
ICANN82 | CF – Public Forum
Thursday, March 13, 2025 – 10:30 to 12:00 PST

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you. Thank you for joining us today for the ICANN82 Public Forum. As we wrap up this week, I'd like to express my pride and gratitude in being a part of this community dedicated to advancing the public interest. This commitment extends not only to the billions of users online today, but also to those who will join us in the future.

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

On behalf of the ICANN Board, I encourage you to take advantage of this session to ask questions, make comments, and share your thoughts in your respective languages. Please remember that this is not a replacement for public comments. ICANN is seeking on various issues and policies. If you want to provide input on a

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specific issue that is open for public comment, please use the online system available on icann.org. It is the only way your comments will receive proper consideration from the appropriate committee, supporting organization, or staff member.

Before we begin, I would like to remind you that this session is a space to address your questions and concerns regarding ICANN's work and remit. Statements that are political, ideological, or religious in nature and intent will not be tolerated. Please ensure you view the expected standards of behavior and thus maintain a polite and respectful dialogue, acknowledging our differences.

Thank you for being a part of this session and for the robust discussions through the week, and we look forward to the dialogue. Now, I'd like to welcome the ICANN Ombuds, Elizabeth Field, to make a few remarks. After Elizabeth, our remote participation manager, Alex Dans will briefly explain today's format and how you can participate. Elizabeth, the floor is yours.

ELIZABETH FIELD

Thank you, Tripti. I'm Elizabeth Field, I'm the ICANN Ombuds. I'm joined in the Office of Ombuds by the Adjunct Ombuds, Linda Mainville, together we are here to help. The role of the ICANN Ombuds is to make sure that the community is treated fairly. And I report directly to the ICANN Board, and my role is independent, not part of the ICANN management structures. Just to say, I'd like to let you know if you have questions, concerns, or complaints about

fairness and fair treatment or harassment, please come and see me or Linda, get in touch.

We are in room 704, you can email me, ombuds@icann.org. Our communication, of course, and your identity and contact with the office is confidential. I think to echo some of the comments that I've heard throughout the forum is we all appreciate the unique and dynamic and respectful ICANN multi-stakeholder environment, and we have a role to play in keeping it that way. We can expect to be treated fairly and respectfully in all our interactions online, in person, and of course here in the public forum.

And we have a responsibility in that with that respect as well. The expected standards of behavior and the community anti-harassment policy has already mentioned, apply in this space. They oblige us to treat each other with dignity and respect. They are binding and they apply to everyone here, and they apply within the session. Of course, our ambitions exceed this policy standard, the respect we have for each other and our differences is our strength.

Our success, of course, depends on this community and every voice, as we have heard before, strengthens this model, making it sort of the resilient and vibrant ecosystem that it is. So I'm really looking forward to this, my second public forum, and once again, seeing this very exceptional model of feedback and exchange and action. So I'll now pass the floor to Alex Dans. Thank you.

ALEXANDRA DANS

Thank you, Liz. My name is Alex Dans, I'm the communication director for the Americas and Remote Participation Manager for today's session. As we begin the ICANN82 Public Forum, we remind all participant to follow ICANN's Expected Standards of Behavior and its Anti-Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedures.

Now we'll explain the public forum format and how you can participate. The session is divided into three blocks, all open to any subject of community interest. Each block will be moderated by a Board member, Becky Burr, Sarah Deutsch, and Miriam Sapiro.

We encourage everyone to use the headset provided as we have skilled interpreters available for translations in case questions are posed in languages other than English. There are three ways to participate. In person, go to the microphone when it's your turn and keep your comments brief and respectful.

Remote, you can virtually queue up by clicking the raise hand icon on Zoom. Once it's your turn, a message will prompt you to unmute your mic. When you speak, please state your name, affiliation, and location. If you can speak, submit your question via Zoom's Q&A pod and I will read it aloud.

Do not use the chat for question as they won't be tracked. Each speaker, we have two minutes to ask a question or make a comment. A timer will be displayed. Afterward, the Board facilitator will either answer or another board member will respond. For follow-up questions, please reenter the queue to ensure everyone has a chance to participate.

Finally, real time interpretation is available in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Russian, and Portuguese. We recommend selecting your preferred language through the interpretation icon on Zoom for the best experience. Now, I will hand it over to our first Board facilitator, Becky Burr. Becky, the floor is yours.

BECKY BURR

Thank you so much, and I hope all of you have enjoyed your time here in Seattle. The floor is now open for questions. Yes, please go ahead.

FIONA ASONGA

Good morning, everyone. For the record, my name's Fiona Asonga from Nairobi, Kenya. ICANN, since the IANA transition, has particularly presented itself as an environment for global multi-stakeholder participation, and it's important in line with what the Ombudsman has just talked about, that we are able to maintain that space that way, and to remember that when we are engaging with different stakeholders, particularly for the CEO of ICANN, the choice of words used is very important.

We come in here because it is a space where we can be able to share our experiences, our views, in the hope that it contributes to the global multi-stakeholder processes and engagement and interaction. I think it is, and I'm trying to be as diplomatic as possible here, forgive me, for those who feel I'm not, it is not in good test for the CEO to tell us he has done a study on the below \$1

living, and therefore he's an expert. We are here from the region, we have our governments from the region represented in these forums. They're doing a lot to help that next billion get connected.

And when that is said that way, it gives the impression that because there's an expert, then there is no value addition we are making, which is not true. Now because I know the CEO personally, I know he has very good intentions for us as a region. And in the interest of the conversation happening amongst ourselves, I think it is very important that it be clarified. His intentions were not that he is the expert, but that he welcomes our views as an African region and he's happy to support us in our activities and processes. Thank you.

BECKY BURR

Thank you, Fiona.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Thank you, Fiona. This was in reference to the meeting with the AFRALO session yesterday. I don't think I said I was an expert. I said I made a observation of how some economic structures I'd seen, and I would never pretend I'm an expert in this field at all, I think on the contrary. What we discussed about was how do we develop the market for domain names in Africa to grow, but as new gTLDs, even for the current TLDs, and how that market can be developed and supported as best as can. And I did not mean to imply that I was an expert. On the contrary, I was definitely there to listen, so thank you.

BECKY BURR

Thanks. Owen.

OWEN SMIGELSKI

Hi my name is Owen Smigelski, I'm with the registrar Namecheap, I'm also chair of the Registrar Stakeholder Group. However, I'm here in my very personal capacity with this. So as we move forward with the how we meet and also towards the next round, for those who don't know, I spent seven years as ICANN Staff, and I was very familiar that ICANN Staff couldn't go to some of the receptions and parties and stuff like that and get to meet the community in a non-business function.

