
ICANN84 | AGM – ICANN Public Forum
Thursday, October 30, 2025 – 10:30 to 12:00 IST

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you for joining us today for the ICANN 84 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, 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 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 session is not a replacement for public comments ICANN is seeking on various issues and policies. If you are wanting to provide input on a 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

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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. Objectives that are political, ideological, or religious in nature and intent will not be tolerated. Please ensure you review the expected standards of behavior, and let's 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 dialogues.

Now I'd like to welcome the ICANN Ombuds Elizabeth Field to make a few remarks. After Elizabeth, our remote participation manager, Andrea Glandon, will briefly explain today's format and how you can participate. Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH FIELD

Hi. I'm Liz Field. Thank you, Tripti, for the opportunity to make a few remarks. I'm the ICANN Ombuds, and my role is to ensure that community members are treated fairly and appropriately. I've been in the role a year, and that year has gone really quickly. A year goes quickly when you're doing something you love in service of a mission whose mission grows more vital all the time. So this has been a wonderful experience, and I thank you, for all of you, the staff, the community, and the board for welcoming me and supporting me over the last year.

I also want to thank community members who've put their trust in me. I strive to be fair, impartial, helpful, and of course, work independently of outside influence. I want to express my gratitude to the board and the members who are all supporting the office. I want you to know that they are fully committed to the success of the office and also to the independence.

I want to take a moment as well to acknowledge the dedicated support of the vice chair, Chris Chapman, who has been my point of contact over the last year. He's worked above and beyond with me to strengthen the office and its role in the community. His rigor and focus on excellence, which is paired with warmth and generosity, has been instrumental in me in the role in setting up the office, so thank you for that.

This public forum is a unique moment, as Tripti has said, and a unique opportunity. I know the stakes are high when you value something as much as we all value ICANN. This is a simple reminder, echoing what Tripti said, that despite these high stakes, we should remember to keep the questions and comments in line with the expected standards of behavior and the community anti-harassment policy which apply in this space. I am here to help with any questions, comments, or of course any complaints or concerns. Please feel free to contact me. It is confidential.

Finally, I look forward to a vibrant discussion. This space for open dialogue is the bedrock of participatory multi-stakeholder

processes, and it relies on respectful exchange to thrive, so thank you.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. Welcome, everyone. My name is Andrea Glandon and I am the Remote Participation Manager for today's session. As we begin the ICANN 84 public forum, we remind all participants to follow ICANN's expected standards of behavior and its anti-harassment policy and complaint procedure.

Now I will explain the public forum format and how you can participate. The session is divided into three blocks. All blocks are open to any subject of community interest. Each block will be moderated by a board member. Maarten Botterman will shepherd block one, Chris Buckridge will shepherd block two, and Christian Kaufman will shepherd block three. We encourage everyone to use the headsets provided as we have skilled interpreters available for translation in case questions are posed in languages other than English.

There are three ways to participate. If you are in person, you can go to the microphone when it's your turn and keep your comments brief and respectful. If you are 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 cannot speak, you can

submit your question via Zoom's Q&A pod, and I will read it aloud.

Do not use the chat for questions as they won't be tracked.

Each speaker will have two minutes to ask a question or make a comment. A timer will be displayed. Afterward, the board facilitator will answer or another board member will respond. For follow-up questions, please reenter the queue to ensure everyone has a chance to participate. 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, Maarten Botterman. Maarten, the floor is yours.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you very much for that, and it's a sincere pleasure to be here and moderate this session. For me, it's the last time I've done it before, and it's always been a good opportunity to listen to you guys. So please make good use of the microphones and come forward with your questions. If there's questions in the Q&A, then no doubt I will hear about it. we do have a question at the mic. Jeff, you were fast.

JEFF NEUMAN

Hello, everyone. I'm Jeff Neuman. I'm up here just representing my consulting firm, JJN Solutions. I'm going to deliver a similar message to what I've delivered the last couple meetings. First is to

thank the amazing new gTLD team that you have, that ICANN has, that's Lars and Marika and all their teams for doing such an amazing job at getting ICANN ready for the next round. And I've been working on this for about 10 years, so it's getting exciting to see this come to fruition.

