
ICANN82 | CF – ccNSO: Session with ccTLD Related Board Members
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 15:00 to 16:00 PST

CLAUDIA RUIZ

Hello and welcome to the ccNSO Session with ccTLD-related Board Members. My name is Claudia Ruiz, and I, along with my colleague, Joke Braeken, are the remote participation managers 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.

During this session, questions or comments submitted in chat will be read aloud if put in the proper form, as noted in the chat. Interpretation for this session will include English, Spanish, and French. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom, on-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak is speaking a language other than English. And please speak slowly to allow for accurate interpretation. Thank you. And with that, I will now hand the floor over to Molehe Wesi, session chair. Thank you.

MOLEHE WESI

Good afternoon. Good day for those that are somewhere around the world, and good morning. My name is Molehe Wesi. I am from .za. So today, I have ccTLD-related Board members. We're just

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going to have a discussion, and I think it's a tradition that we have had for quite some time, where they would come through and engage us. And hopefully it's not a grilling session. That's why we have the high chairs. We opted to sit in front of the desk, not to make it quite formal.

And how we're going to proceed today is simply allow the members to introduce themselves, share a couple of intros, and then, of course, we'll be using Mentimeter to ask a couple of questions. It's going to be done in two rounds. First round, maybe 5 to 6, 10 questions, and the same for the second round. So, this, of course, would allow the members to take the questions in, rather than allowing them one shot to really respond to a barrage of questions. So, with that said, I will start from Byron's side, and congratulations. Allow members to maybe put disclaimers, if they have to, or just to share a few words. Over to you.

BYRON HOLLAND

Thank you. Byron Holland, President and CEO of CIRA, .ca, and a very, very freshly minted Board member. First, I'd just like to say a big thank you to the community, friends and colleagues in the community who supported me during the election process, and everybody. I feel it is it's a great honour to receive that kind of support and to take on this role, and I really appreciate the community for having the belief and the support of me. And rest assured, I'm going to do everything I can in the ICANN boardroom to help continue to make ICANN the place that we all are passionate about and want to work in. Thanks.

BECKY BURR

Greetings. Becky Burr, ICANN Board, and former long-time member of the ccNSO Council, so I'm the secret third Board member from the ccNSO.

PATRICIO POBLETE

Hello, I'm Patricio Poblete from NIC Chile. I'm in my second term as a Board member. For me, it's always a pleasure to be here with you, looking forward during these meetings to this session. As you all know, most of the stuff we do on the Board is not directly related to ccTLDs, but I do try to keep track of everything that's happening in this room, sometimes showing up here, sometimes trying to have at least the slides on my screen to know what you're discussing. But really, being here and talking with you is really something, as I said, that I look forward to every meeting.

MOLEHE WESI

Thank you. Before we get to the Mentimeter, can you put up the Mentimeter QR code on the screen, please? I'm hoping that everyone will scan except us. While we wait for people to get into the Mentimeter, are there any anything that you'd like to share before we get to the formal part of the session?

PATRICIO POBLETE

Well, I don't know how you're planning to use Mentimeter this time, but I've seen it used in other sessions, and I think it's been really a

great addition to the sessions to be able to get instant feedback at the end of a session about how people felt about it.

MOLEHE WESI

Okay, I took a long shot there. I was hoping you'll add other words, colleagues, but nonetheless, we'll go straight into the Mentimeter. It's just free text for everyone. So, we're going to take Q1 and Q2. I'll just read out the questions as they come up on the screen.

BECKY BURR

I could answer Alejandro's question while we're waiting.

MOLEHE WESI

Which one is that one?

BECKY BURR

The last time we met, I promised that I would give you a timeline for the Board's work on ccPDP3, the dispute resolution process. I think most of you probably know we had a very good conversation with members of the ccNSO in January, at the end of January. We have gone back over the policy. Your responses are understanding. I think we're in a very good space.

