
ICANN82 | Prep Week – Policy and Advice Update
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ANDREA GLANDON

Hello and welcome to the ICANN82 Prep Week Policy and Advice Update webinar. My name is Andrea Glandon and I am the Remote 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.

During this session, questions or comments should be submitted to the Q&A pod. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the moderator. You may also raise your hand to ask a question.

Interpretation for this session will include Spanish and French. Click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room and once the session facilitator calls upon your name, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Before speaking, ensure you have selected the language you will speak from the interpretation menu. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak, if speaking a language other than English, and please speak at a reasonable pace. I will now hand the floor over to Mary Wong. You may begin.

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MARY WONG

Thank you very much, Andrea. And good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to all of our community and our stakeholders who have taken the time to join the team here for the ICANN82 edition of the Policy and Advice Update webinar as part of Prep Week for ICANN82, which begins at the end of next week.

My name is Mary Wong. I'm the Vice President for Strategic Policy Management at ICANN, and together with some of my colleagues today, we are very happy to have the opportunity to assist in your preparations for ICANN82 by providing you with a very brief overview of the multitude of activities, projects, milestones, and achievements across all of our supporting organizations and our advisory committees from the time we last met at ICANN81 and now going into ICANN82, the meeting in Seattle, Washington in the United States.

Typically, we go right into the update, but today I have the very great pleasure of introducing you all or reintroducing some of you, as the case may be, to our new Senior Vice President for Policy Development Support, Mr. Russ Weinstein, who is crossing over a part of the ICANN organization to join us in the Policy Development Support Function. I believe, Russ, you have been in this position for something like a month and a half, and you're still smiling, so welcome again. And if I may, I think we're going to take a few moments to get to know Russ a little bit. And I believe, Daniel Gluck, you are going to take us through this portion of the webinar. Over to you, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK

That's right, Mary. Thanks so much for the wonderful introduction. I'm Dan from the ICANN Policy Development Support Team, live from the other Washington in the United States. And we're here to get you ready for the ICANN82 Community Forum in the Emerald City, Seattle.

A lot has happened since ICANN81 in Istanbul, and this Prep Week session will feature updates from all of the supporting organizations and advisory committees that participate in the multi-stakeholder model of policy development here at ICANN. It's a decentralized governance model, and that allows for community-based, consensus-driven policymaking, and itself, I think it will be a topic of conversation again.

Supporting those organizations and committees is the ICANN Policy Development Support Team, and we'll be there for 149 of the 242 sessions. And I am speaking a bit fast. I'm going to slow down a bit. As Andrea mentioned, regular Zoom room for the Prep Week presentation. If you have any questions, send them in the chat box in the format that Andrea will paste in there. Q&A pod's also an option. Or you could raise your hand using the reactions in the Zoom toolbar, and we'll call on you if we have time. Otherwise, we'll follow up with your questions at the end of the webinar. Being dropped in chat is also a resource document. Wonderful briefing, Doc, and we encourage you to follow along with some prepared materials for the webinar and the meeting in general.

Maybe you're a newcomer, buzzing with anticipation for your first ICANN meeting. You could be a grizzled internet veteran who got

started when the only apple varieties in the market were like Red Delicious and Granny Smith, as opposed to now when the state of Washington has over 30 varieties of apple grown in its state, including my new favorite, Washington's own Cosmic Crisp. Maybe you're the new Senior Vice President of Policy Development Support. I want to stress for this webinar, come as you are. Our policy team is going to go at an even flow and hopefully take you from a point where the policies may be super unknown to where you can comfortably wrap everything up neatly in a heart-shaped box.

All apologies for that last Seattle grunge reference. It didn't really fit in that well, but I'll try to be a better man going forward, and now I'm going to drop in what all those references are to that chat and pat myself on the back a little bit. But I said being a better man, and now we get to talk to a wonderful role model for that.

We're going to start off a bit differently, as Mary said, as we do on these usual calls, because, yeah, I'm not sure if you've seen the news, but we've got a new boss on the ICANN Policy Development Support Team, and I have the honor of welcoming him, as I guess Mary already said that, but I also have the honor of welcoming him to the Policy Update for a quick chat and introduction. Russ Weinstein was appointed the Senior Vice President of Policy Development Support earlier this year, and Russ, my first question is, how's everything going today?

RUSS WEINSTEIN Yeah, thanks, Dan, and thanks, Mary, for the warm welcome. Everything's going great. This is a fun gig. I'm really enjoying it so far.

DANIEL GLUCK All right. So, oops, sorry.

RUSS WEINSTEIN Go ahead.

DANIEL GLUCK Let's get into it. You know, you've been in ICANN for a while. You've been working on implementing policy that has been developed by the community, but through that, you've also worked with people that have been in this position that you're coming into, David Olive, Sally Costerton, Mary Wong for a little bit, and how have your experiences and your relationships helped you transition into your role?

RUSS WEINSTEIN Yeah, so I have been with ICANN for a little while now. I joined back in late 2012 to support the new gTLD program, so it's a little bit of a déjà vu or nostalgia that sort of one of the biggest things that ICANN, again, is the new gTLD program. But I have worked with almost the entire executive team and their teams in my career at ICANN, especially in my last role leading the engagement and services for the contracted parties. Worked a lot with Jamie Hedlund and his compliance team. Worked a lot with John Crane and his team in

OCTO, on the DNS abuse programs that we put into place with Sally and trying to do regional engagement with the contracted parties.

So I think it's been really helpful to have so many touch points and relationships already in the organization. You mentioned, Mary and I go back, and Steve and I go back a long time on the policy team. So it's been really helpful to have a lot of people that have some level of trust already and share information and been so welcoming, and the whole policy team's really been incredibly welcoming and helpful to me to get started. I couldn't have asked for better.