What I want to bring up, though, is the message of applicant readiness. ICANN is very committed, I understand, to meeting ICANN's own readiness for the round. You're getting everything in place for that. However, a couple issues have come up recently where, although ICANN may be ready to open the window, applicants may not be because of things that are going to be done later than what was initially promised. Those two things are the registry service provider list of those that qualify because of an error that you all had with your system testing. And I understand that it was supposed to post the results by December. My understanding now is it may be January or February, which is only a couple months before. The second thing, even more important, is the registry agreement. Initially the plan was to finalize it by December. Now we're hearing it's not going to be finalized until the board votes in March, which is less than several weeks before the window opens. Applicants need much more time than March to get ready for a window to open.

My recommendation, therefore, is that the board do with the agreement what it's doing today, I hope, with the guidebook, which is you approve the agreement in December pending the couple additional things that need to happen. Remember, applicants need

a lot of time before they can even approve going forward with the application. And sorry for taking a couple extra seconds, but just like when something goes to ICANN legal, nothing negative against legal, but the bigger the organization you have, the longer it takes to read it, to approve it, and to get to the next step. Some of these multinational corporations that I'm talking to have tens of thousands of people, 100,000 or more people working for them, and if they want to apply, they cannot get a final agreement in March. They will not be ready even by the application closing the window in May or August, June, whatever it is. So please, in December, approve the agreement pending the one or two things that need to happen. Only way for us to make sure that applicants will be ready.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you, Jeff, for that question. We remain committed, of course, to what we said. And Kurtis, can you go into the specifics?

KURTIS LINDKVIST

Well, I just announced on the RSP, you will have seen the announcement on the RSP testing of RST testing overnight. I get that. The delay in announcing this, we believe that it should be two weeks. We're not talking about a major delay in postponing the publication of the list. So we don't believe that will have an impact on the opening date. It's going to be too short to have an impact on the opening date. We're not talking months of delay. We're talking weeks, even that.

BECKY BURR

So I just want to echo Jeff's comments. The next round team has been absolutely incredible to work with. I think they've created a new standard and a great model for work going forward. And I think everybody who's been involved in that process would agree. So thank you, Jeff, for all of your work, which has been many years, back from the original SubPro PDP all the way through 197 IRT meetings and 341 hours or whatever it is. But yes, kudos to the next round team. Really a great job.

ALAN BARRETT

Thanks. This is Alan Barrett. Thank you very much, Jeff, for recognizing the good work of the ICANN org team. I agree. They've been fantastic. But like Becky, I also want to congratulate the IRT process. And you've been a part of that. And before that, the SubPro PDP, which went on for many years. And then on your suggestion that the board could approve the RA before the last edits, I can't speak for the board, but personally, I think that's a good idea. We should look into it.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you very much. And just in the nine years on this board, this has been one of the most intense processes with commitment of many people for every week or even biweekly calls or two calls a week. That's not biweekly. I'm Dutch. I'm not Anglo. But thank you

for that. And thank you for your commitment. We also have a question online. So please.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. From James Brownie, question to the ICANN board. All supporting organizations, SOs, and advisory committees, ACs, have relied on the Independent Universal Acceptance Steering Group, UASG, to advance universal acceptance globally. However, ICANN has now withdrawn its support, dissolved the UASG, and even taken over its flagship initiative, UA Day. Will this not have an adverse effect on the upcoming new gTLD round and send a message to the community that universal acceptance is no longer an ICANN priority? Furthermore, by appointing a past ICANN board member as co-chair alongside ICANN org staff for the newly formed UA Expert Group, it appears ICANN seeks full control instead of encouraging a community-driven, bottom-up approach. How does the board justify this shift away from independence and community participation in UA efforts?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you for that. And just let me start by saying it's not a shift away from independent and community participation in UA efforts. This year I've had the honor of leading the board working group on universal acceptance. And in this year we have come to the conclusion indeed that 10 years of UASG has brought us to a point where awareness is no longer the focus and we move towards implementation, hence the shift. And also a correction on the

