ICANN82 | CF – ICANN Board Meeting
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AARON JIMENEZ

Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Spanish. I will now pass the floor to ICANN Board Chair, Tripti Sinha.

TRIPTI SINHA

Good afternoon, everyone. Before we begin the regular meeting of the ICANN Board, I would like to welcome on stage Chris Mondini, ICANN's Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement and Managing Director for Europe, to introduce our next ICANN public meeting location. Please join me in welcoming Chris.

CHRIS MONDINI

Hello, welcome. My first order of business is to introduce a lovely video which tells us the destination of our next ICANN meeting.

[Video playing]

And now my second order of business is to introduce our very gracious hosts for ICANN public meeting #83. CZ.NIC have, since their beginning in 1998, been a world leader in robust technical solutions for a secure and resilient DNS. They are front runners when it comes to implementing DNSSEC with almost two-thirds of their approximately one and a half million domain names DNSSEC signed.

The registry has always been a very active participant in ICANN and in internet governance, the community, and they already proved to be very, very warm hosts. We held ICANN public meeting #44 in Prague in 2012.

And now I want to introduce the CEO of CZ.NIC, who is quite an overachiever in our world. In addition to being the chairman of RIPE NCC, he is a trusted key holder for our cryptographic key signing ceremonies. And CZ.NIC is also a host of L-Route IMRS cluster. So without further ado, please join me in welcoming Ondrej Filip, CEO of CZ.NIC.

ONDREJ FILIP

Thank you very much, such a great introduction, thank you. I now feel that I should do something big, but in fact, I have a very simple job. My task is to invite you to Prague, which is the city you all know. You know, many of you were there when there was the first ICANN meeting hosted in Prague in 2012. Or many of you went to some of the other I-Star meetings that we hosted, IETF, RIPE NCC, CENTR [inaudible – 04:50].

But even if you have never been to Prague, I'm sure you know the city. Maybe when you saw the video at the beginning, maybe some of the scenes, some of the buildings that you saw were kind of familiar. That is because Prague is a very photogenic city. Many movie makers choose Prague as a location to make great movies.

Let me name a few of them, something that you probably couldn't avoid. Maybe, you know, old one, *Mission Impossible,* or James Bond, *Casino Royale*, or *The Illusionist*, or maybe more recent, *The Gray Man*.

So in all those movies you see Prague, although of course it's portrayed a little bit differently. Those, mostly action movies, they show you that Prague is full of fire guns and crazy people driving at incredible speeds, incredible machines in the streets, and actually Prague is exactly the opposite, nothing is further from truth.

Prague in fact is a very peaceful city. It has a very low violent crime, so it's a very safe place. Also, sure, we have cars, but we don't drive them through the city because it's useless. We rather use the public transportation system which is really effective, reliable, and safe, even in late hours, so it's ranked to be one of the best public transportation systems in the world. And I have good news related to that; if you will attend the Prague meeting, you will get tickets for free.

With that you can see all the iconic places in Prague, like the Charles Bridge, or for example the Old Town Square with the famous astronomical clock which has been showing the position of the sun and moon and zodiac signs for more than 600 years. Also, you can discover the mysteries of the old Jewish quarter of Prague.

And last but not least, of course you can visit the Prague Castle, the biggest castle complex in the world. Why is it so big? It was a seat for Czech kings, the kings of Bohemia for centuries. Many of those kings were also elected to be emperors of the so-called Holy Roman

Empire, the substantial part of medieval Europe. They were the most powerful people in medieval Europe. Those guys, luckily, decided to contribute their power and wealth to the beauty, not just the castle, but also the city. So they built a lot of churches and palaces and that's why Prague is called The City Of A Hundred Spires.

Also, those emperors invited a lot of talented people to Prague. They invited a lot of scientists like for example Johannes Kepler, Tycho Brahe, many artists, many philosophers, but also many magicians, occultists and alchemists. So from that era, Prague is also known to be magical or golden.

Luckily, the spirit of Prague, this genius lucky, lasted even after the end of the Holy Roman Empire. So Prague is still attracting talented people. Let me name two big names. One was also in the video, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who donated Prague his premiere of opera, Don Giovanni. And when he saw the enthusiastic welcome of the opera, he said the famous sentence, “My people of Prague understand me.”