DANIEL GLUCK

It's been about 50 days since you've been here so far, and you've spoken to most communities through the supporting organization and advisory committee calls with the ICANN CEO. How did those go, and did you have any takeaways from them? I guess, would you say they're a highlight of your first 50 days here?

RUSS WEINSTEIN

Yeah, they were a highlight. Kurtis and I have talked to almost all of the constituency groups, SOs, ACs, the leadership of them, and we've jokingly referred to that as our introductory tour, but really it couldn't have asked for a better way to get started, I think. Just giving us that touch point, being able to get to know folks, rekindle relationships, and listen, really, which is what those are really about, and hearing what priorities different groups have, what aspirations or goals they have, how they think ICANN can help evolve.

I think the main takeaway from those is just this overwhelming spirit of collaboration and belief in the multi-stakeholder model and desire to keep working on it and keep working together. That really brings great optimism to me that we can keep building this consensus-based model.

DANIEL GLUCK

I like that. Forward-looking. What about the next 50 days? ICANN82 in Seattle. Is there anything you're looking forward to with that and past that as we look forward to a nice spring here at ICANN?

RUSS WEINSTEIN

Yeah, certainly getting to see people face-to-face will be great. I always enjoy that. So that's always looking forward to. My career within ICANN has always been on the domain name side and the gTLD base side. So in these last six weeks or so, I've gotten to know the numbers and the root servers a lot more than I ever thought I would, and learning about the RIRs and the policies they're making related to governance and the root servers and their governance work. So that's really, really encouraging to see and enlightening.

Obviously, with Seattle, a big focus is going to be on the new gTLD program and the domain name side. So a lot of attention there, as well as the conversation we're having as a community about how we meet together at ICANN meetings and is there opportunities for evolution there. And I think there's a prep week session in a couple hours on that and how we work. And a lot of that ties into the way we do reviews of the organization. So those are two really active

conversations right now in the community that I'm looking forward to seeing play out some more.

DANIEL GLUCK

Finally, we have any other goals for the policy and advice process? Anything else you'd like to talk about here today?

RUSS WEINSTEIN

I think a continued goal for ICANN going forward is always just to continue to improve on how we do things. I think a big area of opportunity for us is improving the whole lifecycle of policy. So it's not just how we develop policy, but how we develop policy that gets implemented well. Hopefully my background in implementation can help bridge some of that gap and us work together to figure out even better ways to evaluate the implementation earlier in the process, and help provide that feedback back to the community as they're making the policy so that when we get finished development of policy, it's ready to be implemented effectively, timely, and reasonable cost.

DANIEL GLUCK

All right. Well, thank you so much, Russ. And also, thank you. Yeah, we were able to talk a little bit of policy there, and that's a great segue for who we're going to speak to next. So, yeah, thanks again, Russ.

All right. Welcome, Feodora, from the ICANN policy development GNSO support team. I think we're going to get her on the screen next. And yeah, we're really excited to bring you this GNSO policy update as we head into ICANN82. I want to say by the numbers, the GNSO Council, 21 members, there's two houses, there's four stakeholder groups, at least five constituencies. Feodora, it's going to be great to have you here today to break down some of these numbers and help us learn about what's going on. How are you?

FEODORA HAMZA

Thank you, Dan. I'm fine. Always a pleasure to discuss policy updates with you. Today, we will cover transfer policy, Latin diacritics, and the registration data request service.

DANIEL GLUCK

I like that order. First up, transfer policy review, policy development process, working group, a long time coming, but we finally saw the final report was out for public comment a few months ago. What's the latest on it?

FEODORA HAMZA

Well, after three years of meticulous review, including deep dives into authorization forms, transfer authorization codes, and potential transfer restrictions, the working group has wrapped up its work and handed over the final report and its 47 policy recommendations to the GNSO Council. Congratulations to the policy team members,

Kaitlin, Christian, Barry, and Julie, who supported the working group to bring this one home.

DANIEL GLUCK

Big milestone. And what happens next?

FEODORA HAMZA

Well, the GNSO Council will vote on the final report during its public meeting at ICANN82. So, there will be no working session on transfer policy, as the working group is taking a well-earned break until implementation begins.

DANIEL GLUCK

Okay, so let's switch up gears a bit. You know, transfer policy is on the way out, but Latin script diacritics and its PDP are on the way in. Something I heard about last year, surrounding but not in the expedited policy development process on internationalized domain names. I was part of the support team for that once, and we had heard about it, but not necessarily sure what the details are.

FEODORA HAMZA

Well, this one is interesting, because the problem, some of the American Standard Code for Information Interchange, or ASCII-based gTLDs, and their Latin script diacritic versions, think accents, tilts, and umlauts aren't officially considered variants of each other.

DANIEL GLUCK

And that's a problem?

FEODORA HAMZA

Well, it's a problem because it can create confusion for users and registry operators. Like the GNSO Working Group is looking for a solution that allows a single registry to operate both the ASCII and the diacritic versions of the gTLD simultaneously. The Working Group's first working session is taking place at ICANN82, and they will kick off their discussions on their preliminary recommendations.

DANIEL GLUCK

All right, now let's talk about the Registration Data Request System Standing Committee, RDRS for short, another milestone, and I'm hearing they will have a year's worth of data to analyze.

FEODORA HAMZA

That's correct. The RDRS pilot has been running for more than a year now, and the Standing Committee has enough data to start drafting their final findings report. They'll be working on this during ICANN82, and will be refining their key findings and conclusions. Once that is done, the report will then go to the GNSO Council for review and help inform policy discussions related to the System for Standardized Access and Disclosure, short, SSAD.