question, we have not shut down UASG. We have lived up to our commitment to support them for 10 years, we've done so. And we've expressed the gratitude and if you've been in Prague you may have seen this report which reflects all the results achieved. So for sure that is the ongoing commitment. people from that in the room and they continue to support now with the transition towards the expert group that is helping the CEO. Now the fact that one of the co-chairs is a previous board member, Mr. Chung has been active in this area long before he came on the board and he's been a long time player in the field as anybody in the UA world will recognize. So for sure it's not a takeover or control by the board. It is support to the CEO. Kurtis.

KURTIS LINDKVIST

Thank you, Maarten. I mean after the 10 year of funding that we had set out to do in the universal standard, just to be clear, we haven't dissolved the UASG, we withdrew the funding or we didn't continue the funding, I should say, as had been the original. We only said it was going to be for 10 years. We decided that the ICANN effort was going to be more targeted towards the implementation and how do we drive implementation, which is really important next steps and that the funding we have would be better served, would be guided by the expert group that can really help us drive that implementation and the efforts we need to do in both the staff time and resources we have to help actually providing code and actually do real implementation. And that would also help drive it further and guide the further engagement to drive that. And that's really the

purpose. And as I know we had a similar question in the previous session and again, I think every single session we have had with the board, UA has come up. So I think the community is very active. The bottom up work is being done on this and it's being incorporated across all aspects of ICANN. I don't think that's being diminished in any way. I think, if anything, it's accelerating and that's very positive.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you for that. And for your continued interest in UA, we share that interest. Next one for Warren, please.

WARREN KUMARI

Thanks. Hi. My name is Warren Kumari. I serve on the Internet Architecture Board, the ICANN SSAC, the RSSAC Caucus and I help run b.rooteservers.net, but I'm speaking as an individual only. I'd like to thank Tripti for her opening comments, which noted the importance of the ICANN public comment process. This dovetails nicely with my comment. I'd like to start off with a quote from Maarten Botterman. Each day, the ICANN community comes together to develop policies that ultimately impact how the world interacts with the Internet through its system of unique identifiers. At the heart of this important work is the ICANN multistakeholder model, a bottom-up system of governance where every stakeholder, no matter their background or experience, has an opportunity to have their voice heard and shape policy. The public comment page notes that public comment is a vital part of our multistakeholder model and it is an opportunity for the ICANN community to effect

change and improve policies and operations. However, this only works if the groups receiving these comments treat the submissions with due consideration and actively seek to understand the concerns expressed. The groups and people submitting these comments have invested considerable time and effort in reviewing the documents and formulating their responses. These comments should be treated with respect and used as an opportunity to improve the document and proposals and not discarded merely as an annoying formality. I've recently experienced instances where the tone of groups discussing the comments has been very dismissive and went so far as blaming the submitters for not having understood their document. My hope is that groups carefully give each received comment proper consideration and carefully reflect on how the document or report could be improved by each suggestion. And I ask the ICANN Board and Organization to ensure that the public comment process is being followed and not just being given lip service.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you for that, Warren, recognizing some of the words and no doubt, you're right on. The right person to answer to this, of course, is the Chair, Tripti Sinha. Please, Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Maarten. Warren, thank you for your question, or your comment, rather. So first, the Board takes the public comment process very seriously, and we expect each comment to be given

due consideration, and then if for some reason it's not accepted, also be given a response as to why. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. There is one public comment process that has not met that expectation, maybe more, but we will look into it, but once again, we are committed to the process, Warren, and I apologize for deficiencies if you've run into those.

WARREN KUMARI

Thank you very much, that's all I ask.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you very much. Anyone else? Wes, please.