The caucus has asked org staff to do the implementation review that is underway now. We expect that they will come back to the caucus at the end of April once they've got that done. The assessment review involves things like, do we need to do a bylaws amendment to figure this out? So details, not really substantive

issues, because I think by the end of our conversation, we were quite in agreement about where things were. So, I can say we plan to have this in front of the Board for a vote in Prague at the latest.

MOLEHE WESI

I think by Stephen's elation at the back there, those are good news for everyone in the community. I think we can go straight into the question. First one, Byron, it's for you.

CHRIS DISSPAIN

Yeah, this is Chris. It's first impressions, Byron, no fists.

MOLEHE WESI

Best impressions.

BYRON HOLLAND

Drinking from the fire hose right now, absolutely. As I think most people here will know, the Board seat that I'm occupying now was vacated. So, it's quite unusual for somebody to step into an existing seat and term. In fact, it's happened very, very rarely in ICANN history. And what that means is once you all voted and it was ratified by the EC, then I had to go through some paperwork with ICANN to basically get access to Board materials, fundamentally.

And that happened Thursday night, late in the evening. And the first Board workshop, I mean, it started 9:00 a.m. Friday. It's Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 9:00 to 17:00. And it was literally real time

getting me what I needed in order to be a participating Board member. So, all that administrative and logistic stuff like emails, Board portal access documents, etc, was happening literally in real time. So, I have to admit, I've been very impressed by the ICANN Board ops team who's made all that stuff happen in very quick order.

As I think many people in this room know, I've been around this space for quite a while. So luckily, I land in that Board workshop with quite a bit of existing knowledge. But of course, there are things that I was aware of in the community, but not necessarily paying attention to in detail. All of a sudden, I'm now paying attention in detail to a whole new set of topics beyond the ones that we traditionally worry about in this space. So, it's been very interesting, a lot of support, a lot of material.

The colleagues around the Board table, I've been uniformly impressed with what I've seen. It's quite varied and diverse people from very, very different backgrounds, expertise, industry sectors. So, that was probably a little broader than I thought. I know many people on the Board, many people are also new to me, but so far seems very collegial, very constructive. And four, five days into this, feeling positive about it, but also recognize it is a very serious commitment that colleagues up here have already made and a lot of information to consume. But I'm excited. And again, thank you so much for your trust.

PATRICIO POBLETE

May I add something? When I arrived in the Board, and that was during the pandemic, I had an induction that took about a week. And I think, mostly for not all of the executives and teams took an hour or so to explain to me how things were. I think you haven't had that and you're still doing okay.

MOLEHE WESI

So, you're literally trying to fix a plain meter. So, no fists. None. That's a good start. Next question, please. Let me read it out. I guess anyone can take it. Do you see any gaps in the ccTLD IANA policy framework that you think the ccNSO needs to work on, different to those identified so far by the policy gap work? Any takers? Becky?

BECKY BURR

I think it's a little premature to comment on this. I think we will be coming to you to ask for some clarification on a policy. That's not necessarily a gap, just a clarification on a policy itself. But I haven't identified any yet. But I'm not committing not to, because I have one possible one in mind.

MOLEHE WESI

That's a fair response. And I think I know where that question comes from. Anything to add, Patricio?

PATRICIO POBLETE Not really. I had the same thing in mind, but I trust Becky to be much more diplomatic in how she expresses it.

MOLEHE WESI Okay, cool. Moving on to the next one. Do you feel enough progress has been made between ICANN81 and 82? What has materially changed between the two meetings? Any takers? Or should I start with Byron?

BYRON HOLLAND Honestly, from a Board perspective, not having had that insight from the inside of the Board, it's difficult for me to say. So, I think I'll pass it. I feel like I may say this more than once in this session, having just started five days ago. But I have great colleagues here.

PATRICIO POBLETE Well, things keep moving along. And even though sometimes one might think that nothing really makes progress, in practice, it does. I mean, last time we were still discussing about the grant program. Now it's already having a bunch of first recipients. The Next Round is, again, making good progress and keeping to its schedule.