One of the things I'm amazed as a registrar is we come here to these meetings and I spend a whole bunch of time talking with my competitors about how we can make things better. And I think having that social interaction really benefits us as an industry as well as a community. As ICANN evolves the how we can meet thing, I think we should really keep in mind, is there a way to make sure that ICANN Staff and participants across all of the communities are engaged and able to meet in these types of receptions? There shouldn't be exclusive ones.

I know ICANN is looking at possibly ideas of getting funding for receptions or coffee hours or whatever that is. Is there a way to make sure that ensures that everyone can participate in the ICANN community, especially ICANN Staff? Because it's one thing for us to

send nasty emails back and forth with compliance, it's another thing for us to actually sit down and talk to them in a social thing.

So I just do encourage if there's a way to figure that out so that we can have as many people possible in a way that doesn't run afoul of new gTLD conflicts and stuff like that, which I'm familiar with. So if you can just keep that in mind, that'd be great. Thanks.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

I think, Owen, that's an interesting suggestion. We talked about this last night as well, and I think if you could find a way to have open networking events that are funded, I think that would be very good. So thank you.

BECKY BURR

Thank you. Please go ahead.

ABDULKARIM AYOPO OLOYEDE

Oh, thank you very much. My name is Abdulkarim Ayopo Oloyede. I'm a professor of wireless telecommunications from the University in Nigeria. The ICANN Grant Program seems like a wonderful initiative. When it was announced. Initially, I questioned why ICANN was giving out so much significant amount of money, especially considering the budget deficit. However, I was quick to understand that the funding comes from a separate pool of money, so I understand the argument we don't mix apples with oranges.

That said, the grant program closed about a year ago, yet no award has been granted because the process is still incomplete. This

raises three concerns. Number one, the impact of inflation on the project. Given that time has passed, inflation may have significantly affected the feasibility of many of these projects. Costs have likely gone up.

As ICANN consider the risk, and are there any measures in place to address this potential funding gaps due to inflation? The delaying announcement is also another concern. If I can't wait until all our DS have signed their contracts before making a public announcement, it'll lead to unnecessary delays. Will it not be more efficient to announce the selected project first and then proceed with the contract signing. This way, those who sign early can begin their work immediately rather than wait for the entire process to be completed. The third issue is we've been informed that details of the selected project would not be made public.

However, ICANN is a community driven organization, transparency is crucial for accountability and trust, should the community have access to the information about these initiatives that this grant would be supporting. Thank you so much.

BECKY BURR

Thank you. I can say that I know that the purpose of the grant program is to begin processing applications as soon as possible so that qualified support applicants have as much time as possible to gather additional support. On the specifics of when the contract is being signed, I am not the expert, and I wonder if there's somebody. Xavier.

XAVIER CALVEZ

Thank you, and thank you for the comment. And the desire for urgency to be able to start the projects that are being selected is completely natural and a very legitimate desire. The contracting to, to Becky's point is in process.

At the moment, the board has approved a slate of successful applicants a few weeks ago, and the process of contracting is important to be completed prior to being able to announce grantees that are successful simply because that process of contracting may lead to either adjustments or to the projects or possibly doesn't get to completion if for some reason the circumstances of an applicant have changed and they are enabled, for example, to carry out the project originally intended.

So that's why we need to wait for the end of the process of contracting to be able to announce the applicants. It's completely natural that people want to know and want to be able to start with their projects as soon as possible. This is also our desire, we just need to go through the motions, and we expect that to be completed very soon. Thank you.

BECKY BURR

Nigel, please.

NIGEL ROBERTS

Hello. My name is Nigel Roberts. I've been involved in ICANN in lots of different capacities for more years than I can care to remember,

maybe even going back before the dawn of time before ICANN started. We always appreciate the Board dealing with questions that are presented here in a timely manner, and I'm sure that the Board continues to guess when people come to the microphone, what they might be prepared to come and say.

Now, I've noted that I believe that Skype is closing down, so I just want to ask you whether or not you're going to make sure you have a good behind the scenes communication mechanism in time for the next public forum.

BECKY BURR

Communication is critical, and I'm sure we will be prepared to communicate. Thank you. Hello, Becky.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET

Sebastien Bachollet. Thanks for giving me the forum and thanks for talking to me in French. I am delighted that we see the image of NARALO, and I'm happy to see that we have the end user representatives here. The ICANN Board, I'm moving slowly because I can see some people are putting their headsets on. You should always have your headset on. The sound is much better actually. The Board met with ICANN constituencies this week and addressed a number of issues.

And there's one issue that is close to my heart, it is the holistic review of ICANN. I wanted to know if you had felt some kind of convergence in the answers that were brought to you during the meetings you had with the constituencies. And I believe that we

should maybe gather every constituency in one room so that everybody hears what everybody has to say rather than separating these different constituencies. Thank you very much for your attention.

BECKY BURR

Thank you, Sebastien. I just want to say, I am strongly advocate bringing the common questions to bringing everybody together to answer the common questions. We hear the one constituency after another separately telling us answering our questions, and I think it would be very useful for us all to hear each other. But as to your specific question, I'm going to turn to Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank for the question, Sebastian. So there were certainly themes that emerged. One is that everyone recognizes our obligations to being accountable and being transparent. We also recognize that we are stuck and that it's time to get ourselves out of this situation. And so we are taking the information that we have gathered back, and we will cogitate on it and come back with some recommendations on how to proceed.

BECKY BURR

Roberto.

ROBERTO GAETANO

Thank you. Roberto Gaetano, NextGen mentor this time. I'm having an excellent experience by being a NextGen mentor, and I

think that it's very important to be able to hear what people who are actually is the first time that they attend to an ICANN meeting, what are their ideas, and so on. I think that this is an opportunity for us, and I'm wondering whether we are taking the most out of this effort of this program. I'm making just one example.

When we had the presentations of the NextGeners, there were, besides the NextGen and the fellows in the room, probably not more than 20 or 30 people from the community. I understand that we all have different engagement and commitments, but this has not been a really welcoming approach for the people who is the first time that approached this community. And as a boss of mine a while ago told me, you only have one opportunity to make a first good impression, make good use out of it.

And I think that we have missed it. We can recuperate because I will invite all the community to go to see these presentations that are public. There's also the recording of the sessions, and that is a good experience. Just for one point, only one of those 12 is about the new gTLDs.