WES HARDAKER

Thank you. For full disclosure, Warren and I have been speaking about consensus-driven processes for well over a decade in many forums, so my personal response today comes from my experience in building consensus in technical policy and internet governance forums alike. It's a very similar process in all of them. It's really easy to create a solution by writing a document alone. You can do that quickly, you can do it efficiently, but it's really difficult to create a good solution in isolation, and one that works for all communities and cultures across the internet.

Our multi-stakeholder model is built on solutions not from a single voice, but rather from a diverse set of voices that captures the viewpoints from a multitude of perspectives. The ICANN public comment process is a critical element to ensure that we consider all

of those viewpoints. It's really easy to simply receive public comments. It's really easy to simply read them. It takes significant more energy to understand them, evaluate them, and accordingly incorporate them. Public comments are designed to highlight or prioritize perspectives that may not be yours, and that's exactly why they're so valuable. I encourage everybody in the ICANN community to seek out opinions that differ from your own and to really, truly seek and understand that viewpoint so that you can better create a solution that meets the needs of this community. This is a challenge placed on each of us in the multi-stakeholder model, and I challenge everybody to properly consider those perspectives from the whole internet and for the whole internet.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you very much.

SERGIO SALINAS-PORTO

I'm going to speak in Spanish. Please use headphones. I would like to express my concern for the lack of a point in the ICANN guidebook for the Latin Diacritics PDP. This PDP addresses the possibility of end-users to see their languages properly represented in the domain name system, including the use of diacritic signs in the Latin label. This is not just a technical issue. This affects the way in which linguistic communities write their names and identify themselves online.

I am not requesting any extension for the next round, nor changes in the timeline that was already published. The request that I am making here is particularly that the applicant guidebook includes a clear clause that if the Latin Diacritics PDP presents its recommendations within the time that is already set, these recommendations will be included in the round. I consider this as a reasonable adaptation of the community work that has a direct impact on the cultural and linguistic sphere and aspects and nature of users. I didn't introduce myself. My name is Sergio Salinas-Porto. I am the outgoing secretary of LACRALO, and I am making this statement in my personal capacity and not on behalf of my region.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you, Sergio. Who can answer this? Alan, please.

ALAN BARRETT

Thank you, Sergio, for your suggestion. I share your belief that Latin diacritics are very important, that there are many well-deserving cases where they would be necessary, and also where the pure ASCII without the diacritics should maybe live together with the version with the diacritics in a similar way to how IDN variants are handled. Unfortunately, with the timing of this work, I think it's probably too late for it to be included, but the ICANN staff will try to see if something is possible. We can't commit to anything, but we can try.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you for that. Thank you for your question.

SERGIO SALINAS-PORTO

Let me add something else. Maarten, I would like to thank you so much for all your work during these nine years. My thanks goes to you in representation of the Latin American community and the Caribbean as well.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

I'm glad I allowed you to grab the mic again. Thank you for that. Please, on the other side.

SADICHCHHA SILWAL

Hello, everyone. Thank you for this opportunity. I am Sadichchha Silwal from Nepal, with the NextGen program and a newcomer to ICANN. Considering that this significant portion of world population is facing technical restriction on internet access, including internet shutdown and DNS manipulation, and from last five days I am hearing more from the working group and the advisory group on highlighting the issues and stressing on that the need for the ICANNs to do more on this issue. So my question is, how is ICANN positioning its technical and policy mechanism to maintain a unified open global internet and addresses the operational challenge posed by this access restriction?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you very much for your question. Kurtis.

KURTIS LINDKVIST

First of all, in the previous session I talked to those of you who were there, that I hope was many of you. I talked a lot about the importance of having a unified internet and how important that is to ICANN and what the work we do here, that we have an open, unfragmented internet, because that's at the heart of the principles we do. There is this old saying that the internet will route around faults and regulation, and there is a lot of truth to that. And I think it's very important to continue safeguarding it. We don't see fragmentation, we don't see this. Regulation of content is outside ICANN's mission, so I'm not going to go into that. We don't work on that's not what we deal with. But the technical space we work on should be universally reachable, it should be unhindered. That is what makes the internet such a fantastic and well-functioning network. And there is a lot of work being done on that, and I know that SSAC and others have done work on how do we work on this, how do we ensure this, but as an org we continue to work for this and promote that the value really truly is in the reachability of identifiers across the network, on the layer that we deal with, higher layers is out of the scope for us, but that's what we work on. I don't know if Jim wanted to add anything on the work there.

