
ICANN83 | Prep Week – Policy Implementation & ICANN Reviews Update
Tuesday, May 27, 2025 – 10:30 to 11:30 CEST

MICHAEL KARAKASH

Hello, and welcome to the ICANN83 Prep Week session on Policy Implementation and Reviews Updates on 27 May, at 20:30 UTC. My name is Michael Karakash and I am a Remote Participation Manager for this session along with Jessica Puccio and Yvette Guigneaux.

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And before we get started, I want to highlight two features we've built into today's presentation. First, we've included a few mini challenges throughout the presentation. After each topic, you'll see a slide with a challenge question. Feel free to drop your best guess into the chat during that time. And next, we'll pause briefly after each section for a short Q&A, so you're welcome to raise any immediate questions then. We'll also leave time at the end for any remaining questions for a broader discussion. With that, I turn the floor over to VP of Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs, Karen Lentz.

KAREN LENTZ

Thank you, Michael. And hello, everyone. Welcome to this last session on the first day of prep week for ICANN83. My name is Karen Lentz, and I have the privilege of leading ICANN's Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs team. We sometimes shorten that to PRSP, so if you hear us use that term, that's what we mean. So, you will hear more from my colleagues today about some of the important work we're doing right now on policy implementation and on review areas, particularly looking ahead to the policy forum in Prague.

The reason that our team exists as part of the ICANN staff is to support the ICANN community. By providing the information, the research, the implementation work that's needed to keep things moving forward. And I want to thank here all the volunteers who

are continuing to work with us and with each other to keep advancing on some really challenging areas.

We haven't attempted to cover everything that we're working on for this session, but I will refer you to our ICANN83 briefing, which we will link in the chat, for a comprehensive update and relevant links. For this session, we are highlighting a few areas that are going to be active looking towards the ICANN Policy Forum and beyond. We can go to the next slide with the agenda.

Isabelle Colas-Adeshina will kick us off with policy implementation work. Alice Janssen will talk about the current landscape for ICANN review activities. And then Jessica Villaseñor will talk about our support for the upcoming Continuous Improvement Program work. With that, I'm going to turn it over to Isabelle. Over to you.

ISABELLE COLAS-ADESHINA

Thank you, Karen. Hi, everyone. My name is Isabelle Colas-Adeshina, and I'm the Senior Manager of the Policy Research Stakeholders Program team. Today, I'm going to kick off our presentation by giving an update on all things policy implementation. My team covers and supports all areas of engagement with policy processes and collaborates with multiple departments across ICANN Org to support major implementation initiatives, such as the Registration Data Policy IRT, the Privacy Proxy Services Accreditation Issues IRT, and the IGO-INGO Curative Rights IRT, just to mention a few. It's been a very busy period since our last ICANN meeting in Seattle, and our PRSP team currently has

six active IRT sessions. Can you go to the next slide, please? Next slide.

MICHAEL KARAKASH

Is this the one you want, or you want this one?

ISABELLE COLAS-ADESHINA

Next slide. There we go. As you see here, we have four IRT sessions that we're holding at ICANN83. We have the IGO-INGO Curative Rights working session, which will take place on Monday, June 9, and Wednesday, June 11 at 10:45 to 12:15 CEST. We also have the PPSAI, or the Privacy Proxy IRT working session, which will take place on Wednesday, June 11 at 9 to 10:15 CEST. We also have the Registration Data Policy IRT, which will take place on June 10 at 15:30 to 17:00 CEST. And then we have the SubPro Next Round working sessions, which will take place on Monday, 9 to 10:15 CEST, and then Thursday, June 12 to 15:30 to 17:00 CEST. Next slide, please. Thank you.

As I mentioned, it continues to be a busy period for the PRSP team when it comes to policy implementation as we work towards pushing these implementation projects forward. First, we have the Registration Data Policy IRT. This policy was published in February of 2024 and is the outcome of the EPDP Phase 1 Final Report on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. This policy becomes effective soon, on August 21, 2025.

Since ICANN82, this group has held two IRT sessions to address the Board, GNSO Council, and GAC concerns regarding identifying an appropriate timeline for urgent requests for lawful disclosure of non-public registration data. This group plans to meet in Prague and will continue to work towards a solution to addressing a timeline for responding to urgent requests.

Next, we have the Rights Protection Mechanisms IRT. This group continues to work and recently published their revised Trademark Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure on May 1, and continues to work towards publishing the remaining RPM procedural documents. This group also recently published educational materials to support users of the RPM recommendations, which is now available on the ICANN Org website. This team has also begun to implement recommendations in Group 3, which involves stakeholders in the Uniform Rapid Suspension, or URS, process, reviewing and updating contact data. The current implementation team is targeting to complete their work by Q3 of 2025.