That should also give us a sign on where the outside the restricted ICANN circles people are thinking. Those are interesting topics on different aspects. I would hope that at least one of the NextGeners would come to the open mic to share their experience as their first experience in an ICANN meeting. Thank you.

BECKY BURR Thank you, Roberto. I think we'll turn to Leon, our former ICANN fellow for this one.

LEON SANCHEZ Thanks, Becky. This is Leon Sanchez. Thank you, Roberto. I'm going to switch to Spanish so that we use the interpretation services.

ROBERTO GAETANO No problem for me.

LEON SANCHEZ This is a recurrent topic, this is something that came up in Kigali. And as you are pointing out, everyone has different commitments, different sessions that may be overlapping, but at least from the Board perspective, our chair and our colleagues, we are always aware of the work that is being carried out by NextGen and some Fellows.

Yesterday we had a session with the NextGeners and Fellows, and you are right, we are missing some opportunities to learn about their work, to learn what they do in the program, and we are missing the opportunity to learn from their ideas.

And this may be a naive question, if you will, but I don't know if after the NextGen program ends and after each public meeting, there is any website where presentations are posted. Of course, sessions are being recorded, and we may be able to review those presentations, but I guess it would be quite interesting to think

about a project as we were discussing some time ago for fellows and NextGeners to work together to collaborate.

And perhaps we may have a website for them to be able to post their presentations and for these presentations to be available to the whole community and for the Board, and of course, for the CEO of the organization.

ROBERTO GAETANO

Thank you so much, Leon. I am going to speak to staff members to check this perhaps in Prague. We may do something better, and perhaps we may see how we can include NextGen's presentations in the program. Perhaps we may check if there are conflicting sessions in this meeting. We had a meeting that was scheduled together with the core internet values related sessions. So young people come here and they need to have this idea of internet values. So perhaps there is room for improvement.

LEON SANCHEZ

Thank you, Roberto.

BECKY BURR

Thank you, Roberto. Let me just point out that this is an issue that is recognized and is addressed in the strategic plan, it's something that we do intend to work on. So checkout section 113 and 114 of the strategic plan. Yes.

SARAH DEUTSCH

I would also add that this is a really good comment. I think we need to make sure that the NextGen and the Fellows feel empowered to participate in ICANN in the long term, and perhaps we should strategize about how to get them up to speed, how to feel included in our processes. And this also goes to the larger question of how do we get each of us out of our silos? We're all very busy doing our own things, even the Board is in a silo. So we'd love to continue to work on that with all of you.

BECKY BURR

Thank you. Please go ahead.

TORSTEN KRAUSE

Thanks, Becky. Good morning. My name is Torsten Krause, I'm working at the Digital Opportunities Foundation based in Germany. I would like to touch upon three topics briefly. First, the RDRS is a really good idea and a good tool.

I would like to encourage us all to improve it further and to bring it from a pilot to a long-time running system. That would be really great. Second, with regard to the RDRS, we are facing this open question of timeframe, how to deal with urgent requests.

And I would like to encourage and to support all parties involved in this process to find a meaningful and manageable solution very soon because we need this. And last but not least, as a chat rights advocate, I would like to encourage all of us to help to develop and implement Human Rights Impact Assessment. And besides all of

our different perspectives, which are really valuable, it's necessary to take human rights into account. Thank you very much.

BECKY BURR

Thank you very much for those comments. I think the Board has indicated that it does believe that RDRS is a valuable tool, it does need to be improved. We've learned a lot from the pilot, but we have plans going forward. The urgent request timeline issue and the authentication of law enforcement is something that is being addressed right now, and we encourage you to get involved in that. And with respect to the Human Rights Impact Assessment, there is a new human rights checklist that's out, and we're hoping that people will use that as well. So, thank you. We're going to go to a question offline now or online now.

ALEXANDRA DANS

Yes, online, we have Rick Lane. Rick, you can unmute your mic.

RICK LANE

Thank you. Can you hear me? Can you hear me? Can you hear me?

BECKY BURR

Yes, we can hear you.

ALEXANDRA DANS

A little bit louder if you can. Thank you.

RICK LANE

I'm happy to speak louder. Rick Lane for the record. In the geopolitical discussion, ICANN representatives stated that ICANN only provide information to lawmakers on how the DNS works and not specific legislative language. Yet in the US, ICANN was instrumental in helping to draft and include language to get an exception from the US cybersecurity reporting bill.

I spoke to Senator Portman's committee staffer who was point for the ICANN exception language, and he told me that ICANN's proactive lobbying effort on the specific exception, but more interesting was that he told me and said I could state this publicly, that it was made clear to the ICANN lobbyist that the exception to the CCIA reporting requirements only applies to ICANN and not to the contracted parties.

My question to Jamie during the geopolitical discussion was whether or not ICANN had conveyed to the contracted parties prior to or after the US Homeland Security notice of proposed rulemaking, that the contracted parties were not covered by the ICANN exception. Jamie did not answer that specific question.

His answer was that ICANN does not have a position on whether or not the contracted party should be covered. But again, the question is, did ICANN agree to the CCIA exception language knowing that it did not apply to the contracted parties, and did ICANN inform any of the contracted parties prior to the contracted party's CCIA NPR filings or after that they were not part of the exception. And do the ICANN Board approve this exception and this policy statement, or how was ICANN able to push legislation

and language that had never gone through the multi-stakeholder process? Thank you.

BECKY BURR

Thank you, Rick. I'm going to turn this over to Kurtis.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Thank you, Becky. I might get Jamie to answer. This was partly answered or fully answered in the geopolitical session. I believe there were working group sessions held or sessions held when this policy was discussed and what ICANN position and scope on this was, but maybe Jamie can complete that. Jamie are you online?

RICK LANE

And if you can ask a specific question of whether ICANN knew, not whether they have a position. Thank you.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Sorry, I can't hear.

BECKY BURR

Sorry, Rick, we can't hear you. I think we heard that you're asking the question of whether ICANN knew. Is Jamie available? Yeah.

JAMIE HEDLUND

This is Jamie. Can you hear me?

BECKY BURR

Yes, we can.

JAMIE HEDLUND

Yeah, I'm still really not understanding the point of Rick's question, but as I tried to respond to him during the last session, we've been completely transparent about all of our efforts around CCIA and the rulemaking. And particularly on the point about whether or not registries and registrars should be covered by the exception, we have been transparent in our filing in the many working sessions following, there's never been an effort to hide or to not be upfront and transparent about our concerns about the legislation that could be interpreted as reregulating ICANN by the US Federal Government, and on a worthy issue, which is cyber incident reporting.