JIM GALVIN

Thank you, Sadiq, for your question. I've had the pleasure of speaking with you separately and privately along the way here this week, and glad that you're here and appreciate you asking the question here. I think that all issues around access are not within ICANN's remit, but we do have activities. It is important for us to

think about how our policies impact access to the internet. We generally don't deal with content issues, and we also don't deal with the low-level access issues from an infrastructure point of view. But certainly the services that we provide and some of the rules that we put on ourselves about how things work do have an impact on access. And yes, thank you for reminding us that we should pay attention to that in all of our work and be careful. From an SSAC point of view, we pay a lot of attention to site blocking issues, for example. DNS abuse issues are also a part of that, and the community does care about those issues. I would hope that as we move forward, you will take the opportunity to join us in those discussions and bring your perspective to it.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you, Sadichchha, and thank you for joining NextGen. I would no doubt wish to see more of you. Please, this gentleman on the left, please introduce yourself clearly and speak slowly and clearly.

VIVEK GOYAL

Thank you. My name is Vivek Goyal. I am the COO of L.R. I'm a GNSO councilor representing the BC, but I'm speaking here as an Indian citizen. A big part of attending an ICANN meeting in person is the painful process of getting a visa, and I know I'm not the only one, but many members across the world for whom that's the biggest impediment in getting one, and I absolutely appreciate that ICANN cannot do anything in it. You don't have a role in it. But this is the first time that the host country, INX, the host team here, has done

something about it, and I can tell you it is very much appreciated. When I applied for a visa, it came in with ICANN 84 written on it. When I went through immigration, they absolutely knew why I'm here. I didn't have to explain to another immigration officer what is a domain name and why am I here. Trust me, standing there after a long flight, trying to explain to an immigration officer sitting on the other side of a glass wall with maybe a firearm or two by his side what is a domain name, and no, I'm not making this up. We have a conference about it is very challenging and a stressful process. So I would really request ICANN that whenever you work with a host country, please request them if they can provide this service. It makes this whole process much easier for all of us who have to line up and get visas for every way we travel. Thank you very much.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

I and many in this room feel your pain, and over the years, we've had a lot of interaction and dynamics. Kurtis, can you say a little bit about what the Org is doing to support this? Because we do.

KURTIS LINDKVIST

No, thank you. As you rightfully noted, we have no influence over the visa policy of the countries we visit. We do try to screen as one of the decision points when we do menu selection. I have to agree that our local hosts were phenomenal in trying to get the Irish or successfully getting the Irish government to engage on this. We met the Irish government on Monday, and they also talked about how they had worked across departments to make this experience as seamless as

possible, even though some of the Irish visa processes also might have had a bit of a higher barrier than others. But all the Irish missions did get notified by the Foreign Office about the ICANN meeting and what I learned on Monday is they even actually sent a notice to all the immigration officers at Dublin Airport to ensure that they knew—I'm not sure they said what the domain name was, but what ICANN was at least. And when we go to venues, to new locations, we do try to get this support. We don't necessarily work with the local government. We work with the local host, and through them, we try to access the government. Where we do have connections, we do use them. We do try to engage with the government to make the visa process as smooth as possible. We also, for funded travelers, other travelers, we try to support this as much as possible, and we do often get contacted about can we help, can we support, can we explain, and we do that. So this is an entire process, and we're also looking at the invitation letters to get the process out to them earlier. This was a slightly difficult circumstance with the relocation, but generally we try to work on that. So we are working on trying to make this as smooth as possible, but ultimately it's up to the actual country authorities how they decide to do that. But no point well taken.