DANIEL GLUCK

All right. So, a lot of moving parts right now. I see a lot of documents coming out. I see a lot of documents being posted in the chat earlier, including the GNSO Policy Briefing. And there was something in

there I read called the Standing Committee on Continuous Improvement. Can you jog my memory of what that is? And if they're doing anything at this meeting, what's going on there?

FEODORA HAMZA

Yes, the SCCI is like the quality assurance team of the GNSO Policy Development Process. Their job is to oversee structural, procedural, and process improvements for the PDP. The SCCI is still in its early stages, but they'll hold a working session during ICANN82 to develop preliminary recommendations. The SCCI is actually the outcome of a pilot framework called CCOICI. Yes, that's the acronym. It actually stands for Council Committee for Overseeing and Implementing Continuous Improvement.

DANIEL GLUCK

So ICANN82 seems to be packed with policy action, along with a lot of long-term acronyms, initialisms. How is the GNSO Council planning on getting through it all?

FEODORA HAMZA

Well, the Council has three working sessions on March 9th, an informal meeting on March 10th, the public meeting on March 12th, where they will vote on the Transfer Policy Final Report, and a wrap-up session on March 13th. Plus, they will be meeting with the Governmental Advisory Committee and the ICANN Board.

DANIEL GLUCK

So if you're into ICANN policymaking, GNSO Council seems like the place to be.

FEODORA HAMZA

Absolutely. If you like in-depth discussion about Latin diacritics, registration data requests, and continuous improvement, this is the place to be.

DANIEL GLUCK

Well, we'll be watching closely as the updates unfold. But before we get there, anyone have any questions about what we just heard regarding the GNSO? I have my chat open, I have my participant list open, so feel free to raise a hand, drop a chat in there.

ANDREA GLANDON

It looks like we do have a question from Sébastien Bachollet.

DANIEL GLUCK

Sure, let's hear it.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET

Thank you very much. Sébastien Bachelet speaking. Just to ask a question about the last group you were talking about, continuous improvement. What is the link between this and the continuous improvement program at the global ICANN level? Because I feel some confusion with the wording, using the same word for two different things. But maybe I am wrong. Thank you.

FEODORA HAMZA

Thank you, Sébastien. I have colleagues who might know better, but the SCCI, the Standing Committee on Continuous Improvement, I think resembles a working group that will focus on more detailed approach. But if there's some of my colleagues who want to give a more detailed answer, I'm happy to hand over.

DANIEL GLUCK

I don't see any hands. So, Sébastien, we'll get back to you. Oh, I see Mary. All right, Mary's got a hand. Perfect. Mary?

MARY WONG

Hi, and thank you for your question, Sébastien. I'm not sure if I'm the best equipped to answer your question, but if I heard you correctly, you're asking about the role of this particular committee within the Generic Name Supporting Organization vis-à-vis the continuous improvement program work that I think you and many other members of the community are involved in. And that work came out of the Third Accountability and Transparency Review Team's Recommendations, or ATRT3.

I see that my colleague Andrea Glandon has posted a link to the wiki page for the GNSO team. I'm sorry, excuse me, the GNSO committee. So, I guess what I'll say in the interest of time, and we welcome your and others' questions to follow up if you have any after this, is that this particular GNSO committee does have a fairly long history, although this particular name I think is fairly new.

And essentially, this committee is charted by the GNSO Council as a permanent committee to allow for execution of continuous improvement-related projects, focusing on the GNSO's structural, procedural, and process improvements to the policy development process, which is what the GNSO Council is tasked under the Bylaws of Overseeing. So, there is a very specific role, there's a very specific scope. And if you look at the documents, perhaps you get more information. I hope that's helpful.

SÉBASTIEN BACHOLLET

If I may just add one point, just be careful with the use of the word, because I feel that at the end, we will be in trouble between the continuous improvement program with ATRT3 recommendation, and this continuous improvement of the policy development process. Maybe another wording will be useful for the community to understand better. But that's just my input. Thank you very much.

MARY WONG

Thank you, Sébastien. Thank you for your input. Back to you, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK

Yeah, thank you so much. We love when this is interactive like this. Sometimes it's not, but today it's great. So, thank you very much, Sébastien. All right. So, thank you so much, Feodora, for the insightful rundown.

FEODORA HAMZA

My pleasure. Looking forward to ICAN82.

DANIEL GLUCK

And if you at home want to look forward to ICANN82 in the literal sense, icann82.sched.com is the website containing the schedule for the week. Go in there, check out the GNSO stuff Feodora mentioned. But also get into some stuff we didn't get a chance to talk about, like what's going on within the different houses and constituencies, stakeholder groups, the rest of the community efforts. There's a lot of open sessions, and there will almost always be an empty chair for you to participate.

All right. So, now we move on. We get out of the generics into the country code name supporting organization. And Yuko is here. Thank you for joining us today.

JOKE BRAEKEN

Hi, Dan. Thank you.

DANIEL GLUCK

So after looking at the ccNSO agenda for ICANN82, also on icann82.sched.com, I've noticed that the ccNSO has a lot of good stuff in store for the meeting at all levels of policy specificity. So let's look at four sessions in particular, starting with, I'm not sure if this is maybe the right phrasing terms, whatever it is, but maybe the most niche ccNSO policy and work our way to the most general, potentially the best place for a newcomer to start.

Either way, I'm sort of looking at the ccNSO like it's a pyramid. So at the top, we're looking at specific policy, people that have been involved for a while. And then as we finish through these four sessions, we'll get to maybe a more general broad base for someone who's new to the ccNSO to get involved. So most specific, policy gap analysis. This is the second ICANN meeting in a row where we'll see this working group. And I'm hearing we may see some initial findings.