But with the multi-stakeholder model, we think there's a better approach, and we demonstrated how we did that for ICANN and PTI. And so the exception in the language is as it is, the legislation speaks for itself, and the rulemaking is very clear about who it covers and its request to ask for additional information. So given that that's where it is, I'm still struggling to understand the point of the question given our transparency and the clarity the rulemaking in the legislative text is. Thanks.

RICK LANE

I'm happy to clarify it for Jamie and the point of the question, which is this, did ICANN know that the language did not apply to the contracted parties? It's a yes or no?

JAMIE HEDLUND

ICANN did not seek language or-- sorry.

RICK LANE

I said that's not the question. The question is whether or not ICANN agree to the language knowing that CCIA did not apply to the contracted parties. It's a yes or no question.

JAMIE HEDLUND

We agreed to the language that would cover ICANN and PTI. The language in the proposal in the NPRM issued by CCIA Department of Homeland Security. CCIA expands it beyond ICANN and PTI to include registry RARs, particularly ARIN in the US and root server operators. So again, I still don't understand the question because our concern was narrow, what we saw was narrow. What ended up in the legislation was narrow, and the rulemaking itself, the proposal is narrow, and it asks an additional question about registries and registrars, which has been the subject of multiple discussions within ICANN sessions in multiple meetings recently.

BECKY BURR

Thank you, Jamie. Rick, if you are still unhappy with this answer, I suggest that you connect with Kurtis offline. I think my time here is done, and I am going to hand this over to Sarah.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thanks, Becky. Let's take the next person in line.

ABDULKARIM AYOPO OLOYEDE Once again, my name is Abdulkarim Oloyede, I'm a professor of Wireless Communications from University Of Ilorin, Nigeria. Members of the academia like myself have long played a crucial role in shaping the internet, contributing to technical expertise, policy insight, and long-term strategic thinking.

Currently, some members of the academia participate in ICANN prove various groups, but this engagement is largely ad hoc and unstructured and does not reflect the depth of what the members of the academia can contribute to this community. My question is, what do you think about having a dedicated Academic Advisory Committee? Because I believe that the Academic Advisory Committee would institutionalize academic contribution rather than rely on individual participation across different ICANN bodies.

Having this committee would also provide an in-depth research-based recommendation on internet governance, security, and policy. It would also bridge the gap between research and policymaking, ensuring that ICANN decisions are informed by rigorous analysis and global best practice.

It'll also support capacity building initiative, like what Roberto was mentioning earlier, it'll help train the future leaders in internal governance. So given the importance of academia and shaping the future of internet, is it not time for us to create this type of dedicated committee. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thanks so much for your question. It sounds like one of global stakeholder engagement. I'm going to turn it first to Kurtis, and then you can decide who after that.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Thank you. So, yes, I mean, there is a lot of effort inside global stakeholder engagement already to reach out to academia, and we do engage with academia. I actually met with some of academia networks also with OCTO yesterday to talk about how we can cooperate closer. So there is a lot of cross-pollination at least between ICANN Org and academia. And we try to reach out and engage the academic community in the work that we do, but also in ICANN's wider work.

Your question was about a new structure, and I think that's maybe slightly above my pay grade, but that might be something to consider. But we do a lot of work with academia already, which is what I wanted to say. I think Chris wanted to add something. I didn't hear that, sorry. Holistic review. Okay. That might be the answer to many questions today.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Okay. Well, thank you. I think we'll go to the next person in line.

JOE ALAGNA

Okay. Good morning, everybody. My name's Joe Alagna, I'm with it.com domain speaking on my own behalf. Thanks for this public forum. I'm a huge fan of ICANN. But is it possible that we're

encouraging or that there may be an appearance of monopolistic behavior as we create new policy? Pretend I'm a new TLD applicant, or maybe how would this look to an antitrust attorney?

Might they be concerned that we're meeting in the city where the largest seller of books and most formidable platform for authors in the world exists, who is also the single holder of both .book and .author, and we're ready to vote on a policy that will disallow anyone else in the world from acquiring the plural versions .books and .authors under a pretense that it might confuse internet users who learned the difference between singulars and plurals in about third grade, and also in contravention to all of established ICANN precedents.

And all the while, their attorneys, lobbyists are participants in this process. And while this company has also held back every registration in those two TLDs for 10 years, the full term of their agreement. So I apologize if the subject of my comments is too obvious. I admire this company, I know it's a for-profit business, and people tell me they're just conservative. It's really ICANN policy that has allowed this, but we are the policy makers, and this is one blatant example of how this looks, and there's many more.

In our last guidebook questions, 18B and C, it asks how will your new gTLD benefit registrants and internet users, and what rules will allow you to minimize social costs and consumer vulnerabilities? These are questions an antitrust lawyer would ask. So if we really want to assist new TLD applicants, let's give them a chance to succeed by allowing them to apply for strings where they have a

chance in the market, rather than giving more advantage to established registries.

And also regarding private auctions, I want to talk about that. Turns out that this-- well, I may not have time, but it was the best way to resolve contention last time, and we're throwing the baby out with the bath water, that's all I want to say. There has to be a hybrid example where we can implement and share proceeds with ICANN than give all the proceeds to ICANN.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thank you very much for your comment. It's difficult for us to respond to what an antitrust lawyer may think, but we're certainly going to think about what you said. So thank you for sharing with us.

JOE ALAGNA

Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

The next person in line.

ROLLA HAMZA

Thank you. Good morning. This is Rolla Hamza, and ICANN82 fellow, and I'm speaking on my own capacity. The ICANN Learn platform is amazing for us as a fellow newcomer to grasp the understanding and the background of all the committee. And also the pre-week session was very insightful and was very useful for us

to put it on the process of what is the ongoing discussion about every committee and what to expect. My question is, is it possible that pre-week be conducted earlier than the week before? Because it's for us as a newcomer or fellows to digest all the discussion and the committee that they do. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thank you for your suggestion and comment. I don't see any Board member wanting to talk. Kurtis, did you want to say something?

KURTIS LINDQVIST

I mean, it's an interesting year. Thank you for your suggestion, and I understand the complexity. I don't have an answer here and now, but it's certainly something we can discuss. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Great. Let's go to the next person in line.

MAARTEN AERTSEN

Good morning. This is Maarten Aertsen speaking for the record. I work for NLnet Labs, a tiny R&D outfit writing open-source software. If you've used the internet today, you might have used what we work on. I would like to congratulate the Board and the community on finishing the first round of the grant program. I would like to congratulate those received grant funding, in particular, those of our friends that maintain such software. And I have some considerations for the evaluation that I would hope the

board will take into account when this process continues towards next rounds.