MIRIAM SAPIRO

Thank you very much for raising that question, because it's critical. To make the most of face-to-face meetings, we have to be face-to-face. I just want to re-emphasize how important this issue is for all of us, to see it worked out as much as possible, knowing that

ultimately it's up to the government involved. But doing what we can to make this process smoother than it has been. In that regard, we have an informal working group, I would call it, of board members who are working with Kurtis to brainstorm on additional things that we might be able to do to help. I want to commend Kurtis and the org team for jumping in to help when it was needed for this meeting and in future meetings. So let me just close by saying that it also helps us, the org team, to know if there is a problem as early as possible in the process. So thank you all for continuing to be proactive in that regard as well.

CATHERINE ADEYA

I think Miriam and Kurtis have echoed what I personally go through as well. So it's not just unique to some of you. So it's I'm walking in the same shoes. So we are really working to make sure the process is much easier. And this time, even I have told Kurtis and the org, we congratulate them. The host country did an amazing job and we hope the same will work in the future.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you very much for this very relevant issue. With this, I'm going to hand over the moderation to my colleague, Chris Buckridge, currently living in Amsterdam.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

But an APAC board member. No, thank you very much, Maarten. And pleased to keep moving through this discussion. I will note we're

going to close the queues at this point. I think we have questions that will, and discussion that will take us through to the end of the session. So with that, I'd like to pass to the next speaker on the microphone, please.

MACIEJ PIASECKI

Hello, Maciej Piasecki, first time fellow from Poland. This is my second meeting. I didn't get the fellowship at first. So I'm so happy that I persisted because this is such a wonderful opportunity. And thank you so much. I'm learning a lot and I will be promoting this fellowship with my communities, in particular the disabled people community, which is my community. As such, it breaks my heart that two fellows, at least two fellows, were not able to get into the country. So a bit of follow-up to the visa issue. One of them is Anwar, who is a women engineer from Palestine. The other is Surena, an Iranian, but currently living in France, who is in particular involved with the PDP process and was the first person that consulted my first ever public comment. So I'm so thankful for that. And I know one of them is participating remotely, but we weren't able to have coffees, weren't able to shake hands, which is so much important in building allies and communities. I made unlikely allies here. Thank you, Natalia and Andrzej in particular. And I think all of us are happy to help the board with this commitment that you just made. I know you've been very helpful, but sadly, it has not been enough. And I'm sure the community members, especially the global majority people, are happy to take over some of that burden. So if you can please delegate some of that to the community, give us clear KPIs,

I'm sure we'll be happy to help. Diversity is very much enshrined in ICANN bylaws. I think it's the second top value that's written as a core value. And the European Convention for Human Rights should be also considered here, especially since we are in Ireland, which is bound by the Convention, Protocol 4 in particular. And if those people are a danger to the security and safety, I want to know that. You should know that, definitely. Because I'm chatting with these people on WhatsApp, and I don't want to chat with criminals or worse. Thank you very much.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

I think the point about diversity is very well taken, as is the point of the value of being here in person. I think as much as having a fully hybrid experience for these meetings is necessary and important, we can't underestimate the value of, as you say, having coffee, meeting people, making new alliances. So thank you. Kurtis, did you have a point you wanted to ... Sorry. I think my colleagues have probably addressed our commitment to working through these issues in the previous question, but thank you for reinforcing that for us. Next on the microphone, please.

MIRACLE ONYEBUCHIM

Thank you very much, and good morning, everyone. My name is Miracle. I'm an ICANN 84 fellow, and I work with the Cyber Secure Lab at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I was a NextGen participant at ICANN 82 in Seattle, where I also spoke at the public forum like I'm doing now. Then I raised the concern about the need