And also, of course, I cannot avoid mentioning Albert Einstein, who spent part of his career in Prague. He was a teacher at one of the Prague universities. And he said, and I quote, that the beauty and magical atmosphere of Prague helped him to develop the key elements of his general principle of relativity.

But there's some explanation, of course. I. guess you heard about one important part of the Czech culture which is tied to beer. Prague is completely full of cafes, restaurants, small pubs or breweries that serve the very typical local kind of beer called Pilsner Lager or Bohemian Czech Lager. And Einstein was really fond of that culture. He was really attending heavily those pubs. He was meeting his friends, like for example Franz Kafka, who was also displayed in the video. And not just he was attending, he was really enjoying so much that he was contributing to the atmosphere by playing violin. So, you know, if this man was inspired by Prague, his beauty so much that he made one of the greatest discoveries of mankind, I'm really interested what will happen if you come and will be inspired.

So to conclude, if you like science, sport. architecture, culture, music, whatever kind of it; if you like beer, if you want to see the famous places where your favorite movies were shot, or if you maybe want to talk about internet, Prague is the best place for you to come. My company, the domain name registry of the Czech Republic, CZ.NIC, will be really happy to host you again. So thank you very much for your attention, and see you all in Prague.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Ondrej, for getting us all excited about visiting Prague, and so we're looking forward to being there in June for ICANN 83, and thank you very much for hosting. Now I'm going to ask my board colleagues to please come on stage for our regular board meeting.

All right, I'd like to call the meeting to order. Before we start the meeting, I'd like to begin by saying that we now have a complete board, a full board, and I'd like to welcome Byron Holland who occupies seat 12. So Byron, a very warm welcome to you.

Let's start with the roll call, and I'm going to ask members; Wes, if you could start with your name and indicate that you are present, and we'll go in that direction. So Wes, could you start?

WES HARDAKER Wes Hardaker, RSSAC liaison to the ICANN Board, present.

NICOLAS CABALLERO Nicolas Caballero, GAC liaison to the Board, present.

PATRICIO POBLETE Patricio Poblete, member of the Board, appointed by the ccNSO, present.

BYRON HOLLAND Byron Holland, member of the Board, appointed by the ccNSO, present.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE Chris Buckridge, member of the Board, appointed by the GNSO Non-Contracted Parties, present.

CATHERINE ADEYA Catherine Adeya, appointed by the NomCom, present.

LEON SANCHEZ	Leon Sanchez, appointed by the At-Large community, present.
MIRIAM SAPIRO	Miriam Sapiro, appointed by the NomCom, present.
BECKY BURR	Becky Burr, Board seat 13, appointed by the Contracted Parties.
CHRIS CHAPMAN	Chris Chapman, Vice Chair, appointed by NomCom, co-chairing with Maarten the Strategic Planning Committee.
TRIPTI SINHA	Tripti Sinha, Chair of the Board, appointed by the NomCom, present.
KURTIS LINDQUIST	Kurtis Lindquist, President and CEO, present.
SAJID RAHMAN	Sajid Rahman, NomCom appointment, present.
MAARTEN BOTTERMAN	Maarten Botterman, also NomCom appointed, present.

AMITABH SINGHAL	Amitabh Singhal, appointed by the NomCom, present.
JAMES GALVIN	James Galvin, SSAC liaison to the ICANN Board, present.
DAVID LAWRENCE	David Lawrence, IETF liaison.
ALAN BARRETT	Alan Barrett, appointed by the ASO, present.
SARAH DEUTSCH	Sarah Deutsch, appointed by the NomCom, present.
CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN	Christian Kaufmann, appointed by the ASO, present.
TRIPTI SINHA	John Jeffrey, could you confirm that we have a quorum, please?
JOHN JEFFREY	It is confirmed.
TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you, John. Welcome, everyone, to the regular board meeting on the 13th of March, 2025 in Seattle. What you have in front of you is the agenda for the meeting and we have the consent agenda on the top. And the Shepherd for the two items is Sajid.