So from my first point of feedback is that the feedback we receive as applicants when the grant cycle comes to an end, I cannot be opaque to the point that it does not in any way inform a new application in a subsequent round. I would strongly have you consider early rejections, and finally, it would be nice to shorten cycles and share progress information to applicants. Eight months of complete silence, except for refreshing the webpage, is quite a long time. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thanks for that. I'll just look around here to see if any of our colleagues want to make a comment. Wes.

WES HARDAKER

I can't answer to it. I'm conflicted out of the grant program being on the Board, but I sympathize with your pain as a fellow academic. Waiting a long time to figure out whether or not you're going to get funding for your project is a real challenge. And that's unfortunately true, not only for I'm sure the grant program, but for pretty much any source of academic funding I'm familiar with. It's a very long process, and it's very frustrating. I have great sympathy for you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Alan.

ALAN BARRETT

Thank you. This is Alan Barrett. Thanks very much for your question. I think we've heard that it's frustrating for people to have to wait such a long time. On the positive side as we heard maybe about half an hour ago, the Board has approved the final slate of grant awardees, and the organization is in the progress of negotiating contracts with them.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Great. Thank you, all. Hi, Mike.

MICHAEL PALAGE

Hi, Sarah.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Please go ahead.

MICHAEL PALAGE

Michael Palage speaking in an individual capacity. And for those interested, I gave a much more detailed SOI in the geopolitical session earlier today. On Monday, Tripti asked us to follow her down the yellow brick road. So I would like to expand on that analogy, except instead of going to the Emerald City, perhaps a city of a different shade of green.

Over the past 12 to 18 months, I have been raising the concern about a dangerous trend where I have seen ICANN engage in bilateral negotiations with its contracting parties to implement

policy. While this is permitted under the bilateral nature of the contracts which ICANN enters into with its contracting parties, I think it is a dangerous precedent when we ignore the policy development process clearly set forth in the ICANN bylaws. I think this trend is dangerous and undermines the multi-stakeholder model.

I would encourage everyone to listen to a recent deep dive that ALAC and the CPWG did on this topic. I would like to end with the following, if you will, conclusion. In the end of the Wizard of Oz, Toto pulls back the curtain. The question is, what do we find behind that curtain? Do we find a multi-stakeholder model that we can all rally behind, one that I was taught about by Louis Touton, Esther Dyson, Mike Roberts, Marilyn Cade, or do we find ICANN Legal in Jones Day saying, please ignore the attorneys behind the curtain. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thanks, Mike. Becky.

BECKY BURR

Thank you, Michael. As you acknowledged, and as the fundamental documents creating ICANN provided, there are two paths to impose obligations on contracted parties. One is the contract via the bilateral negotiations, and one is the policy development process. If something is within the picket fence, and I believe your issue is within the picket fence, the community is free at any time to start a policy development process.

You can go and work with constituencies to start that process, and it would override, a policy coming out of that would override whatever is negotiated in a contract. So this is not routing around the policy development process, it is of a completely legitimate use of the tools that have been in place embodied by the picket fence, and I'm pretty sure I taught you about the picket fence that have been in place since 1999.

MICHAEL PALAGE

So yes, Becky, but then the question is, and allow me to follow up on that, so engage in a policy development process, accuracy, access. So you want the community to wait 10, 20 years. And let me be clear, I'm not trying to beat up on my contracting party brethren. I've been on that side where I've had to wait for ICANN. And see, this actually goes to the bigger problem, Becky, the current process is not working, thus forcing contracting parties that want to move forward to route around.

This is kind of the internet 101, there's a blockage. What do you do? You route around the blockage. And that is what's happening, that is what's concerning, it is a dangerous trend. And while that is true and accurate, when Tripti was talking on Monday, she was not sitting there saying, oh, by the way, there is bilateral contractual amendments, she was espousing the multi-stakeholder model, and that's the problem, Becky.

BECKY BURR

Okay, so I'm not going to disagree with you. The policy development process is not efficient and it's not working as it should. We should take on that problem. But when the contracted parties move forward on important issues like security incident reporting, I think let's focus on what the real issue. We definitely need to enhance the policy development process. I believe that is a very clear and fundamental part of our strategic plan, so I encourage you to participate in that work as we go forward.

MICHAEL PALAGE

I will indeed. Thank you, Becky.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thanks. Let's pause for a second, Jeff, because I think we have an online question.

ALEXANDRA DANS

Thank you. Yes, a question from Luc Seufer, Namespace. "What's a contracting party?"

BECKY BURR

Well, the way we use that term is to refer to ICANN accredited registrars and ICANN registries that have registry agreements with ICANN. Obviously, the term is sort of generic, but we use it in capitalized here as a defined term and probably maybe too informally to refer to registries and registrars.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thanks for the question. Next we go to Jeff.

JEFF NEUMAN

Yeah, sorry, I'm a little short here as you know. Jeff Neuman, and by the way, I think Luc asked that question to say bingo. I think Luke knows what a contracted party is. So I wanted to get up here because a few comments ago, there were some, I'll say kind of conspiracy theories about the new gTLD process. And again, I'm speaking on my own personal capacity here, but also, I was one of the co-chairs of the subsequent procedures working group which worked for many years on coming up with the policies.

The specific policies referenced by the previous speaker were actually not ones from big large companies that are in this area, whoever they may be. But rather, those two particular examples were ones that had unanimous support from the community. So, I don't envy the ICANN Board for having to deal with some conspiracy theories, but I wanted to actually get up here and thank you for moving forward on new gTLDs.

Many of us who were around for the previous 2012 round did not think it was going to be possible to stick to timelines, but you guys and ICAN Org, the staff have done a fantastic job sticking to those timelines, meeting the milestones, they should all be congratulated.

We're not quite there yet, so I guess my request would be just to make sure that, ICANN, your staff has enough resources to make sure we get to the finish line. This has been a long time waiting, and

I am just glad that I can hopefully see the next round launch before I at some point depart this community. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thanks, Jeff. I'm going to turn it over to Becky, but I did want to make a request that the ICANN Board be supplied with the bingo card so that we can weave those answers into our responses to you.

BECKY BURR

Yes, we could win. Jeff, thank you for that comment. I want to just say I'm sure you do have an idea, but it is astonishing to me the amount of work that is going on and how well the Org team is working. It's firing on all cylinders. Alan and I as chairs of the caucus on this, they're constantly updating us on what's going on. The Board is being constantly updated. We are very pleased that the timeline is being kept to, and that we're moving forward. So I just wanted to take this opportunity to say your shout out to the next round team is well served.