JOKE BRAEKEN

Yep, that is correct, Dan. So, well, the ccNSO is indeed developing policy, but that's really for a very limited number of matters as, like for instance, registration policies that is out of scope for ICANN. Those are being determined in country by the ccTLDs themselves. And the ccNSO is really also a platform for the ccTLD community globally to share information, to learn from each other and to find out how things are being done and improve on matters. But you wanted to talk about policy first.

So the PGA, the Policy Gap Analysis Working Group, indeed, the group is ready to present its initial findings at ICANN82. And what the group is really about as well, it started in August 2024, and it is analyzing different gaps, trying to identify those gaps in existing ccNSO policies, but also in guidance and practices that relate to ccTLDs. So, these really pertain to the delegation, transfer, revocation and retirement of country code top-level domains and other related IANA naming functions for ccTLDs. So, what the group has done to date is to identify those gaps, categorize them, and then

also identify potential methods to address those gaps. And finally, the group also prioritized the issues and will present on all those aspects at ICANN82.

There are various opportunities to learn more about the PGA. The group is holding an internal work session over the weekend. There's also a meeting as part of the ccNSO members' meeting. Those are their various sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday. You will find it on the schedule. We also have a joint meeting with the GAC. So, lots of opportunities to learn about PGA work. Oh, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK

There we go. There we go. I've got to apologize for starting with policy, but we're the policy team. So, I'd like to start there where we can. So, that's why we went there first. But second, ccTLD news sessions, potentially the most colorful topics on the entire ICANN meeting agenda, which again, can be found at icann82.sched.com. Still ccTLD specific as they're by ccTLDs and for ccTLDs. Can you tell me a bit about those?

JOKE BRAEKEN

Yeah, happy to do so. So, ccTLD news sessions have been part of the ccNSO member meetings for several years. And they are really very informative sessions, not only for those that are experienced and know about ccTLDs and what is happening in the ccNSO, but also for newcomers. It's really an opportunity for people to learn, to meet and to share experiences and discuss ccTLD related aspects. There

are various ccTLD managers that will present on their latest developments, projects that they undertook.

There's a presentation, for instance, from .us, but also from the ccTLDs from South Africa and Ukraine. And there's also some nice examples of collaboration among ccTLDs regionally or a small group of ccTLDs working together. There's the Lusophone community, that is the Portuguese language community that has regularly meets and addresses how to promote a Portuguese language. They will share their challenges and what they are doing. Same with one of the regional organizations that will give an update about some work by one of their working groups, the Asia-Pacific top-level domain regional organization. They did some research and will present on how ccTLDs jointly collaborated and investigated some of the matters of interest to them.

DANIEL GLUCK

Love to hear that. Seems like there's a lot of stuff for at all levels here for everybody to enjoy and learning about the different Lusophone work. I was like, oh, okay, that's great. So we move to another area of importance now for the ccNSO and also I would say most of the other SO/ACs and that's DNS abuse. The party tackling this issue at the ccNSO is the DNS Abuse Standing Committee. How are they working this meeting?

JOKE BRAEKEN

The DNS Abuse Standing Committee, again, has a working session over the weekend, but also a dedicated session on Wednesday. So

DNS Abuse Standing Committee really delves into the topic of domain name registration data accuracy and how far is it relevant when it comes to mitigating abuse? So how important is it for ccTLDs to have accurate domain name registration data when it comes to combating abuse? And you will hear about some ccTLDs that share their experiences. They explain what the role of accurate data is, but it's not just a conversation among ccTLDs.

In many of the sessions, we welcome inputs from other parts of ICANN, from other interested stakeholders. There will also be voices from the gTLD registrar community, law enforcement perspectives. And it will be interesting to hear how this topic is being addressed from various perspectives, from various angles.

DANIEL GLUCK

And I guess the last thing that I really wanted to talk about just from looking at the calendar was the Internet Governance Liaison Committee, the World Summit on the Information Society, or WSIS+20 Review. It's coming to a head this year, and this is an area where the IGLC has expertise that the rest of the community might be interested in.

JOKE BRAEKEN

Absolutely. So ccTLDs are really playing a very important role when it comes to the multi-stakeholder model. The ccNSO has a dedicated committee that deals with the coordination, facilitation of discussions and processes regarding Internet Governance formed by ccTLDs. And the future of Internet Governance is really at the core

of what this committee does within the ccNSO. They deal with topics such as WSIS+20, which you just mentioned, had a very interesting session in Istanbul as well, regarding the Global Digital Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals within the United Nations and how important they are for ccTLDs and what ccTLDs undertake in these areas.

In Seattle, the group will have a working session over the weekend. Even though it's a working session, it's again open to everybody with an interest and it promises not to be a conversation among ccTLDs only, open to all. We even booked a slightly bigger room this time, so hoping to see many of you there and to have an engagement with other stakeholders. There will be people from the government engagement team, for instance. We will also have a guest speaker from the IGF leadership panel. There will be some GNSO representatives, I understood, so looking forward to further continuing the discussion on the future of Internet Governance.

DANIEL GLUCK

Love learning about all this stuff. I came into this thinking we had a well-defined pyramid, but it seems like there's a lot of great places for someone that's new to country code policy but interested in finding out what's going on to join in and pick it up as soon as they get involved. What else should the good folks here know about the ccNSO at ICANN82?

JOKE BRAEKEN

There's so much I could talk about today, but overall, the schedule of the ccNSO looks as follows. Over the weekend, you have the various committees and working groups that hold working sessions. Monday is typically dedicated to Tech Day, and that is indeed, again, the case at ICANN82, so that's really an opportunity for all to discuss and be informed about security-related matters. It's not only open to ccTLDs, so make sure to join that session.