In terms of the things that we have on our plate in the Board that are related to ccTLDs, the consideration by the Board of the policy proposals, again, it is making progress. We are closer to, and you just heard the timeline that Becky presented. And I am chairing the group that is dealing with ccPDP4. And again, the staff has done a lot of good work analyzing it. And we are now progressing through

that. And I hope pretty soon we'll be done with that and we'll be able to propose to the Board a resolution on that policy too.

MOLEHE WESI

Becky?

BECKY BURR

So, we have a CEO. That's one big change. And I think we've seen a lot of, there's been a lot of work associated with the onboarding. As Patricia just said, a lot of work goes on. There has been an enormous amount of work on the Next Round. The next chunk of the Applicant Guidebook is out for comment now. I think in between now and then, the Board and the CCO demonstrated the utility of conversation as opposed to letter writing. In our discussion on the ccPDP3, we sort of moved that policy forward in a good way. We've had several good conversations with the GAC along in the same line of trying to be conversational.

And so, we all work and slightly have responsibility for moving slightly different things forward. But I don't feel like there was much of a Christmas break. And we've been working just a few weeks ago, we were together in Los Angeles for a Board workshop. We're working on objective setting for the CEO. And we're moving that schedule up at Kurtis's request so that his objectives will be set simultaneously with the launch of the operating plan for next year. So, the compensation committee is working through that process with Kurtis. As he gets to the organization and talk about drinking

from a fire hose, I think Kurtis is probably the living embodiment of that metaphor.

MOLEHE WESI

Sure. Thanks for the responses. Next question, please. Okay. What are the three hot topics related to the ccNSO recently discussed in the Board? Or why are they important? Of course, without revealing too much, but I know it's quite a difficult question. So, you want to go for it, Patricia?

PATRICIO POBLETE

I'm not sure. I mean, it's been a while since we had any resolution dealing with ccNSO stuff. But as I said, we are working on not on the Board itself, but on caucuses. And those are two hot topics, as the question says, that are very important for the community. And we are very aware of the importance that they have. So, that would be two. I don't know if you want to add a third one.

BECKY BURR

Well, I mean, let me just take the elephant in the room. We all saw the domain insight report on .su. I just want to say to everybody, there has been no formal letter kicking off any process on there that's clear. We are looking at the ccNSO policy. And I don't want to say anything more about that other than to say whatever was in the domain insight article, there has been no formal initiation of a retirement process.

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- MOLEHE WESI Interesting. So, Byron, you survived this one. So next question, please. I think that's a follow up. In line with Becky's feedback on ccPDP3, I'm not sure about the acronym, RM, when should the ccNSO expect a concrete response? I think--
- BECKY BURR So, Prague. I mean, the caucus will reach a conclusion, we hope, at the end of April. We'll start briefing the Board in our meetings in May. And the goal is to have a vote on the policy in Prague.
- MOLEHE WESI No, thanks for the response. I was just going to say ask and answer, Prague, and then we'll move on to the next one. But thank you very much. Next one, please. Byron, what committees are you on, or want to be on?
- BYRON HOLLAND Conferring on what is Board confidentiality at this point. But in fact, we were just in a meeting where we walked through. And I will be on the Board finance committee and the Board audit committee to start with. Not that I'm looking to do a whole bunch more committees. But in the beginning, those are the two that I will be starting with. And that will come to the Board meeting yesterday. So, it's not official until the resolution happens, but it's not confidential either.

BECKY BURR

Right. So, another way of saying it is unless the whole Board votes no, which is highly unlikely to happen. I mean, obviously it's wonderful to have the ccNSO has been so involved in the budget process for so long in such a constructive way. So, having that expertise come be added to the expertise on the Board is extraordinarily welcome. And as chair of the BGC, I was delighted that Byron was interested in those committees.

MOLEHE WESI

Interesting choices. I know you will do good. Next question, please. What are your thoughts regarding the several review cycles listed in the bylaws that are overlapping with each other? Any takers?