for ICANN to move beyond words and take concrete action in engaging the next generation, because a lot of the work I do focuses on that. And ensuring that the future users of the Internet are present in rooms where critical decisions are being made. At that time, I gave an example of how there had been little to no presence from board members during the NextGen presentations. Following that comment, I was very pleased to see an immediate and meaningful response. Members of the board attended our next session in person, acknowledged the concern, and offered an apology. That gesture was both encouraging and validating, and since then, I have observed continued and genuine engagement with NextGen participants, and I want to publicly commend the board and the community for maintaining that momentum, long may it continue. As someone relatively new to ICANN, this is my second ever in-person meeting, my experience has been very positive. So I have seen firsthand that when concerns are raised thoughtfully, action can and does follow. But I also understand that this perspective might differ from that of long-standing members of the community, who may feel their concerns have not always been addressed as swiftly. And this is not a metaphor. It in my interactions in my at-large organization, and also in face-to-face interactions with members of the community. That sentiment does exist. Well, to those who have been in the community longer, I want to say that your persistence matters. Please don't let frustration dampen the energy or optimism of the newer voices entering this space like myself. While my public comments at ICANN 82 may have been one of the catalysts for action, I am fully aware that it was built upon

years of advocacy and concerns raised by others before me and those that will be raised after me. So I encourage NextGen participants to please always feel free to speak in forums like this. Sorry, I'm going over time. So I offer this as encouragement. Even when change seems slow, every voice contributes to the collective momentum that moves the needle forward. You may not always see the results immediately, but your efforts are laying the groundwork for the next generation. And for that, we are deeply grateful.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thank you very much. I'm looking to my colleagues I certainly, I think I speak for all of us when I say that finding that time, as challenging as it is in an ICANN meeting, for the board to engage with NextGen is as valuable for us as it is for the NextGen members. And I think it's something we're very strongly committed to continuing with. Maarten, please.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

No, for sure. And we recognize that so much, that is also a specific action line in our new strategic plan, as you've recognized. And I really appreciate all the questions that you also ask in the corridors, even during IGFs, if you meet some ICANN board members or others. At the same time, I can guarantee you that even a board member doesn't always get it its way. That doesn't mean we're not listening. So but really appreciate all you do and bring. Thank you very much.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thank you, Maarten. I believe we have an online question, so I'm going to throw it to Andrea over here.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. This is from Maxim Alzoba from FAITID. Do you think it is possible to require that all subcontractors of ICANN to provide nondiscriminatory approach to services offered on behalf of ICANN, such as registration to participate in the ICANN meetings, survey services? During this conference, ICANN 84, the registration and participation schedule website via the meeting website were denied for the community members participating remotely based on location, remotely from the Russian Federation. It is necessary to ensure community members are treated fairly and appropriately.

KURTIS LINDKVIST

I am not aware of the details of this, so we will have to look into that. Generally, of course, the schedule should be available to all participants. I don't know why or how that wouldn't have been. We would have to look into that, but obviously that should be accessible by all participants wherever they are, but we will look into that. Thank you very much.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Michael, please. Next on the mic. Thank you.

MICHAEL PALAGE

Michael Palage, speaking in an individual capacity. The topic I would like to talk about today is ICANN's lack of leadership regarding the responsible bridging of Web 2 and Web 3. This is important because in less than a year, ICANN is going to be taking tens of millions of dollars from prospective TLD applicants that are already out there promoting this functionality. Sadly, ICANN has provided no guidance in the applicant guidebook or the RSP program regarding best practices or minimum safeguards to ensure a safe, responsible integration. What bothers me more, however, is a potential contractual violation by ICANN. Under the ICANN registry agreements, registry operators are required to submit an RSEP before providing any new functionality for that TLD. There have been a number of existing registry operators that have rolled out Web 2, Web 3 integrations. To my knowledge, and Russ, if I'm wrong, please stand up, I have not been able to find any RSEPs posted on the ICANN website regarding these existing implementations. I think it is important that ICANN complies with its contracts regarding this. So my ask to the ICANN board is the following. They should direct SSAC to provide specific guidance for responsible Web 2, Web 3 integration no later than ICANN 85. ICANN should then follow up and incorporate this guidance into the existing RSP program. And finally, I would like either ICANN legal or ICANN compliance to provide an explanation why the Web 2, Web 3 integrations within existing gTLDs did not require an RSEP. I think this guidance is important because if ICANN is going to be a true global technical coordinating body,

they need to step up and ensure this because applicants deserve business predictability and consumers need to be protected.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thank you, Michael. I have a few colleagues who have some insight into this, but CK, as chair of the board technical committee, perhaps you want to lead off.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