There's also the ccNSO members' meeting sessions that I previously referred to take place on Tuesday and on Wednesday. Wednesday is also when the ccNSO will have a joint session with the Governmental Advisory Committee. I believe that I already mentioned when I spoke about the policy gap analysis work that you will be informed about the latest developments regarding the PGA work during this joint session with the GAC, but not only. It promises to be a very engaging session where ccTLDs and GAC representatives will have an opportunity to network and discuss ccTLD governance models. It's really an opportunity to learn from each other and to get to know each other better.

DANIEL GLUCK

Sounds great. I'm going to put a pin in that because I think I'm looking at my agenda, and I know who's going to speak next, but before we get anywhere, I wanted to pause and see if we had any questions. I see a lot of great stuff in chat from Glenn that I'm definitely going to check out after this. But I'm not seeing any specific questions regarding the ccNSO at this time. So, we'll give everyone a second, throw a hand up, throw a chat, throw a QA pod

question in there. All right, sold. No questions. We will move on now. I want to thank you so much, Yoke, for joining me today.

JOKE BRAEKEN

Thanks, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK

So, following up on what was last mentioned there, which was a joint session with the GAC and internet governance-related matters, I now have the honor to introduce Benedetta from the ICANN GAC support team. It's been an honor to work with you, at least as an interim member of the Fabulous Five, plus one or two on the GAC team for a little while now. So, let's start off in that same sort of setting there, and hopefully this connects neatly enough, but internet governance, national interest, central to the GAC. How is the GAC focusing on governance and the upcoming World Summit on the Information Society, plus 20 review for ICANN82?

BENEDETTA ROSSI

Thanks, Dan. That was a mouthful. Just before I jump in, I just wanted to flag, my name is Benedetta Rossi, and I'm a policy development support director supporting the governmental advisory committee. And just a quick comment before jumping into the policy side of things regarding the internet governance piece. Please note that all-- I thought it would be interesting to flag that all GAC priority policy topics are driven by a recently adopted multi-year

strategic plan and its corresponding annual plan. So, this includes internet governance and the WSIS+20 review.

So, to get to your question, Dan, as our colleague Joke just noted, internet governance has become a priority for governments as well, and will be a key topic of discussion for the committee in Seattle. GAC members are looking forward to a good bit of dialogue in Seattle regarding WSIS+20 and internet governance matters. And in addition to a specific targeted session for GAC members, there'll be opportunities for dialogue during bilateral and cross community sessions.

GAC members have appreciated recent opportunities to discuss internet governance matters with the At-Large community. And this was done through a new series of monthly regulatory briefing discussions. And additionally, the GAC held its own dedicated webinar called the Shaping the Digital Future, WSIS+20 Review, and the Future of Internet Governance.

And in this webinar, there were featured presentations from a lot of very impressive speakers, including the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs or the UNDESA, the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the UNCSTD, the United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, UNESCO, the ITU, the host of the IGF 2025, so the government of Norway and the MAG, or the IGF Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group, the Dipler Foundation, and of course, ICANN org.

And the webinar was intended as planned in the GAC strategic plan to ensure that GAC members are kept regularly apprised of

developments and challenges in the internet governance ecosystem that impact the internet's unique identifier system. I hope that answered your question in a very long way.

DANIEL GLUCK

We're matching it. We have equal levels of wordiness here. I want to. Definitely plug that webinar. Fabian posted the link in chat. It's really great. Check it out if you have a second. But you mentioned a bunch of UN agencies there, but the GAC's advisory committee at ICANN, it's not the United Nations General Assembly. And I'd like to think at a similar level of importance to the internet governance issues, maybe the next round of new gTLDs. I know the GAC's been very influential in shaping the round, so if someone wanted to see how the sausage was made, what would they look for at this upcoming meeting?

BENEDETTA ROSSI

That's an excellent point. The next round of new gTLDs has been a priority for the committee for several years now. Since ICANN81, the GAC continues to follow the Implementation Review Team, or the IRT. GAC members are following this effort closely, continuing to provide input to the IRT in preparation for the development of the next Applicant Guidebook, or AGB for those who want to know all the acronyms. At the moment, GAC members are reviewing the open public comment proceeding, looking to provide input to the IRT. And another area of priority for the GAC is the Applicant Support Program, or the ASP, and outreach and engagement activities

related to the ASP to help promote participation from development countries.

And this is a key area of focus for governments, which, if you have looked at any of the recent GAC communiques, you'll have seen reflected in the communiques. The GAC will be holding one plenary session on new gTLDs, so that's an opportunity for GAC members to discuss these priority areas, so the ASP, the IRT, and other priority topics. And then, due to the importance of the next round of new gTLDs, GAC capacity development activities in 2025 will be centered around this topic.

Specifically, at ICANN82, the GAC will be holding a capacity development workshop on new gTLDs, and its objective is to raise awareness of the next round topics and its processes to help GAC delegates prepare for the next round. That's very important to GAC members at the moment, especially with high turnaround and new GAC members, fresh blood turning up. It's important for everyone to be aware of what is going on, why this is important to governments, and that's the focus for 2025.

DANIEL GLUCK

So, switching it up a bit now, I know DNS abuse is an important area of topic for the members of the GAC and beyond. In an area where the Public Safety Working Group has a large footprint, what should we expect to see from the GAC at this meeting?

BENEDETTA ROSSI

Yeah, the GAC continues to follow DNS abuse mitigation very closely, as you rightly noted, following discussions during ICANN81 on the impact of the new DNS abuse obligations in ICANN's contracts with registries and registrars. At ICANN82, the GAC is due to discuss DNS abuse prevention and mitigation efforts with the extended DNS and internet community. The GAC will also consider input from its members in a survey seeking to understand government approaches to DNS abuse, including their efforts to monitor trends, collaborate with the extended community, as well as their desired priorities for the GAC in terms of issues for discussion and policy advice development.