BECKY BURR

Let me say, there's a bylaw requirement that we have an ATRT4. It seems to me that the community is very loaded up with continuous improvements, although I think that's been launched. Whatever the Pilot Holistic Review is, is out there, and it is sort of PDP3. I think that we have to make sense of these in a way that align with the ability of the community to undertake the work.

I will say, for myself personally, that I believe we need to look at the whole specific review structure with fresh eyes. We took that whole cloth when we moved into the 2016 transition bylaws. We adopted that. Those were a set of reviews that Larry Strickling and Fadi decided on, and I think it is important for us to understand why we conduct these reviews and if they're accomplishing what we need.

So, I am in favor of, no matter how we do it, and it could be ATRT4 as a vehicle for starting that conversation or some other conversation, I just think we cannot endlessly lock ourselves into this cycle of reviews where we start another review before we've actually had the opportunity to implement the recommendations of the previous review and see what's happening with them.

Let me just say, this is a very complicated topic. I'm sort of stating my views, and they're maybe overly simplistic, but there is a bylaws provision that we have to deal with, and we also have to be mindful of the accountability issues that are associated with it. So, I'm not taking it lightly. I just think it would be unaccountable of us to do this without thinking about whether we're getting what we need out of this and whether the enormous amount of work we call on the community to do for these reviews is producing the results that we're looking for.

PATRICIO POBLETE

Okay. These reviews are, in principle, fundamental for ICANN because they reflect the commitment that we've made to be transparent, to be accountable, but we have to consider how they are working in practice and see if we, first, what we're doing in the current situation with the constraints that we have, and then if we look to the future, how should they be in the future.

The cadence, the sheer volume of recommendations that they produce, literally hundreds of recommendations, it should be possible to make this a better organization without having to do hundreds of modifications. There should be a way to prioritize, and

more is not necessarily better in terms of recommendations, but that would really mean that the working groups and the experts that work on this were really conscious that whatever list of, or sometimes huge list of recommendations that they're producing will have to be put in practice by the same community, and which has limited resources to do all this.

MOLEHE WESI

Yeah, go for it, Byron.

BYRON HOLLAND

I think that it's important that we as a community think about balancing what I see as the three key elements, right? One is the fundamental purpose. Why do we do these things? What is the purpose? Which is accountability-related, transparency-related. That's one thing. There's also the bylaws themselves that prescribe it. We can't just skate around them. They are there. We need to live up to them or do something with them somehow.

And then the other one, of course, that Patricia just mentioned, which I think is also very important, it's us who do all the work. And every community that I've listened to, especially in the last couple of days, has said some version of something I heard in here for years, which is there's only so much volunteer capacity, right? And what is the highest best use of that limited precious resource? So how do we find our way out of that catch-22 of meeting the purpose of all of this work with the practical reality that it takes a lot of time

by the very people in this room who are doing many other things as well?

And the thing that I heard over the last couple of days in this new role, sitting with every single community group or constituency group, was it wasn't unanimous, but it was the significant majority that said we need to find a practical, pragmatic way through this. And there did seem to be consistency, not unanimity, but consistency through most of the constituency groups that I heard. The pragmatic is important.

MOLEHE WESI

Interesting responses. I think maybe a thought for you, the load, then the efficiency, because you're dealing with so many from so many constituency groups. What would then be the efficiency? Does that not speak to the protected process to approve? That's what I'm thinking. I'm thinking out loud here as you are saying all of these things. You want to balance efficiency with throughput and applying your mind to things that are tabled. Does not that affect you as a team and a collective in terms of throughput? It's a fair question, I believe. Have you not experienced that?

BECKY BURR

Board are volunteers too, pretty much, and there are capacity issues. I think Byron is beginning to get a sense of it, but it's a lot of work. We have to have enough Board capacity to be liaisons, to interact with the community on that. I'm not just saying it's only the capacity of the community that's constraining it. Every part of

this organization has capacity limits, and we have to be sensible about how we allocate them.