TRIPTI SINHA

Jeff, when you came to the mic, I got nervous. I was like, oh my God, what is he going to say? But thank you. I just want to echo what Becky's saying. The work is phenomenal. You have no idea. We just had a Board workshop and we're very impressed with the work that Kurtis' team is doing.

And Michael, just to the comment that you made, regarding the PDPs, if you've read strategic plan, one of the prongs of the plan

speaks about improving the policy development process. So it's on our radar and it will be looked at. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Great. I think we're going to go first to an online question. I think we have an online question, so let's just hear that one first, then we'll turn back to you.

ALEXANDRA DANS

Thank you. We have a question from Raymond Mamattah. My name is Raymond Mamattah, ICANN82 Fellow. My question is in my individual capacity. Prior to COVID, ICANN fellows were provided with meals during their in-person fellowship sessions, but this has stopped for a while now. What are the plans to resume providing meals, lunch for the fellows? If not, what is the problem, why can it not be continued? Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thanks. Maybe Sally could answer this one.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Yeah, I think I'm going to guess ask Sally to comment on this, and she'll probably provide some feedback on that. Thank you.

SALLY COSTERTON

Thank you. Thank you very much. Similar answer, we'll take a look at it. Absolutely. Thank you for the question. Thank you for pointing it out. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Great. Let's go to the next person online, and then after you'll go back to an online question.

FILIMONI PELENATO

So greetings everyone, and special greetings to the ICANN Board members. My name is Filimoni Pelenato from Samoa, current ICANN82 fellow, and speaking on my own capacity. First, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Siranush, who is the fellowship program manager and the dedicated mentors who have guided us throughout this journey. Their close collaboration, support, and leadership have been very instrumental in making this program impactful.

My personal experience as a first timer in this program has been very incredible and inspiring. The opportunity to learn within the ICANN ecosystem has deepened my understanding of internet governments and reinforce my commitment to contributing to this space. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be here as a fellowship member. However, I couldn't help but feel very disheartened that out of nearly 500 applications, only 40 were selected despite the growing need for broader participation in ICANN.

While I understand there is budget constraints, I would like to ask the Board, is ICANN actively exploring ways to increase the number in the future for successful fellowship and NextGen candidates given the vast numbers of countries ICANN service globally? Youth voices are crucial part of the ICANN community, and bringing in fresh perspectives, ensuring long-term sustainability in the multi-stakeholder is very important.

So expanding these opportunities, whether through partnerships or budget relocation, could significant enhance global enhancement and particularly in underrepresented regions. So I strongly urge the Board to consider increasing the acceptance rate for the fellowship and NextGen programs to ensure wider representation and participation. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thank you. I think we have a couple of people who would like to comment. Why don't we start first with you, Leon?

LEON SANCHEZ

Thanks, Sarah. And again, I'm going to switch to Spanish just for the sake of using our interpretation. Thank you so much for your comment and for your participation. We all know we are undergoing some challenges in terms of our financial situation at ICANN. As a fellow, there is nothing that I would love more than enlarging this program for more participants to be able to access this program.

But the reality is that we have limited resources, and it is also true that it is not the only way in which we can participate at ICANN and in the internet ecosystem. There are plenty examples of local and reasonable events where you can participate, where people like you can engage and participate.

And I urge you and I urge all of us willing to participate in the ecosystem to please engage in these other events. As you already know, most of the activity being carried out at ICANN is not taking place at ICANN meetings. Most of the activities take place in our intersectional activities and sessions.

So along this line, we have always worked and advocated towards broadening programs, but this is not the best time to do it. But of course, this is something that we always take into account, and it is also included in our strategic plan. We would like to enlarge the impact of the programs for these programs to be more accessible for more people.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Great. Thank you, Leon. And Kurtis, I didn't know if you or one of your team members wanted to say anything further.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

I don't know if Sally wanted to add something on the program and the evolution on that, maybe.

SALLY COSTERTON

Thank you. Really big question, very important question. We've heard the correlation between increasing participation, particularly from underrepresented groups, which several of the Board have mentioned is inside the strategic plan, inside the operating plan, and it's a priority for ICANN. And as Leon was saying, it's now what we're doing at a tactical level with the programs is balancing all our priorities.

And Leon made an excellent point about the many, many events and activities both on and offline that we run all over the world, often in partnership with members of our technical ecosystem, all sorts of other stakeholders in the internet world. And absolutely, we will continue to strive to do those activities in different languages to reach out through our networks, not just our ICANN networks, but our partnerships with organizations, for example, like ISCO who are at this meeting, who are regionally structured, to make sure that we include as many people as we can who are interested in our work.

And then some of them hopefully will become part of those programs. So it's very important to look at the programs in the scale and size and efficacy of the programs, what we do online, what we do offline, but also recognizing that they're part of a wider engagement activity to bring more of those underrepresented voices into ICANN, which is a little bit what you were saying, Leon, so I hope that's helpful. So very much actively under review as part of our overall engagement strategy. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thank you. And before we go to the microphone, I believe we have another online question.

ALEXANDRA DANS

Yes. We have a question from Lucky Masilela. "What would be ICANN's stake if the next round of gTLDs, there are no applicants coming from Africa, mainly due to affordability." Two, "Would it not be ideal that we recognize and support Africa RSPs not to be subjected to the evaluation fee, again, for the same reason?" There are other factors that can be brought in support of that question. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thanks. Kurtis. Why don't we go to Alan as well, I think he would like to say something first.

ALAN BARRETT

Thank you for that question, Lucky. This is Alan Barrett. I think it would be very sad if there were no applicants from Africa. I understand that affordability is an issue, but I hope that that can be overcome.

On the question of RSP evaluations, there's no provision in our policies for different regions to have different fees. So I think African registry service providers would have to go through the same process as anybody else.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thank you. Kurtis.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Well, I was going to add this. I mean, the applicant support program is of course, there to address exactly this, and so is the ambassador and outreach programs to ensure that there are applicants from all underserved regions or where we have very few applicants in the last round. So we are really hoping that will be successful, so we'd like to encourage you all to use that and apply in that and work through the outreach programs so that that doesn't happen, to Alan's point. Thank you.

SARAH DEUTSCH

Thank you. I'm going to pass the baton over to Miriam Sapiro.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you very much, Sarah. We'll go back to the queue in the room. Please.