DANIEL GLUCK

And what about registration data? I could imagine the GAC's going to go at that one from a few fronts.

BENEDETTA ROSSI

A lot of fronts, you're right. Registration data is an important agenda item which the GAC is planning to discuss in Seattle. Specifically, a priority topic for the GAC at this time is the consideration of specific ICANN policy provisions regarding urgent requests for the disclosure of registration data in circumstances that pose an imminent threat to life, of serious bodily injury, to critical infrastructure, or of child exploitation.

The GAC has proposed to the GNSO and to the ICANN Board that work be conducted in two tracks and expects that work will continue gathering momentum to determine an appropriate timeline for

response to these emergency requests within a resumed EPDP phase 1 implementation review team, and to define a mechanism to provide registries and registrars with an authenticated law enforcement request in such circumstances as part of a practitioner's group currently led by the GAC Public Safety Working Group.

The GAC also continues to stress the importance of resuming work on accuracy of registration data as soon as possible. As such, the GAC is also looking forward to progress being made on this issue following the GNSO Council's recent consultation with ICANN org and the community, and actually submitted input to the GNSO Council earlier this month, stressing that inaccurate domain name registration can inhibit the activities of stakeholders in areas such as law enforcement, cybersecurity, investigations to enforce intellectual property rights, and domain name registration management. And the initial objective of working on this challenge should be to assess whether the current practices are effective to ensure accuracy of registration data.

DANIEL GLUCK

Awesome. Well, anything else you would recommend members of the community check out for the GAC right now?

BENEDETTA ROSSI

Well, other than the policy topic, the GAC will also continue its operational and strategic discussions at ICANN82, and these include the review of its operating principles and potential changes to GAC leadership position 10 years in duration. Finally, the GAC will also

engage with different stakeholders in traditional bilaterals, so to interact with other parts of the ICANN community. For ICANN82, this includes the ICANN Board, the GNSO Council, the Contracted Party House, the SSAC, the NCSG, the ccNSO, and the At-Large community.

And then I'd like to end this update just with a quick reminder that all GAC sessions, including communiqué drafting sessions, are open to the public. So community members are of course welcome to attend and observe any of the sessions. If you just look at the agenda, you're more than welcome to attend. And that's all for me. Back to you, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK

Thank you, Golden, for posting that agenda in the chat. And thank you, Benedetta, so much for this update. Continuing with that theme, open for questions now, just like the sessions are open to the public.

ANDREA GLANDON

Any questions, you can raise your hand or place your question in the Q&A pod.

DANIEL GLUCK

All right. Well, I don't see any. So let's take a quick break and get a quick message from our friend Ozan on the Community Excellence.

OZAN SAHIN

Hi, Dan. Thank you. And hello, everyone. This is Ozan with a highlight about the ICANN Community Excellence Award Program to be conducted at ICANN82. The annual Community Excellence Award was launched in 2014, and it will be the 12th award program this year. And the award recognizes ICANN community members who have deeply invested in consensus-based solutions and contributed substantively to the ICANN multi-stakeholder model. And I'm glad to see some of the ICANN community members who received this award in the past years are actually with us today in this webinar.

Does anyone remember who received the Community Excellence Award a year ago in San Juan at ICANN79? You can put the answer in the chat if you do remember. Let me give you a few seconds. I know at least one of you should be remembering. Yes, Joke. I guess Joke remembers too. That's correct, Andrea. Thank you. And Manal Ismail is with us today. Thank you for joining us, Manal. And congratulations again on the well-deserved recognition last year.

Going back to the selection process this year, in October 2024, we started a nomination period which closed in early January. And the ICANN Community Excellence Award nominees are evaluated by a panel of ICANN community members appointed by the SO/AC chairs. That's what makes the award different than the other recognition programs at ICANN. And this year, a selection panel of 11 community members met four times to date to review the nominations and they have recently made a decision.

Unfortunately, I'm not able to share the decision of the selection panel today as it will be kept confidential until the announcement at

ICANN82 during the welcome ceremony on Monday, 10th of March. So if you're interested in finding out who the recipient of the award is, please come join us during the welcome ceremony and celebrate the contributions of the ICANN community. Back to you, Dan.

DANIEL GLUCK

Thank you so much, Ozan. And hey, I'll also use this opportunity to congratulate Manal on that last year. Why not? We now move on to the At-Large, back to your regular scheduled programming. My colleague Sylvia joins me now to talk about the At-Large at ICANN82. Sylvia, how are you?

SILVIA VIVANCO

I'm very well. Thank you very much, Dan. And hello, everyone. I am very happy to present the activities of the At-Large community today.

DANIEL GLUCK

So the At-Large is a wonderful place for someone new to ICANN to start off understanding policy and advice. Great folks, really welcoming. Let's start with some important sessions for the At-Large in Seattle. I understand they'll have some of their own plenary sessions on Wednesday, the 12th. Can you tell me a bit about those?

SILVIA VIVANCO

That's right, Dan. The At-Large community will hold two plenary sessions. The first one will be discussing core Internet values, the evolution and challenges for ICANN. And panelists will discuss how these core values, which are a cornerstone of the Internet infrastructure are changing with new technical and geopolitical dynamics, new governance models, and how these changes may impact ICANN's remit and work. There will be a second plenary session on the SubPro expectations and the next gTLD round. And this will explore the status of the implementation of the next gTLD round, and will try to identify any gaps and how they should be dealt with prior to the completion of the applicant guidebook.

DANIEL GLUCK

So two plenaries, and the At-Large has three workstreams. Can we start with the policy workstream? Any updates you have from that?