PATRICIO POBLETE

We should not forget the staff. The staff does a huge amount of work. They prepare lots of material for us. We, as a Board, would be totally unable to do what we do without a lot of work from the staff. And they are being asked to do more with less. You know that we have had to make some painful decisions in ICANN to be able to meet our financial constraints, so we should be mindful also of what's being asked of the staff.

MOLEHE WESI

Thank you. We can move to the next question. I saw it, I glanced at it, I think it's similar to this one. I think it's more or less similar, but just to read it out and to be fair to the person that asked the question. Do you have any thoughts on whether we should consider the solution Tripti suggested and pause reviews while the community works out a new system for reviews and what we should be reviewing? Do you feel you have answered it in part and you would like to get more?

PATRICIO POBLETE

I don't know if that's exactly what Tripti suggested, but she's very conscious of all what we just said, the necessity to be pragmatic, but also of following what the bylaws say or doing something about the bylaws.

BECKY BURR

Or using a review to start to answer that question. So, there are a million different-- I think the fundamental question that Tripti was asking was does it make any sense to continue down this road unless we know why we're doing these, what we expect to get out of them, and whether they are properly constructed to give us what we need. But I think beyond that, there are a million different ways of considering it. Chris had some suggestions that I think were very interesting as well. So, I think we'll go back, but this will be a dialogue with the community.

BYRON HOLLAND

And I think just to speak to the question specifically, to add a little bit of context to it, Tripti in the course of suggesting a whole range of things said this. So, did she say this? Yes, she did. But it wasn't like, this is what we should do. It was in the context of all kinds of ideas being exchanged. So, I just want to maybe set the record straight a little bit, at least from what I heard. It was just one of many possibilities, not the possibility.

MOLEHE WESI

Fair enough. Interesting. I was amused use a review to review how we review. It's just too much. So next question, please. What does the Board think as the role of the ccNSO in the .su retirement policy and subsequent process? I think we took a jab at it, but now it's much more direct. So, you want to take it, Becky?

BECKY BURR

I think the role of the ccNSO is to establish the policy. And I don't want to say a lot more than that. I don't think it would be appropriate to call on the ccNSO to make decisions with respect to any particular CC in this case. But the role is to make the policy.

MOLEHE WESI

Thank you. Well balanced response. Very diplomatic. Next question. On the Board consent agenda is contracting for ICANN88. How closely is the Board watching "how we meet"?

BYRON HOLLAND

From my brief perspective, very closely. There was a significant amount of conversation, both in Board workshop and Board discussions, as well as discussions across multiple communities. So, I would say it was very much a topic of conversation. And again, different ideas being surfaced, introduction maybe more virtual, less virtual, heard a lot of feedback from community, the different constituencies that I would say to my ear almost universally continue to support regular face-to-face meetings. Again, not unanimity, but significant majority seem to support that.

But then just also other ways of doing it. Could they be shorter? Could you bolt on other ICANN meeting, smaller meetings to the main ICANN meeting to reduce travel costs potentially, those kinds of things. So, again, quite a few ideas floating around, trying to a great degree to limit costs and complexity. I mean, that was one of the key drivers, not the only one, one of the key drivers. And I think

what we heard an awful lot of was face-to-face meetings really allow people to build trust, get work done quickly. And that continued to be the paramount issue is whatever you do, make it in the service of doing the work well. And that, I think that message was consistent across everything. So, yeah, it was definitely a hot topic over the last few days.

MOLEHE WESI

I think it will be remiss of me not to share the sentiments of the colleagues yesterday. One of the questions that came up as we're giving feedback, because I was part of the discussion group was, we must not forget why we have in these meetings. And in me sharing this point, I'm hopeful when it comes in front of you, you'll ask the same question.