FARZANEH BADIEI

Hi, my name is Farzaneh Badiei, Non-commercial Stakeholder Group member. I just wanted to say that the internet is alive and well because of the internet community and the bottom-up multi-stakeholder internet governance. We have weathered geopolitical conflicts and issues, we have actually dealt with the COVID pandemic.

Millions and billions of people trusted the internet and connected via the internet to do their daily job during COVID, and that's partially thanks to the multi-stakeholder bottom-up internet governance. And what is very important for us is to promote, encourage this model among the governments and other stakeholders and not undermine it. Of course, there are shortcomings, but PDPs, we are doing our job.

The community is coming up with policies. Just at the council, we approved the transfer policy that is very important for domain name registrants. Also, another thing that we have to acknowledge is that we cannot solve every internet problem at ICANN. So the stakeholders, if they have issues, they shouldn't just rely on ICANN and bring it to ICANN, we have a limited scope.

Another thing that I wanted to mention is about individual rights and human rights, that is very important. At ICANN and NCSG, along with other stakeholders, is trying to infuse those values. So when we mitigate abuse, when we come up with policies, we should always remember, freedom of speech is important, freedom of assembly is important, and that's what keep us alive. Thank you.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you so much for that comment. I think we're all here because we embrace and understand the critical importance of the multi-stakeholder model, and it depends on all of us in this room and beyond to make sure that it's working and to improve it where

we can. So thank you very much for that contribution. We now have an online question, so we'll go back to Alex.

ALEXANDRA DANS

It's a comment from Juliana Harsianti. I would like to say that it's good that the Human Rights Impact Assessment tool sessions still continues to take place in ICANN82. I hope it's going to lead to conversations about the discussions among the ICANN constituency and the consideration to the applied tools to future PDPs.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you. Anybody want to respond? Okay, thank you very much. And we'll go back to the queue in the room.

MICHAEL PALAGE

Okay, I'm here again only because I think I'm entitled to a little rebuttal. Accuse me of being uninformed, but please don't accuse me of being a conspiracy theorist. Every word I said was based on reality. I'm a realist and I've watched what's happened from 2012 till now, and I was not criticizing a company. In fact, I love that company and I'm probably a big one of their, well, I'm a big user of their services and products.

I am concerned about our direction in this new round and about us as policymakers and what we have encouraged. Even if it had wide support, I probably supported it back then, but that doesn't mean it was the right thing to do and that it encouraged competition. In

fact, in this particular realm, the example I used, it has discouraged competition. Those two TLDs were ones that I was so interested in, and 10 years later, I can't buy it, I can't buy one.

So I know we encouraged it, we supported it, but I just want to make sure everybody understands I don't make stuff up. This is based on what has happened and on policies we created, and I would like to see us think about that as we go forward. And I started to talk about these private auctions. Again, I will reiterate, private auctions did work. They resolved contention and better than any other method we used, and we're looking at, if we haven't already, thrown out the bath water, the baby with the bath water here.

There's a way to use those auctions to reduce the risk for the new TLD applicants that we care so much about, even then, the ASP. We want them to succeed, so giving them some money off doesn't really matter to their long-term success. What matters is choosing right strings, and I don't think there's anybody in this room that will disagree with me about that.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you. Let me turn to Becky for reply.

BECKY BURR

Thanks. If somebody accused you of promoting conspiracy theories, I apologize, I didn't hear it. On the private auction issue, this was a topic of enormous conversation among this community. We sought input, expert input on auctions, we got comments from

all parts of the community. And the decision of the Board ultimately was that we really could not support private auctions.

I understand what you're saying, and it did. There's no doubt that there was some vibrancy that was produced by the private auctions, but in the end, our values came out in a different place. I understand what you're saying and you're entitled to that view, but the multi-stakeholder model is what it is, and that's what was produced by the appropriate use of the model.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you, Becky.

MICHAEL PALAGE

Thank you for that.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

We're going to pause the questions in the room for just a moment. I believe, Alex, we have an online question.

ALEXANDRA DANS

Yes, we have a question from Rick Lane. "Why was the policy development process not implemented by on a thick WHOIS?"

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Becky?

BECKY BURR

The community developed subsequent policy in the EPDP phase one, and as part of that policy, the community recommendation determined that the thick WHOIS should be, well, of course it is subject to the requirement that you have a legitimate interest in having that data at the registry level and that it was up to the registry to assert legitimate interest in that in each registry under the policy developed by the community is free to determine whether it has a legitimate need for that data, and if it asks for that data and it has a legitimate interest, its obligations under the contract would be, and under the consensus policy, would be to provide that.

The Board spent a long time talking with the EPDP and the Council to make sure that in fact what was happening was a reversal in the thick WHOIS policy. I'm pretty sure many of you know that I'm on record as having not supported that change. But that is what was produced through the bottom-up multi-stakeholder model.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you, Becky. And I've been advised that the queue is now closed, so let's go back to the first person in line. Thank you.

REG LEVY

Thank you. My name is Reg Levy and I wear many hats in the community, but I'm speaking here in my capacity as an admin of the ICANN social Facebook page to address Sarah's question. The bingo cards are available there, and everyone in this room is welcome. They're also available on the Skype channel until that

disappears, as well as the signal channel. In my capacity as a representative of Tucows, I would also like to support Joe's comments on the auction process. It's not appropriate to fill ICANN's coffers that way. Thank you.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you. And we'll go to the next question, please.

MIRACLE ONYEBUCHIM

Thank you very much. My name is Miracle. I'm an ICANN it's two NextGen participants. I'd like to first start by saying thank you to all of you for the honor. Thank you to Fernanda who has been doing an incredible job leading the NextGen. Thank you to my mentor Navid, and also thank you to our photographer, has been doing an incredible job covering all the sessions. We see you.

The future of the internet is changing, DNS attacks are going to get more sophisticated, the way that we interact and rules of engagement for the future is going to change from what we know, and my generation needs to be in the room when policies about how we use the internet are being formulated. But I don't see my generation on the table. In most of the sessions that I've attended, I don't see my generation amongst the core group influencing these policies.

And I know this question can be raised through the different At-Large structure, but it's very important that the board thinks about this. Everybody I talk to in ICANN, you've been here 20 years, you've been here 15 years, you've been here 17, that's good. But perhaps

the reason is also because there's not a lot of available competent hands to hand over to, and so you do this, you don't retire, and you just keep doing it because you're passionate.

But I think it's something that we need to think about. One way to start would've been if some of you here were there for the NextGen presentation, it would've given you an insight into what my generations is thinking about for the future. There were very interesting presentations from my colleagues around, domain name systems, DNS attacks, root servers, but you were not in the room.

