked about it a couple other places, is figuring out how ICANN as an organization who has to implement the policies of the community can better assess what's going on in the development in more real time and feed that back into the policymaking instead of over the last couple big Policy Development processes.

That analysis happened after the fact and after the Working Group disbanded. And it became really challenging because now what do you do if you've realized all of this good energy and good intentions in development of the policy results in something that's not feasible or so big and expensive that's not really what was thought through or planned for. And how do we make sure we're providing that feedback and maybe it's we're misunderstanding.

Maybe it's the Working Group has more work to do to help make some trade-off decisions about is that something we really need or it would be really hard to do or make it take longer to come to fruition, make it more expensive to come to fruition. So, I think figuring out those feedback loops will be really important. And that's something that hopefully I can help bring to the table in terms of working across with my peers in ICANN. I think a lot of that's already actually gotten started within the GNSO. There's been a lot of good work over the last several years from what I understand in the GNSO related to continuous improvement. So, I don't want to come in and say I'm reinventing the wheel or anything by any means. I think they're on a really good path.

The last few PDPs from what I understand have come in on time and made really reasonable recommendations that should be able to be implemented. So, I think we're seeing good progress, but I hear you on how long policy takes. Be curious what others in the group think about that. And is it the right amount of time, too long, not enough time?

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Russ. And good to hear that finally kind of come to sell that OTP should be. And when we are, we're having the PDP not after because we made the comment in the beginning. We said that it's better to be when we are discussing in the PDP, not after that. And also, happy to hear about that take into account that all that continuous improvement done by the council for quite some years

now. And that focus on project management to get things done on time. Okay, so I think we have Julf.

JULF HELSINGIUS

Thank you, Julf speaking. And thank you, Russ, for being here. Really appreciate that. I don't really have a question. I have more of a comment or discussion, which is I also come from industry and business background. And it took quite a while for me as well to get off my head around this really weird bunch of people who form civil society because it's probably the most unlike a business that you can find in the whole ICANN universe. So, while we really appreciate you being here, we hope you also spend times off on the coffee breaks talking to us and trying to understand our issues because they are very different. Thank you.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

Yeah, thank you. First off, welcome. Thank you for joining. You said it was your first ICANN meeting. That's fantastic. Glad you could make it. Tell your friends, bring them in. I think these issues are related, right? I think it's hard for some participants to stay the course with Policy Development if they feel like it takes a long time and they don't have necessarily the time to put into it.

So, I think there is some correlation to those two problems of how do you bring in groups that aren't feeling heard as well? And do they really have the stamina to stay in as he's talked about? I think it's not for me to say how policy should change, right? That's a GNSO owned process. So, that's our stakeholder or supporting

organization that's responsible for Policy Development. So, it's not a top-down situation where I can just tell them, go fix this and do it this way. But I can, through my team and myself, communicate that this is something we're hearing that needs attention.

I think there's definitely things ICANN can do that we've talked about. I think Kurtis, the CEO talked a little bit about it in his opening remarks. And he's talked about it a couple other places, is figuring out how ICANN as an organization who has to implement the policies of the community can better assess what's going on in the development in more real time and feed that back into the policymaking instead of over the last couple big Policy Development processes.

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RUSS WEINSTEIN

Thank you, Julf. And yeah, I'm available. I'm here. I'm here to listen. I want to learn. So, thanks.

KATHY KLEIMAN

Hi, Russ. I'm Kathy Kleiman. And this is not my first ICANN meeting. You're the new David Olive, right? Is that right?

RUSS WEINSTEIN

New but not improved.

KATHY KLEIMAN

So, it's interesting. A few comments, a few thoughts, and then a wish. So, you mentioned the Contracted Parties. You mentioned the end-users. I could be wrong. A word we haven't heard yet is registrants. And so, I'm going to show a pyramid. The registries at the top, the registrars, and the registrants as a really big base of the pyramid. But sometimes we feel the weights right on top of us, right? I mean, almost everybody here probably has a domain name. And our organizations in NCSG, in the non-commercial

groups as a whole, our constituencies also use their domain names for education, for research, to talk about projects in their communities with water and electricity, were NGOs, were non-commercial, were nonprofit.

And a lot of people depend on our websites and our emails and our listservs. And they're not always popular with our governments. Or there are people who aren't in their home countries anymore publishing information about their home countries. And if it was now, it's completely legitimate speech. But if it was known who was publishing, their families might be arrested the next day. So, I just wanted to, so policies, and we're about to come into, after 25 years, the review of the uniform dispute resolution policy, which unfortunately I was on the final drafting team for.

And one of the things we said then as a brand-new stake, a brand-new group, we weren't stakeholder groups yet, we were still constituencies, was that we had to be fair to those who didn't have trademarks, but who were using their domain names, dictionary words, names, and in common use or for very, very legitimate purposes.

So, here's my wish, here's my plea. We don't have the same voice as our commercial counterparts. We can't match them one for one on comments. We can't match them one for one on speeches. They are paid to be here, and we are not. And so, if you hear us, if you hear a small voice from us, it may be representing a much bigger base of registrants. That just don't have a larger voice to share. And I just wanted to share that. And thank you for listening.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

Thanks, Kathy. I really appreciate the context there. Keep that in mind.