One of the other issues is the experience. We might be trying to solve a problem, which is good, well and good for sustainability, but closing another door for access for other people, because not all of us are equal in this playing field. It makes it quite more difficult if we place more stumbling blocks to get to meetings. So hopefully with that, it will be carried forward.

Next question, please. We jump from 17 to 19 now. What risks does the Board see for ICANN from the WSIS/IGF discussions this year? What can the ccNSO members do to mitigate against these risks?

BECKY BURR

Well, I think the risks are-- Well, I think we understand that there are some governments that would like the internet governance, the

role that ICANN plays to be taken in a different arena, in a more multilateral sense. I think we have strong supporters for the multi-stakeholder model and we're continuing to work very hard on that. The ccNSO, members of the ccNSO have been among the most active both at IGF in Riyadh and in the online discussions on this pushing, I think it's fair to say, ICANN to make the case for the multi-stakeholder model in the best possible way. And I think that's what we need to continue to do.

We also, and I think we sometimes skip over this, we've talked about we need to be able to not just be in a defensive posture about the multi-stakeholder model, but to really talk about what are the successes, what is it enabled, what do we see as a result of the multi-stakeholder approach to governance of the internet. But also, we have to do our job. We have a specific remit here at ICANN and to the extent we do our job and we do it well and we do it efficiently and effectively, that's the best defense we have.

BYRON HOLLAND

I'll just add on to that. I think Becky's last comment is the key one. Do our jobs well, that's the best defense. But I think we can also highlight the job that we do and that's also important to communicate those successes, to communicate the benefits across a range of forums. And this is a unique group.

We are the ccTLD for each of our respective countries and I know we're all different in different ways, but for those of us who have constructive relationships with our own governments and recognizing that's not everybody in this room, but for those that do

working with your own government to highlight the benefits of the multi-stakeholder model, the successes of ICANN, the successes of how we've actually operated the internet over the last 25 years, where we can engage with our own governments in a constructive way, I think that's very useful as members of the ccNSO.

And in the different ways that we can communicate into those forums like the IGF or the Global Digital Compact is now behind us, but that kind of thing. We as a ccNSO, but also just as ccTLD operators, have different avenues that we can communicate our message into those forums, whether it's as a group or as an individual ccTLD. Those are all things that we can do.

PATRICIO POBLETE

I would just add to that that recognizing the great work that this community has already done, taking initiatives to organize the technical community around this, but we will have to increase our efforts at home with our governments, with the local community, too, because if anything, I think that the risks are greater than they used to be. There might be realignments of forces that were not like that before, so we should be ready to do more than we've done as a community.

MOLEHE WESI

What I'm picking up is bending together, sharing success stories with government, and showing the model works. Sounds about it. I think I'll close the queue at 20 questions because I'm looking at my time, and we still have five more questions to go. So next

question, please. Hopefully it's an easy one. Would a shorter cycle of continuous improvement be a better fit than reviews that take years to complete and even more years not to implement the recommendations?

BYRON HOLLAND

I think we covered some aspect of this in the previous questions around reviews, and I would say that this was the kind of dialogue that we were having in the Board workshop, as well as what we've heard from other communities, that is too long, too interconnected, or overlapping. Can we have shorter, for those of us who are the tech operators in this room, can we have more like sprint cycles to develop continuous improvement or to deliver on continuous improvement? So, I can't answer it specifically, but what I can say is it was definitely part of the conversation.

PATRICIO POBLETE

I've been away from the day-to-day workers of the community for too many years now, but from what I hear, this particular community does have experience on continuous improvement that we can all contribute to the whole of the ICANN community.

MOLEHE WESI

I think that would be great. To share my experience. When I came into the community, some of the things I picked up through the process of continuous improvement I've applied in my own organization, it works well. So, they could learn from us, and understandably so overseeing such a big organization at times, it

has its own, I know, snags. That's a disclaimer for you, but nonetheless, we take the responses. Next question, please. Byron, do you have a rough idea of what your positive impact as a Board member will have to be for you to conclude after your first term that it was all worth it?