	Sajid, if you could please give us a brief update on the two consent items, please?
SAJID RAHMAN	Thank you, Tripti. This is related to venue contracting for ICANN85 and ICANN88. For ICANN85, the board is giving necessary delegation to President's CEO or his designate to go into negotiation for Mumbai, India, and for ICANN88 to Lisbon, Portugal. Thank you.
TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you, Sajid. Do I have someone who will move the item, please? Is Sajid. And a second? Maarten. All those in favor, please say aye.
SPEAKERS	Aye, aye.
TRIPTI SINHA	Any nays, any abstentions? The motion passes, thank you very much. Sajid, let's move on to the main agenda. The next item 2a is, Consideration Of Revisions to the Board Risk Committee Charter. Becky Burr is the shepherd. Becky.
BECKY BURR	Thank you very much. As part of its responsibilities, the Board Governance Committee periodically reviews and works with the charters of each of the board committees and works with those

committees to revise them as appropriate. We have some revisions from the Board Risk Committee that bring the charter into line with changes that we've been making, but also including a provision to address the Risk Committee's new oversight role as the oversight for internal audits. I'm going to turn to Wes Hardaker -- I'm sorry, Wes, I do that all the time -- to talk about this important addition to the Risk Committee's work.

WES HARDAKER

Thank you, Becky. So the new charter for the ICANN Board Risk Committee lays out three primary responsibilities. First, oversight of the ICANN's risk management function. Second, oversight of the ICANN's internal audit function. And third, informing and advising the board of the outcomes of these oversight areas and creating recommendations.

It is important to note that the most substantial change to the charter is that second item I just mentioned, which assigns oversight of the internal audit function to the Board Risk Committee. For those that are less familiar with the function of the internal audit, the purpose of an internal audit differs significantly from a financial audit. Internal audits are designed to review and improve specific processes and controls within an organization. Simply put, internal audits are designed to suggest improvements to the effectiveness and efficiency of an organization's operations. The ICANN Board's Risk Committee, as it takes on this new oversight role, is looking forward to helping provide assistance and input to the organization.

BECKY BURR

Thank you very much, Wes, and thank you to all of the members of the Board who worked on this initiative, and Org as well. I'll read the resolution; “Resolved, the Board hereby adopts the suggested amendments to the charter for the Board Risk Committee”. Back to you, Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Becky. I open the floor for any discussion on this topic or any comments. Yes, Maarten.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Just welcoming this very much that it's very clear that the audit goes beyond financial alone and we have an audit committee for finance, and I think this compliment is a really very good step forward.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Maarten. Other comments? Yes, Chris.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

I just wanted to note that given the discussions we've had this week and the focus on the continuing cooperation of our processes and our policy development, it's very pleasing to see the alignment here in our commitment to continuing improvement within the organization itself.

TRIPTI SINHA	Thank you, Chris. Other comments? I too would like to join my colleagues in saying this is a very important step in the maturation of this organization. So thank you to all my colleagues who have worked on this. So do I have a motion on the table? Thank you, Becky. A second, Leon. All those in favor, please say aye.
SPEAKERS	Aye.
TRIPTI SINHA	Any nays? Any abstentions? The motion passes. Thank you. Let's move on to the next item. This is item number 2b. This is, Approving the ICANN Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2030. The shepherds are Chris Chapman and Maarten Botterman.
MAARTEN BOTTERMAN	Thank you very much. It's a pleasure and an honor to propose adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026-30 Strategic Plan on behalf of the Board Strategic Planning Committee, which I co-chair with Chris Chapman, to the Board for its formal adoption. And a deep thank you to all of you who contributed to it. You, the community, our colleagues from the Board, our colleagues from the organization, who've been stellar in also shepherding this process. It's been a work for more than a year plus. And I would dare say that having gone through the week, this week, and having listened to many conversations, it's even with

reinforced confidence that I can say we are on track with this Strategic Plan for ‘26 to ‘30. I've heard no subjects that we haven't touched upon. Not all the solutions are in the Strategic Plan, but the attention is clear. Adoption now will bring it to the table of the empowered community for their reflection, and assuming it passes, we will get together to review this every year to ensure we're still on track, or whether new developments will require us to amend the plan.

It highlights ICANN's top priorities that support ICANN 's vision for 2030. It's complemented by a five-year operating plan that details the activities required to execute on it, and the comprehensive approach with the Strategic Plan will bring us where we need to be on our mission.