FARZANEH BADIEI

So, welcome. So, we worked with David really well, and he was very attentive to all the groups concerns and needs. And we could potentially help you by letting you know what our concerns and needs have been like throughout the years. One of them is that, well, we are under sourced. And as Kathy said, civil society participation, if we are not there in the room, it's not because the issue doesn't concern us. It's because we don't have the resources and we need to prioritize. So, the other thing is that, so please don't take our resources away. And the other thing is that, and we really appreciate the support that you provide. And Andrea and the team, they're vital for our operation.

And the other things that we mentioned, also the issue of visas. And our members are based in countries that need visa to go around usually to the ICANN meetings at the locations that ICANN decides to have meetings in. And we had raised that with David and there were some progresses. And we also have like a document that says consider these things when you're issuing tickets and stuff like that. So, but I think that we can go back and we can discuss some of our concerns that we raised with David and relay them to you.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

That'd be fantastic. And might I add, if you could also tell me the things that are working well, so I don't inadvertently take something away that isn't broken or something like that. I think that's really important because I might do whack-a-mole and hit the wrong thing.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Farzaneh. So, maybe just to build on what Farzaneh said, kind of follow up. The, in particular for us, the GNSO staff, they are our colleague and friends and we count on them. So, maybe kind of just personal question here is what you will kind of, you can do for them to support them. And also, on the other side, since we are trying to do a lot of policy, but we share that we have kind of resource constraint from in NCSG is what our kind of thinking and how to maybe, I know we heard a lot about the financial constraint, but what any plan really to kind of increase more resources in the GNSO side to support the policy and also to support the group. So, just to know if something you can really advocate and fight for.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

Thanks, Rafik. At this time, I'll be honest, I don't really have plans to change the support levels in any direction. I'm still in the trying to understand what we do, how the team's allocated. I'm bringing the leaders together in April to think through what our core function is, what our core values and purpose are, are we structured appropriately to meet that mission, those sorts of things. So, I'm still in the plan formulation phase, but at this phase,

I don't think anything to be concerned about from a resourcing perspective. So, hopefully that gives you some comfort.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Yeah, just maybe kind of feedback here is to really to think about what we need to increase, to support more, because our councilor shared what the GNSO councilor is discussing. There are a lot of expectations for many policy work, but at the same time, we need to be sure we have resource on our side, resource that support us and resource that support those activities. Again, we hear a lot about the financial constraint. We get that. But at the end of the day, if we want to respond to all the kind of requests or we heard like some maybe groups are frustrated to do that, we need the resources to deliver that. So, you cannot do it without that.

So, just to have that in mind and we can support you. If that's something to be done, and when they're like the budget and the budget, like maybe not for this financial fiscal year, but for next something we can, we support that the GNSO get the policy resources that it requires and also for our side to support our activities. Okay, let's see if there is any.

ANDREA GLANDON

Rafik, Benjamin has his hand up in the room.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Okay, so we have Manju and Benjamin. Okay, so we can start with Benjamin then Manju.

BENJAMIN AKINMOYEJE

Yeah, thank you Benjamin for the record. Congratulations Russ. I just wanted to ask that, if possible, your team should still keep supporting the PDP accelerator, the policy accelerator program. It's a good program and they require more support. I think it became a little bit low, light accelerator. So, if more support can be given to it, it will also support the policy-- what would I call it? Policy pipeline. Yeah, because it develops new understanding for new entrants into the Policy Development process. Thank you.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

Thank you. I'm going to find out more about that. Thanks very much. Is that different than the leadership program that we were talking about yesterday? It is Okay. I'll make sure and circle back with the team.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Manju?

MANJU CHEN

Thank you Rafik. Welcome Russ. I guess since I'm now known for the person who bring up time zones, I just want to say one of my suggestions, I know probably you're not hiring now. If you're hiring in the future, have more people in the APAC region because while we want to do meetings at our time, we understand the restraint, the staff, we shouldn't be requesting staff to wake up at 3 a.m. too just because they have to open a Zoom room for us.

But as long as we don't have any person in APAC that can support us to open the room in our time zones, we are still doing meetings at 9 p.m., 10 p.m., all the way until 2 a.m. So, just in the future, if it's possible, if we open any positions, I think we will strongly encourage you to prioritize people from the APAC area if they're applying. Thank you.

RUSS WEINSTEIN

Thank you. I appreciate that. It's a good reminder to keep on it with the time zone stuff. Definitely an important issue to increase participation and level out that playing field. Thanks.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Okay, thanks, Russ. So, I think we don't have any further question or comment and we'll have to wrap up. So, thanks again for joining us. Hopefully we can keep this interaction and we will go maybe more other questions give you time to get familiar and boarded. So, thanks again for that. So, just to wrap up, usually we have any other business, just to ask if there is something quick. Otherwise, we can close or adjourn this meeting to check if there is any other business. Okay, so I want to thank you all and yes, it was the last NCSG session of the day and of this ICANN meeting.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you, everyone. And just one final reminder, when we get back after this meeting, we will immediately jump into planning for

Prague. So, start thinking about the sessions and we need to do that. Yes, so thank you. You can end the recording.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]