SILVIA VIVANCO

Yes. On the policy stream, we have what we call hot topics. And this session will discuss, will give first an overview of the At-Large initiatives and ongoing policy topics of importance for end-users, from the end-user perspectives, and the process of analyzing these topics within At-Large. The topics that are currently discussed are the next round, of course, of new gTLD round, the registration data, and DNS abuse.

DANIEL GLUCK

So next, maybe we can move on to operations. And there's a work group listening to that one, right? Yeah, I'm looking at my slide. I probably could just go right to that.

SILVIA VIVANCO

Right, that's right. We have the Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group, which is focusing on, as the title says, operations, finance, and budget issues. It has been very busy this semester. And in this particular meeting, they will discuss continuous improvement program, the pilot holistic review, and a draft operating plan on specific reviews that is currently open for comments.

DANIEL GLUCK

And let's finish on this slide with community engagement network stream. I think this might be a great place for newcomers. I think there's some focus on fellows and NextGen, I see there.

SILVIA VIVANCO

Exactly, Dan. At-Large is all about engagement and bringing in new participants in the ICANN multistakeholder model. So this time, as usual, we will meet with the fellows and the NextGen. And this session will provide them the opportunity to learn more about the At-Large community, the ALAC as an advisory committee, the NARALO, which is the North American Regional At-Large organization, the host of this ICANN82. And we will also explain how to engage with the At-Large community.

We also have another excellent session, which is a new committee called the ALAC Community Engagement Subcommittee, or ACES. And this committee will discuss the implementation of the At-Large mobilization campaigns. We will have some campaigns focusing on the next round, the applicant support program, the DNS abuse, and universal acceptance.

DANIEL GLUCK

So yeah, that sounds great. And I want to shout out to the fellows and NextGen that we have here in attendance right now. I see a few of them in the participant list. So we really thank them for joining us today.

We see a couple of joint sessions at the top, and we're going to skip over those because you can just look at your icann82.sched.com for more information on those. I really want to get into what the RALOs are talking about this meeting. You know, some colors on this screen here, and the colors, of course, coincide with different meetings for the At-Large. And there are five regional At-Large organizations, the RALOs, and they have several priorities at ICANN82. Can you tell me about them and maybe who the home team is for this meeting?

SILVIA VIVANCO

Okay. I can start with the home team, which is the NARALO, the North American Regional At-Large Organization, NARALO. And they will have two sessions at ICANN82. The NARALO roundtable, and this one is a highlight, on DNS abuse and AI, combating and enabling threats. In this session, the panelists will discuss emerging

capabilities of AI and machine learning to either prevent or promote DNS abuse. We will hear insights from cyber security experts on how AI technologies can identify, analyze, and potentially mitigate patterns of abuse, as well as potential impacts on internet individual end users, as they relate to their privacy and overall functioning of the DNS.

And NARALO will also hold a town hall meeting in an interactive format. They will bring together all the NARALO members participating in person and remotely at ICANN82. They will discuss the new fiscal year 26 outreach and engagement plans, and they will review past outreach and engagement achievements. And in general, they will discuss all the NARALO and North American issues of importance for the region.

And I also want to mention that now that we are with the RALO, the traditional AFRALO African meeting, and this meeting will be the 37th meeting held since 2010. This time the topic is promoting African identity in the next gTLD round, addressing challenges and leveraging support mechanisms. And this meeting really convokes the entire AFRALO African community participating at nearly every ICANN meeting, and it's very well attended. So welcome all to come to this meeting.

DANIEL GLUCK

And yeah, we'll welcome people in person, online, to learn more about the end user perspective at ICANN. So thank you so much, Silvia, being mindful of time. I posed it in chat. We'll hold any questions to the end. But before we do that, I think before we get

to the end, at least, we actually have a few more SO and ACs. So Silvia, thank you so much. And I now welcome Andrew to tell us about the ASO, Address Supporting Organization, some numbers. What's going on, Andrew, in the numbers community right now?

ANDREW MCCONACHIE

Hi, Dan. So my name is Andrew McConnachie, and I support the Addressing Supporting Organization. The ASO recently finished two public consultations on their draft ICP-2 version 2 principles document. This document represents the first major step in the ASO AC's work on revising ICP-2, and it sets forth the core principles that the ASO AC believes should be captured in the next version of ICP-2. An ICANN public comment and a consultation run by the regional internet registries were run in from October to December. Both consultations are now finished, and their respective reports have been published. The ASO will not be meeting at ICANN82, but will be meeting with the ICANN Board on Wednesday, March 12th. And in the interest of time, Dan, I'm going to hand it back over to you.

DANIEL GLUCK

Well, thank you so much, Andrew. And also thank you for your time. I know you and Ozan right now are in Malaysia at the APNIC meetings there. So yeah, thank you so much for, I guess, lengthening your already really long day for this update. And yeah, thank you again, Ozan, for rejoining me back here for the Root Service System Advisory Committee. It's been a group that I've started to support a bit more in the recent months, so I feel like I might have a pretty

good idea what's going on. But can you remind me again what's going on with the RSSAC and RSSAC caucus?

OZAN SAHIN

Welcome to the team, Dan. As you may know, the RSSAC currently has two active work parties, and they are both wrapping up their work. So the first work party is called the Security Incident Reporting Work Party. And this work party is developing recommendations on how future root server system governance structure should handle the reporting of security incidents. So they are focusing on questions like, why should the root server system provide incident reporting? What consists of a reportable incident? Or who should be responsible for reporting incidents? And after almost two years of work, the work party is now wrapping up, and its work document is under RSSAC caucus review at the moment.