Next here, we have the Next Round Subsequent Procedures IRT. This group convened to implement the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures recommendations, and will accomplish a monumental milestone of publishing the full applicant guidebook for public comment by the end of this week. This group plans to hold two working sessions at ICANN83, and then for more details about this group and the work that they've been conducting, please be sure

to listen to their recording of their prep week session, which took place at 18:00 UTC.

Next, we have the Privacy Proxy Accreditation Services IRT. This group has been holding bi-weekly sessions since July of 2024. The IRT has been working towards refining a set of threshold questions that require input from the GNSO Council in order for ICANN Org and in consultation with the IRT to determine how to move forward with policy implementation. Most recently, this group has been working towards and reviewing a paper that talks about different accreditation models, where the IRT's input will help inform the potential implementation model, which will be presented to the GNSO Council by the GNSO Council IRT liaison. This group will also hold a session at ICANN83 to continue reviewing and discussing the implementation paper.

Last but not least, sorry not last. We have the ID EPDP Phase I IRT. This group initiated their work in August of 2024 as part of the Subtract to the Next Round SubPro IRT. This group has been working to ensure that their policy recommendations are implemented and incorporated in the Applicant Guidebook for the new gTLD, which has been fully integrated as part of the AGB for publication in May of this year. This team also is developing an approach for addressing the remaining Phase I recommendations that are not related to the next round and therefore have not been intended in the inclusion of the AGB.

Now last but not least, we have the IGO-INGO Curative Rights IRT. This group initiated their set of work in Q3 of 2024 with the goal of implementing five recommendations from the EPDP on specific curative rights protection for IGOs and four recommendations for the PDP on IGO-INGO access to curative rights protection mechanisms. Since ICANN82, this group has held four meetings, which have been focused on implementing Recommendations PDP 1 to 4 and EPDP Recommendations 1. This includes drafting policy guidance and updating the UDRP and URS documents. As mentioned, this group also plans to hold two working sessions at ICANN83. Next slide, please.

As you see here, we have five implementation projects that are still upcoming. The three that you see here in orange are currently the internal subject matter experts who are supporting the Board in consideration for adopting the policy recommendations. Then we have two in blue, the EPDP Phase 2A and a Translation and Transliteration, which are currently in queue to be implemented and will be implemented once the projects that I've mentioned above have been completed. Next slide, please.

Okay, so the first mini challenge for this group today, which of these topics will be addressed during the ICANN83 IRT session? Thank you, Pat, for the answer. Any other answers? So, let me see. Okay, I think I gave everyone some time. Being conscious of time, the answer is actually A, the urgent request for lawful disclosure. That's going to be discussed during one of our IRT sessions, specifically with the registration data policy. Latin Diacritics is

actually a PDP working group, which will have a session, but it's not part of the IRT session. And we are not going to be updating URS requirements this time during our IRT session either. Next slide.

Okay, so key takeaways from my speech. We have six active IRTs. We're going to need five cups of coffee to keep up with all the IRT sessions. We have four PRSP members who will be attending the ICANN83 session, and we all look forward to seeing you there. And then, as mentioned, we have three upcoming policy implementation projects that are currently being supported by internal SMEs. And I will pass it on to the next slide for any questions. Okay, seeing none, then I will pass them on to my colleague, Alice Jansen.

ALICE JANSEN

Thank you. Thank you so much, Isabelle. And hi, everyone. Lovely to see you all. So, we're going to turn to another component of the team's portfolio now. That is ICANN Reviews. You may have seen that last week the Board took action on the ICANN Reviews program. So, our update today is to share what that entails at a high level. And also, we'll highlight a new initiative our team will be working on. But before we dive into that, I'm going to share a bit of background information for context.

So, reviews have greatly contributed to building the ICANN of today. We've seen a lot of improvements emerging from these efforts across the years. But also, for some time now, there's been an appetite for evolving the reviews. The conversations with the

community started in 2018. And in 2020, the third Accountability and Transparency Review, ATRT3 for short, made a number of recommendations that intended to change the reviews landscape as well. So, the ATRT3 outputs generated new implementation efforts, which the community has been very busy absorbing. In a moment, you will hear from my colleague Jessica Villaseñor on the Continuous Improvement Program that is foreseen to replace organizational reviews.

The ATRT3 also requested the creation of a new review effort, the Holistic Review, that among other things would be focused on assessing Continuous Improvement Program efforts. The Board initiated a Pilot Holistic Review last April, based on a set of terms of reference. The Pilot Holistic Review experienced some challenges in conducting its mandate and its leadership reported challenges to the Board through correspondence in February and March. So, those are two implementation efforts that were generated from ATRT3.