BYRON HOLLAND

That's a good question. I know many of you well over a long period of time, and like many of you, I'm a true believer in the mission and purpose of this organization, and that it has delivered an incredible amount to an incredible number of people globally. Part of it is just to continue to give back into that community in a different way than I have over the years, like many people in this room. In specific, after one term, so this term for me will last two years, because I'm stepping into an existing term, and I think it's twofold.

One is that I've actually had the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to ICANN the org in the role as a Board member. So, I'm going to start in the finance working group and audit. For me, that's kind of natural terrain that I can hit the ground running and make a significant contribution, and also remember the days of being the SOPC chair myself and all the work that this community has done. So, I think that's straightforward ground for me to be able to land in and make a meaningful contribution to the ICANN Board in short order.

And then from the other perspective, which is the ccNSO perspective, we have so much knowledge in this room about how the internet actually works and operates, both the technical side

and the business side. I think that I can deliver a lot of value as a result of that into the boardroom. There's a lot of great folks in the boardroom, but there's not that many folks who come from the business of our business, and I think that I'll be able to add a bunch of value there that is infused with ccNSO DNA and bring that value into the Boardroom.

So, those would be two of the key things that I'd be looking to judge if I'm successful. And then I guess the third thing, of course, is the feedback I get from you folks. Like, are we doing what we need to do from your perspective?

MOLEHE WESI

Judging from my colleagues in the room, feedback you'll get. Next question, please. The other way, the other way. One more. Thank you. Is the discussion on reducing the frequency of meetings to two yearly instead of three dead?

BECKY BURR

I'm just going to echo what Byron has previously said. We've spent a lot of time talking about it. I don't really remember anyone saying that moving to two was a good idea. So, I won't say it's dead, but I will say that in our discussions with the community this week, the value of face-to-face meetings has been reinforced across the Board. And let me just say, this is not going to be a top-down decision from the Board in any case. There will be more discussion and the community will be involved in all of the decisions.

MOLEHE WESI

Thank you for the response. Next question, please. Almost there. Becky, it's obvious for those who know you what you bring to the Board and to the community as a Board member. Can you share what it brings to you personally?

BECKY BURR

Wow. I have been involved in ICANN for a really long time and I don't want to get too emotional about it, but it is sort of my professional life's work. So, what it brings to me personally is seeing the success of this organization and all of the friends that I've made here over the years. So personally, it's my family in many ways. It's incredible friendships that I've made, incredible learning from everybody from all around the world, and the joint effort to get this moving and move it in the right direction.

When I started out doing work on the Internet, it was very shortly after the World Wide Web was available and very shortly after the commercial Internet existed. And the Internet at that point in time, I remember, was going to end world hunger and cure AIDS and do everything in the universe. It was the topic, the hottest topic that everybody wanted to be involved in. So, I felt incredibly lucky to have had it fall into my lap in a way.

I was amused in Riyadh that almost every single topic on the agenda at IGF related to artificial intelligence. There was like one AI session after another and I thought, okay, now AI is going to do what we all thought the Internet was going to do. But I mean, the

Internet really is an incredible thing. It has contributed so much to the world and it has so much more to contribute. And its contribution is dependent on the work of the people in this organization. So, it's very fulfilling, but also, it's just like it's home. It's my friends.

MOLEHE WESI

Thank you. You deserve that. I see 23 questions. If time allows, we'll go to the three, but I did indicate that we're stopping at 20. Can you move to what's supposed to be the last question? How do you think the Board should react if there were to be a push to re-nationalization of control of the route by the new regime in DC? That's it.

BECKY BURR

I feel like I have to take this one.

MOLEHE WESI

Go for it.

BECKY BURR

I have my Ukraine pin on. I tried to get them to put the flag on the back of this, but here I am. People have asked me how I am, and honestly, I have said to several people, "I'm an American. How do you think I am?" This is incredibly disorienting and incredibly worrisome. And things much larger, the whole post-war world

order is kind of on the shredding block. So, I don't want to minimize how alarming I personally feel. This is not an ICANN Board view.