And I hope that you'll be able to look back at the presentation to sort of understand what we're passionate about and how we think about the internet. And I think the boss should probably think about how you bring my generation into that. We need to be there when you're deciding how we use the internet and something that's going to be a mainstay for us in the future. Thank you very much.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you. I could not agree more, and I'm very glad you made that comment. We appreciate it. Next queue, please. Thank you.

WYATT JEROME

Hi, Wyatt Jerome, I'm a NextGen participant, just for the record. First and foremost, I'd like to echo what Miracle said. Thank you very much for having me, it's been an honor to be here for sure. I understand there's been a message sent to youth as sort of the next

generation of internet governance, however, it is a little bit patronizing, I guess, when that message is sent and reinforced pretty consistently, yet, we give these presentations and there are very few people in the room.

One other thing, beyond ICANN, beyond the NextGen Program, and beyond the fellowship, I'm considering ways to get involved. Might I suggest maybe a one-stop shop on the ICANN website for sort of supporting the ICANN's adjacent organization such as ARIN or ISOC, or something. Thank you.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you. We need to improve and find new ways and better ways to interact with NextGen and others who are the future. So thank you also for raising that. We appreciate it. All right. We'll pause the line in the room just for a moment because we have another online question. Over to Alex, please.

ALEXANDRA DANS

Thank you. We have a question from Kevin Murphy. "Could somebody from ICANN confirm that retirement proceedings have been initiated against .su, the ccTLD from the former Soviet Union. Are you anticipating any pushback from the Russian Federation and or the Trump administration?"

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you, Kevin. I'm going to turn to Kurtis for a reply.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

So, ICANN has been in discussions with the managers of .su regarding retirement or of the ccTLD for many, many years. There has not been sent a formal notice of removal to the ccTLD managers, and there is no timeline for sending one, and discussions will keep on ongoing especially following the adaptation the ccNSO retirement policy. So the answer is no.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you. And now we'll go back to the queue in the room. Please.

WERNER STAUB

My name is Werner Staub, I work for the CORE Association. I would like to talk about a vacuum of responsibility that we as the domain name community are at least partly responsible for. And that the vacuum of responsibility has is a result of historic facts, we have a process that was well-defined 40 years ago, but of course, the procedures that we defined 40 years ago to handle the domain names cannot work nowadays.

When fax numbers were a good way to identify and contact people, that was a good solution. Now, even the threat of the loss of a domain name for somebody who has actually been using it abusively is absolutely no factor at all because it's just too easy to get. There's too many abused domain names in there enabling criminal actions that endanger people everywhere.

Now, we have not been able to create a system up to now whereby we can enable trustworthy actors to demonstrate that they're trustworthy. This is something other industries have done everywhere. I mean, basically the banking industry has ratings, the financial industry has ratings, auditors, and so on. We kind of haven't done that, even though the system is actually pretty good at doing that.

We've been able to do the opposite, which is quite useful also, we've been able to do blacklists using the domain name system to blacklist domains. That's fine, but it's just simply not going to be enough. We have to continue working on the action against abused domains, but we have to work more on enabling the trustworthy ones to distinguish themselves from the ones where we just simply don't know.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you. Sarah, would you like to reply?

SARAH DEUTSCH

Sure. Yeah, I agree with you. I think more work needs to be done and the abuse amendments are definitely progress and we should applaud those as a good first step and measure how the abuse amendments are working. But having this dialogue, not just telling the board your ideas and best practices, but discussing them in the community is exactly where these discussions need to be happening.

And I think there is room in the DNS abuse space for both the definition of abuse to evolve so long as it's within ICANN's mission, but also the practices to address it will evolve as well. And I know there's a lot of good work happening inside the community and outside in parallel with the efforts happening here. So thank you again for your comment.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Hi, Avri.

AVRI DORIA

Hi, my name is Avri Doria, it's seven years since I've stood in this line. I actually want to question an answer that was given earlier in terms of the auctions. Actually, the decision that came out of the board wasn't really a decision there may be no options, it was a decision that people may not talk to each other about pretty much anything to do with their applications.

Now, I would question a decision saying against private auctions, it's very reminiscent to me of the decisions that were taken in 2011, 2012, when the Board would find something that it was to its displeasure, it would come and make a decision. To say that decision was made with the bottom-up multi-stakeholder process is sort of stretching the notion of the process. There was no process, there were some consultations, and then a declaration came out of the Board.

So fine, if the Board is certainly is in the power that it's got to make arbitrary decisions and say you cannot talk to each other about

your applications as a way to try and prevent private auctions that upset them personally. But I really think it was a bad precedent to reset, and I really caution against any future arbitrary decisions made by the Board about things that displease it. Thank you.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you, Avri. Let me turn to Becky to see if she has a comment.

BECKY BURR

Thanks. I would dispute the term arbitrary. You were there, we had lots of conversations about it, we had input from many, many parts of the community, and then we had input from experts on it. Let me just say, and I know that there are different views on this and people can disagree with where we came out in this process in the end, but I don't think it was arbitrary. To Reg's previous comment about filling the coffers, what we would really like to do is get away from auctions altogether.

And so eliminating or reducing string contention, for example, by providing the opportunity to provide alternate strings and hopefully as quickly as possible, getting to a steady state where we simply don't have the need to have these auctions is what we want to do as quickly as possible. There's no part of this was a desire to fill ICANN's coffers. We should all be working as hard as we can to get to a place where we don't have to deal with auctions.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you, Becky. And now over to Alex, we have an online comment.

ALEXANDRA DANS

Yes. This is a comment from Shanea Lewis. "The CTU, which is a Caribbean Telecommunication Union, has an initiative to bring together the youth of its partners under its youth network, where they can network with other youth and experts and will appreciate being included in the ICANN efforts to share other opportunities for youth to grow their involvement in the community. Thank you."

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you very much, and we appreciate that comment as well. Let me now turn the mic back to Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Miriam. Well, thank you to everyone who participated today. If you were not able to ask a question or make a comment, please send an email to publicforum@icann.org, and we will respond to you via email. If you had a question written in the Q&A pod that was answered, we will forward a response to you. So to my colleagues on the Board, thank you for this discussion.

And on behalf of the Board, I extend our appreciation to the language services team for your exceptional support during the session, and to Alex Dans for managing the remote interactions as well. We will see you next at the ICANN Board meeting this afternoon which will be held at 4:30 PM local time. And of course,

that session is open to everyone. And again, thank you for being here and making your voice heard. The session is closed.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]