In addition, the ATRT3 also asked that its successor, in other words ATRT4, give consideration to the future of two of the specific reviews and also recommended the one final occurrence of another. So, this suggested that it might be a good time to take a closer look at what these reviews should actually be assessing. ATRT4 technically should have been initiated in 2024, but in April of last year, the Board decided to defer it for a period of 12 months. That decision was to allow for implementation work to progress,

also recognizing the committee's capacity issues with the multiple ongoing initiatives.

At ICANN82, during the March meeting, when revisiting this, the Board examined the state of ATRT3 implementation again and also discussed the challenges encountered by one of the implementation efforts, which was the Pilot Holistic Review. Given the concern expressed by the committee on bandwidth challenges, competing priorities, we also heard about confusion the multiple initiatives were creating, the Board reached out to committee groups at ICANN82 during sessions to better comprehend how reviews-related work could be prioritized and should be prioritized with the ATRT4 in the pipeline.

These discussions were in line with the long-standing dialogue on how do we evolve these reviews, and with 20 years of experience in organizational reviews and 15 years in specific reviews, how do we potentially reinvent them to match the committee's needs nowadays and ultimately to enhance ICANN's accountability, transparency, and effectiveness.

We all agree that being accountable to the ICANN committee is essential, which is why it's important to make sure that the reviews program remains appropriate for the ICANN of today and is in alignment with the committee's needs. So, taking stock of this, the Board identified a path forward on May 19th that resulted in some work plan adjustments. Next slide, please. Thank you, Yvette.

So, I will quickly summarize the various decision points, but want to make sure to highlight the session with the Board happening tomorrow at 16:30 UTC that is focused on the path forward for reviews. So, this will be an excellent opportunity for you to engage with the Board on this. Please consider joining if you can.

So, in terms of what emerged from this Board resolution, aligning the reviews with the committee needs and the maturity of ICANN is key to ensure we have a reliable system in place for the long term. The committee has an important voice in shaping and identifying the commitments to which ICANN should be held accountable. As such, the Board has directed ICANN Org to initiate work to design a review program that is fit for the intended purposes of enhancing ICANN accountability, transparency and effectiveness.

And the first step it identified is a community dialogue to develop a shared understanding of the review areas and issues. The Board in making this decision also specified that an engagement session should take place at the ICANN84 public meeting. So, the next meeting, not this meeting, the next one. And the objective here is really to have an open conversation with the committee on how to strengthen accountability through the reviews.

As part of its action, the Board also expressed support for the progress of the continuous improvement program work and confirmed the continued need for deferral of organizational reviews until completion of one cycle. You will hear from my colleague Jessica on this, but the Board, after completion of one

cycle, will consider further action on the future of organizational reviews.

The Board also included the conclusion of the pilot holistic review in the 19th May resolutions, given the challenges. And this decision allows for further ongoing work on the continuous improvement activities. And the Board also indicated that it might in the future rename and recharter an effort focused on designing a review of the CIP, so continuous improvement program, after the first cycle concludes.

So given the ongoing, well, given the community dialogue on what commitments and other work should be examined through ICANN reviews, the Board confirmed the continued need for deferral of the fourth accountability and transparency, so the ATRT4. So, the community can prioritize this important community dialogue on shaping the reviews for tomorrow and of tomorrow. So, this also means that the security, stability, and resiliency of the DNS review and registration directory service review remain deferred as well, and to the community dialogue can inform next steps. Next slide, please, Yvette.

All right. So together with you, ICANN community, and the Board through its organizational effectiveness committee, also known as OEC, we will be working on the key milestones leading up to the dialogue at ICANN84 in Oman. The ICANN Org team has started developing a plan to bring this dialogue to life, and we'll continue

to flesh it out based on what we hear during the prep weekend at ICAN 83. More information on this will be shared in due course.

We are in the early stages of planning now, but in the meantime, we do encourage you to join the Board tomorrow during its prep week session at 16:30 UTC. This session will be dedicated to this topic, so focusing on the path ahead to prepare for the community dialogue. And again, it's a great opportunity for you to hear from the Board and to offer some feedback. So, we look forward to seeing you there. And with that, I will stop here and see if there are any questions I can help address. Thank you.

JESSICA PUCCIO

Alice, there's currently no questions in the chat.

ALICE JANSEN

Thank you, Jessica. Okay, so I'm not seeing any hand raised or questions, but I do know that we have some time parked for the end of the session. In the meantime, I will pass on the torch to my colleague, Jessica Villaseñor. Jessica?