Having said that, ICANN has had four years of Trump administration with no particular difficulties. Some of the administrators of NTIA were extremely strong supporters. The first Trump administration put Doreen Bogdan into ITU, and at NTIA and the interagency working group so far, I don't see a lot of changes. We will, of course, be very careful and very mindful and very watchful and be prepared to respond. But again, I think our job is to do our work and to demonstrate that this organization works and that it is the right way to do the work that we do.

And just in terms of renationalization of the control of the route, I just want to remind people, John demonstrated a long time ago that was very difficult to do. I received the phone call at 8:00 a.m. one morning saying, by the way, it looks like the authoritative route has moved someplace else. And I hate it when people channel John. But in this particular thing, I'm not sure everybody in the US government learned the lesson, but the lesson clearly was you can try it, but you won't succeed. So, I don't think that renationalization of the control of the route is a thing that we should-- There are lots of ways that they could make life difficult for us, but we should not be alarmist. And I think I don't want to say keep our heads down, but like we shouldn't have huge debates about renationalizing. I don't want to give them any ideas. How about that?

MOLEHE WESI

Thank you, Becky. I think we have time to squeeze in one more. But as we move to the other one looking from the outside in, my plea would be it's nice coming to ICANN and finding a very apolitical environment. It would be important to maintain that spirit, simply because it makes it more interesting. For some of us who work quite closely with our government, and I can assure you this question has come up, I think, in the past month more than twice. And one has to always reassure them it won't happen. It's impossible to happen. So maybe, possibly, you can carry the same message to say, you know what, we look at developments, we are conscious of developments, but we stand on the sideline. We don't pick sides. That would be important, but that's just me.

PATRICIO POBLETE

If I may add something to that. Yeah, but we should be conscious that these are not normal times. Not at all. So, we should hope for the best. We should do our job well, as it's said, hoping that, in particular, this Doge wave will not reach NTIA, for instance, in a destructive manner. Because as long as we're talking with the people we always do, or similar people, that's okay. But if this destructive wave comes and slips everything, who knows what will happen.

And so, for the time being, I guess, doing our job well, getting people to understand what we do, how well this essential component of the Internet works, the control of the route, and particularly, as Ronald Reagan would say, if it isn't broke, don't fix it. I hope they listen more to Ronald Reagan.

MOLEHE WESI

No, thank you very much. I think I shot myself in the foot. This one is quite difficult. The last question, before we move to the last Mentimeter evaluation slide, 35 strategic initiatives is a lot. Which ones will have the greatest impact, or do any of you feel that most passionate about? So, Patricia, I heard the sigh, so you want to go for it?

PATRICIO POBLETE

I'm thinking of taking a pass.

MOLEHE WESI

Taking a pass, that's fair. Becky?

BECKY BURR

Yes, there are a lot of-- 35 strategic initiatives is a lot. I think the most important thing that we have to do, and this impacts the CCs as well, we have to figure out how to develop policy effectively. For me, how we bring people to the table, how we have educated conversations and dialogue, how we reach consensus, which sometimes requires compromise, that has been something that's very elusive.

I'm sure many of you have heard Mike Palage stand up and talk about the UDRP, the dispute resolution, and how quickly it was adopted. It was adopted quickly. There were 25 people in the room in 1999 when it was adopted. We don't have 25 people in the room, and I don't think we figured out how to scale. To me, that's the

most important of the strategic initiatives, is getting the policy development process straightened out.

MOLEHE WESI

That's a fair, perfect answer. I think this brings us to the end of the session. I think I would like everyone to join me to thank the three colleagues for really being a good spot. With that said, please, we can move to the last slide of evaluating how the session went. Feedback, again, is always good. If everyone can scan, I think while we do that, we can release the colleagues. Thank you very much for everyone else's attention, and enjoy what remains of your sessions. Cheers.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]