With that, I will move towards reading the motion; “Resolved, the ICANN Board adopts the ICANN Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2026 - 2030. Resolved, the ICANN Board directs the President and CEO, or his designee, to take all necessary actions to implement and operationalize the FY26-30 Strategic Plan. Resolved, the ICANN Board directs the ICANN President and CEO, or his designee, that as part of ICANN's planning process, the ICANN President shall perform the annual review and evaluation of the strategies as set out within the FY26-30 Strategic Plan to ensure the FY26-30 Strategic Plan continues to be relevant. To the extent that these reviews and evaluations point to a need to significantly modify any of the strategic objectives, the Board will direct the appropriate processes and actions at that time.” Back to you, Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Maarten. I open the floor for discussion and comments. Yes, Wes.

WES HARDAKER

I'd like to thank my colleagues in the committee that worked very hard on the Strategic Plan. One of the things that we heard during public forum today was the necessity to encourage outreach and communication with the next generation leaders and next generation people that are going to support our multi-stakeholder model.

I'd like to highlight the fact that bullet number 1.1 is all about outreach and engagement, and so it's definitely in our Strategic Plan and it lays a direction. We have a lot of implementation to do, but I'm very excited about the path forward, and hopefully, that'll help resolve some of the comments today.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Wes. Yes, Becky.

BECKY BURR

I would just like to commend both the organization and the Board chairs, the co-chairs of this committee who worked so hard on putting this together. It was a very intense effort and deserves a lot of kudos.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Becky. Others? Yes, Sajid.

SAJID RAHMAN

First of all, thanks to the whole Strategic Planning Committee, Org, and community, and everyone else for hours that have been put to put this document together. It reflects the changing time that we foresee in the years ahead, and really encapsulates the demand that is on ICANN, and the whole organization, and the community, and the Board for the years ahead. So, great work.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Sajid. Any others? Before I turn it to you, if I could say, I want to take this opportunity also to thank Maarten and Chris Chapman for your leadership. As Sajid just said, this was a lot of hard work, and members of the committee and the community who participated in providing input. This plan belongs to all of us, and thanks very much for all the hard work and we will implement it together to ensure that we stay current to the times and ICANN does not atrophy. So with that, Chris, you…?

CHRIS CHAPMAN

Thank you, Tripti. When you think back over it, we had seven environmental scanning sessions with the community in 2023. In 2024, there were 13 Strategic Planning Committee meetings, and then there were three Board work sessions. There was then public comments, the very considered process to go through those public comments, the further publication of the next draft. A lot of work and everyone's already commented on that. It was a lot of work, but it was also an absolute intellectual delight to work on it. It's very important. I think the Strategic Plan has a lot of attitude. It's got a lot of conviction. It's got a lot of openness. It's nakedly honest about what we need to do. And that's been a very healthy trend this week as well.

On a personal note, I wanted to thank Maarten for his co-chairing with me. We have extremely complementary skills. We're in different time zones, which is interesting and helpful. They said it would never last, but it did. And I think in this spirit of experimenting and trying things, having a go, and then perhaps if it doesn't work, move on. But this was one experiment that the Board leadership team took two years ago. It's been a delight to work with Maarten. And I wanted to thank and add my thanks to the really A-team within Org that has worked, team Strategic Plan, we call them down here.

And I want to thank the community for the wholehearted committed, intelligent way they engaged with it throughout. So, Tripti, thank you. I just wanted to say that.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Chris. So do I have a motion on the floor? Maarten. A second? Chris. Chris, we'll second the motion. All those in favor, please say aye.

SPEAKERS

Aye.

TRIPTI SINHA

Any nays, any abstentions? None, so the motion passes and the ICANN Strategic Plan for FY 2026 – 2030 is approved.

Moving on to item 2c, and this one is about Recognizing Universal Acceptance Steering Group's 10 Years of Hard Work, and Maarten Botterman will shepherd this item. Maarten?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you so much, it's a pleasure and honor to memorize and to bring forward the motion that recognizes the 10 years of hard work that UASG that came from the community has been done with the support of the organization, which has led to us where we are today. The efforts of the UASG, its many volunteers and the Org gave us a lot of progress in a more digitally inclusive world.

More than 10 years ago, it all started. It was really there only for those tech experts and language deep knowledge that wanted to go deeper into that. Today I think it's on the plate of many more, including governments and organizations, and awareness has significantly increased.

The interest has expanded also within the community, whereas it came from different community members. We now see in the ccNSO a UA committee, the GAC has a UA and an IDN working group. ALAC has an IDN working group, and other initiatives emerge in the community.