And the other active RSSAC caucus work party was set up just before ICANN80. It's called the Guidelines for Changing Root Server Addresses Work Party. And the objective of this work party is to come up with recommendations for when root server operators need to change the IP address of their root server instances. This work party is also wrapping up its work, and its working document is currently under the RSSAC review.

DANIEL GLUCK

Oh, thank you so much, Ozan. Anything else we should know?

OZAN SAHIN

Well, just briefly touching upon the ICANN82 activities of RSSAC. Since these both active work parties are wrapping up, the RSSAC will not have any work sessions about these work parties at ICANN82. Instead, RSSAC work sessions will feature a discussion on a previously published RSSAC document, which is RSSAC001, Service Expectations of Root Server Operations. And the first version of RSSAC001 was published in 2015, and a second version was published in 2023. So the work effort will consider new DNS technologies that could become expectations of root server operators, and decide whether to create a new version of RSSAC001 or not. And in addition to the work sessions, the root server operators will continue to engage with the ICANN community by offering a habit work session. And also, they will have a joint meeting with the ICANN Board to discuss priority topics of interest.

DANIEL GLUCK

Cool, thank you so much, Ozan.

OZAN SAHIN

Thank you.

DANIEL GLUCK

So finally, now we'll end with our last advisory committee, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. But let's see if we can add an extra S in there, the Speedy Security and Stability Advisory Committee update from Danielle. Thank you so much for joining us,

Danielle. And I think the RSSAC is in a similar role with some of its work parties, but give me the bigger picture.

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD

Absolutely, I'll be speedy and succinct, Dan. So there's two current work parties in the SSAC right now. The first one is looking at DNS blocking and is actually revisiting some previous SSAC reports on the topic, SAC050 and SAC056. This work party is examining the technical implications of DNS blocking. This typically occurs when public authorities mandate that internet service providers block access to online content via DNS filtering. The work party is not evaluating the legal or policy justifications behind blocking mandates, but is focusing solely on the technical implications of blocking, including the effectiveness, consequences, scale, and potential collateral damage.

The second active work party is examining the use of free and open source software in the DNS. You may not be aware, but actually many key DNS software implementations are based on open source software, including widely used authoritative name server software and recursive resolver software. That means that vulnerabilities within open source software can have widespread consequences, and as governments and regulatory bodies are increasingly looking at software security, it's vital that they have an accurate understanding of the use of free and open source software, specifically as it pertains to the DNS. So that work party is aiming to produce an informative report that is accessible to those with

regulatory expertise, even if they don't have that deep operational and technical knowledge.

Both of those work parties will be meeting, have open sessions to observers. And we've got a handful of other SX sessions I'd like to highlight for the community. There will be joint sessions. There will be two to three work sessions with lightning talks. These are really popular with the community. These are concise presentations relating to a variety of technical and security topics of interest to the SSAC. They're typically about 10 to 12 minutes, and they're followed by a quick question and answer period, and the goal is to encourage a fast-paced exchange of ideas.

If you have any questions about the SSAC, please check out our programming. Most of our sessions are open to the public, and there's specifically an open mic session, I believe on Wednesday, where you can come and ask SSAC members any questions you have about the SSAC, technical work, anything related to security. They will try and answer that for you.

DANIEL GLUCK

Thank you so much, Danielle, and thank you for everyone that joined me today. We're going to take a note from Danielle there on having a quick Q&A. If anyone has any questions for today, I see Michael, thank you for using the Q&A pod, and thank you, Mary, for answering that on there, but if anyone has any other questions from what we heard so far, feel free to raise a hand now. I'm not seeing any hands. I see Anne has a question.

ANNE AIKMAN-SCALESE

Yeah, just really quickly, Dan, and thanks. This is for Danielle. Does SSAC have an official continuing work party on alternate route naming systems? I know there's a report out, I don't know if it's SAC113, but just looking at other naming systems other than the DNS.

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD

Yes, so there's not a current work party looking at alternative naming systems, but that is one of the SSAC's five keystone topics. So if you have any questions related to that, you can reach out to me or anyone on the SSAC leadership team, and I believe the report you're referencing is SAC123, looking at the evolution of DNS resolution and looking into some of the initial implications of alternative naming systems.

ANNE AIKMAN-SCALESE

Yeah, great. It was 123. Thanks so much.

DANIELLE RUTHERFORD

You're welcome.

DANIEL GLUCK

Thank you so much, Danielle and Anne. Thank you, everyone, for joining us. Thank you, Michael, for that last comment in there. We'll be sure to have a look. And yeah, no, I now have a quick request.

There's been a survey posted in that chat. Let us know how we're doing. Fill that out, and Mary, can you take us home?

MARY WONG

I can. And just following on Michael's comment, what we've noticed over the years is that the community has increasingly engaged with one another, which is one of the reasons why we have these ICANN meetings, to allow for that interaction, engagement, and discussion. And following the GAC, Danielle, I believe you mentioned this, the SSAC now has most of the sessions open as well, including that open mic session that you mentioned in the chat, so as you can all see and hear, this is going to be another busy community forum, all six days of it.

We haven't had time to cover some of the other sessions. This is just a teaser of the program, as I think native English speakers would say. There are some bilateral meetings, cross-community group meetings, and there will be one plenary session, which I believe Russ and Dan mentioned earlier, where you will hear about the progress on the work that the ICANN organization and some members of the community have been doing to improve the effectiveness and the efficiencies of, what else, ICANN public meetings.

So on that note, I'd like to thank all of my colleagues for all their hard work, for these great presentations. Thank you all for your attendance. Thank you for the questions. And we will look forward to seeing you all in person or remotely at ICANN82 in Seattle. Thank

you very much. I think we can now stop the recording and have a wonderful day, evening, or afternoon.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]