JESSICA VILLASEÑOR

Thanks, Alice. Yeah, so as Alice mentioned, I'm Jessica Villaseñor, Senior Manager of GDS Research Services within the Policy Research and Stakeholder Programs team. I'll be building on the overview of reviews that Alice just offered to give an update on the Continuous Improvement Program, or CIP. Next slide, please.

I'm sure many of you have heard a lot about the CIP, but I wanted to offer a bit of background information for those who may be unfamiliar. So Recommendation 3.6 of ATRT3 calls for organizational reviews to be evolved into a Continuous Improvement Program. This recommendation was motivated by community-perceived shortcomings with organizational reviews that were conducted by independent examiners. As a result, the recommendation calls for a CIP that is led by the ICANN community.

The Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group, or CIP-CCG, was assembled in January of 2024 to develop the Continuous Improvement Program framework. The group was tasked with developing a shared understanding of the meaning of continuous improvement in the context of ATRT3 Recommendation 3.6, considering a range of methodologies for effective continuous improvement programs, agreeing on a methodology that is fit for ICANN purpose, and formulating a CIP framework to be used by each SO, AC, and NomCom. Next slide, please.

The CIP-CCG has accomplished a lot of work in the last year and a half. The group developed a draft CIP framework to guide implementation of the CIP, and this framework is based on a principles, criteria, and indicators model that provides consistency across organizational structures while allowing for flexibility and operationalization.

As currently envisioned in the CIP framework, the mandate of the CIP is the same as that of organizational reviews, which is anchored in Article 4.4 of the ICANN Bylaws and is to assess the effectiveness of ICANN's SOs, ACs, and the NomCom. The CIP is intended to be an iterative assessment conducted in progressive cycles. The CIP-CCG defined five principles that will be the foundation for SOs, ACs, and NomCom in the implementation of their CIPs.

Each SO, AC, and NomCom will have the opportunity to operationalize those principles by developing specific criteria and indicators that are tailored to their work and priorities. Progress reports are to be published by ESSOs, ACs, and NomCom by the end of a three-year period, and these reports will highlight the work that their organizational structure has done in implementing the Continuous Improvement Program. The Draft CIP Framework, which includes this information, was published for public comment on 21 November 2024 and was open until 22 January of this year. Next slide, please.

So that takes us to where we are today. The CIP-CCG has reviewed all public comment feedback, and the responses were published on the Public Comment Proceeding page and the CIP Community Wiki. The group is currently working to incorporate the feedback and finalize the framework. As Alice mentioned in her presentation, the Board confirmed the continued need to defer organizational reviews until one cycle of the CIP, which is estimated to be three years, has concluded.

As next steps, the CIP-CCG will publish the final CIP Framework, and when the finalized framework is published, we anticipate holding a webinar to introduce the framework and walk the community through the document and guidance for implementation. And lastly, once finalized, ICANN Org will support the community in operationalizing the finalized Continuous Improvement Program Framework within their SOs, ACs, and NomCom. Next slide, please.

And now a mini-challenge for you all. Does anyone know what one main difference between the CIP and organizational reviews is? Is it A. The CIP is led by the ICANN community? B. The mandate of the CIP is different from that of organizational reviews? Or C. The CIP is intended to be a one-time review? You can drop your guess in the chat. I see a B. I see other option, an A, B. All right, so it is A, the CIP is led by the ICANN community, while organizational reviews were led by an independent examiner. Next slide, please.

So, a few takeaways related to the CIP progress. The CIP-CCG is working to finalize the CIP framework, and we anticipate that being published after ICANN83. ICANN org will support operationalization of the CIP, and SOs, ACs, and NomCom will design their own CIP and engage in their own assessments. And I believe that takes us to questions. Next slide, please.

I think, yes, correct. Are there any questions related to the CIP progress update? I'm not seeing any hands. I think I'll.

JESSICA PUCCIO

Let's look in the chat, Jessica.

JESSICA VILLASEÑOR

Okay. I think I'll pass it over to Karen.

KAREN LENTZ

Okay, thank you very much, everyone. And I wanted to highlight a couple of things since we didn't get anyone speaking up with questions here. One is that if you think of a question or if you want to get in touch with us on any aspect of our work, our team's email address is here. I'm putting it in the chat, prsp-contact@icann.org. So, I really do encourage you to get in touch with us with any questions or feedback.

Also, I and several of the team members will be on the ground in Prague, so please say hello and look forward to seeing many of you there. Also, look forward to seeing some of you on the screen participating like I did in Seattle. So, thanks again for attending this session. I'll comment that I always look forward to the policy forum in particular among the ICANN meetings as I see so much interesting work happening and helping ICANN move forward.

So once again, I will thank you all for attending and good afternoon, evening, and night or morning. Thank you, everyone. Bye.

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