So as you've seen in the Strategic Plan just adopted, we will keep a strong focus on Universal Acceptance and IDNs. One of the strategic objectives is on facilitating digital inclusion, and in that nature, you will find back those specific posts. And the Board working group really went beyond IDNs to also include the UA in general, Universal Acceptance in general.

So in order to best support the community and continued progress towards a UA-ready world, where we are now at the stage where I think, I dare say, implementation becomes a higher priority than the awareness that will continue to be raised, the Board plans to ask the President and CEO to consider this and determine a cohesive plan forward to further advance this from where we are today.

So with that, if I may read the motion, "Resolved, the ICANN Board recognizes and applauds 10 years of valuable contributions made by the Universal Acceptance Steering Group, including its leadership over the years, working groups, local initiatives, ambassadors and members to promote Universal Acceptance of all domain names and email addresses." And, "Resolved, the Board directs ICANN's President and CEO, or his designee, to evaluate and evolve strategies to support UA adoption work by ICANN Org and the community moving forward, in a manner that further aligns with ICANN's Strategic Plan, the current one that was up to recently 21-25, but today is the one for 26-30, and to come with that plan by the end of FY25." Tripti, back to you.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Maarten. I open the floor now for discussion and comments. I'd like to say a comment; I'm very pleased with this work and the fact that ICANN has led within its remit to bring multilingualism to the internet. As you know, the default language of science and technology in our generation has become English. And it yields amazing solutions for the world, such as the Internet, which is a great thing, but it has one potential bad side, which is our languages could be forgotten if we continue to operate in English.

So this actually gives us a solution, potentially, depending on how it's implemented worldwide, up and down the technology stack, to preserve language and thereby heritage and culture. So I'm very happy that ICANN is making that contribution for the preservation of culture and language. So with that, do I have a motion on the table? Thank you, Sajid. The second, thank you, Amitabh. All those in favor, please say aye.

SPEAKERS

Aye.

TRIPTI SINHA

Any nays, any abstentions? The motion passes. Thank you, everyone.

Moving on to item 2d, and this is the appointment of Byron to committees of the Board. Becky?

BECKY BURR

Thank you very much. As we know, the Board Governance Committee conducts an annual slating process, which is then brought forward to the Board. As Byron has joined us during this meeting, he was not part of the annual process, and we conducted a slating process with the BGC while we were here in Seattle.

The appointment of Board committee memberships is intended to be consistent with ICANN's mission and to ensure that Board committees have the properly skilled expertise to carry out ICANN's mission, commitments, and core values. Those of you who know Byron, will not be surprised to learn that we have collectively decided that the best Board seats for him to start off with are on the Finance Committee and the Audit Committee.

So the BGC has approved that and recommends adoption of this resolution, and I'll just read the resolution; Resolved, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization recently -- oh, I think that's a Whereas -- Resolved, the Board appoints Byron Holland to the Board Audit Committee and the Board Finance Committee."

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you. Any discussion on this? I'm assuming not. All right, do I have a motion? Okay, Catherine, and Patricio seconds. All those in favor, please say aye.

SPEAKERS

Aye.

TRIPTI SINHA

Nays, any abstentions? None, so the motion passes. Welcome, Byron, to the two committees the BFC and the Audit Committee.

So moving on, this is also an opportunity for us to thank everyone who has worked to bring ICANN82 together. The Board wishes to thank the following sponsors: Verisign, Inc., Public Interest Registry, NetBeacon Institute, Nom-IQ Limited t/as Com Laude, Afnic, Vercara LLC, Webunited GmbH, Intis Telecom Inc., Identity Digital, Inc., and OlaCV Inc. Thank you very much.

The Board also expresses its deepest appreciation to the scribes, interpreters, audiovisual teams, technical teams, and the entire ICANN staff for their efforts in facilitating the smooth operation of the meeting. The Board would also like to thank the management and staff of the Hyatt Regency Seattle and Essay Video, LLC for providing a wonderful facility and support for this event.

So this brings us to the last item, Any Other Business. Would anyone like to put anything on the table? I don't see any hands, so do I have a motion to adjourn, please? Looks like no. Becky has a motion to adjourn? Would anyone like to second that? All right, Chris Buckridge, Leon, Miriam. So the entire Board seconds adjourning this meeting. So with that, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everyone. Thank you for a successful ICANN82.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]