I can't comment to the legal aspects in the applicant guidebook. Let's see if we find someone else for that. But from a technical point, from a BTC perspective, it is actually a standing topic on our agenda. We talk about it at least every second time and try to understand what it means for us and what we think about it and how does it actually intersect with the parts. So we are certainly looking into that and actually talking about it. So we are very aware of it. But it has, at least from the BTC perspective, and that's a fair point, not resulted in a input into the whatever applicant guidebook or other parts. Anyone else want to comment more about the legal aspects?

DAVID LAWRENCE

Hi, David Lawrence, the IETF liaison to the board, and I will note that both the IETF and in particular the Internet Architecture Board, the IAB, has a renewed commitment to facilitating further technical work across the multi-stakeholder bodies, especially including ICANN and the IETF. So this is very much a topic not just of interest, but that is getting work on, including we will be having our next IETF

meeting in Montreal just this coming week. And at that meeting we intend to get together various ICANN participants in the room to further discuss how we are working together.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thanks David. Jim, please.

JIM GALVIN

So thank you, Michael, for the question. I guess three things to add. First, I didn't want to lose track of the fact that OCTO does pay attention to alternate namespaces and issues related to that, and they have certainly published some documentation about that, and that is part of the briefing that, as Christian was referring to, that the BTC has received, keeping the board informed about issues and technologies in general. It's also worth reminding us that in the AGB and coming out of SSAC we had our name collision analysis project, which certainly did address the issue of name collisions that would happen in the DNS and is part of this process. I think at this point it's not that NCAP or any of that name collision work would look specifically at some of these other names, but certainly they are concerned about the impact on DNS, and one would expect that the team which is going to be looking at the results of the name collisions would be paying attention to those kinds of issues and whether or not there's an issue there that needs to be addressed. So you asked specifically about RSEP. In some sense there's a fair question to ask as to whether what's happening is a new registry service or not. That's the criteria for what would go to an RSEP or

not. My third point is to point out, as has been reported many times in the last couple of ICANN meetings, but SSAC has a work party, which we call RIDE because acronyms are so important, Responsible Integration with the DNS Ecosystem, where it is in fact looking at some of the guidelines that would apply or should apply to those who are looking to do registry services that might be making use of alternate namespaces outside of the DNS blockchain is the canonical example, but more generally just responsible integration issues. So I would expect that we will have some information and advisory that the community would probably find helpful at that time in the not-too-distant future.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thanks, Jim. Even board members get the bill. Kurtis, please.

KURTIS LINDKVIST

So you're right, so as you said, there's been no RSEP on this topic, and an integration would fall under an RSEP because it would fall under registry agreements, so I completely agree with you that would be required, and if there's a violation of that, then there would be a compliance matter to be reported. Contractual compliance person, thank you.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thanks, Michael. An important issue, clearly. But moving to our next question on the microphone here, please.

SANTANU ACHARYA

Good morning, everyone. My name is Santanu, and I am from India. I am a member of ISPCP, and I am following ICANN since ICANN 72, and I'd like to congratulate the ICANN board for the last few years for working with speed and resolving many issues. So my question was also based on what Michael just asked on blockchain, so I have changed my question a little bit. I'd like to know with the increasing government involvement in internet governance globally, how ICANN can ensure the stop of the fragmentation of the internet?

TRIPTI SINHA

So how does ICANN stop the fragmentation of the internet? We play our part. So as you know, we are the stewards of the unique identifier systems. We ensure that we preserve our role there, our function there, and are responsible in how we manage that. But beyond that, we have to collaborate with all our colleagues in the ecosystem and ensure that everyone understands the role that we play in concert with others in the global community. So we have to remain engaged and ensure that we do our part. Beyond that there's a question of whether we should be having these conversations with our colleagues. Absolutely. We must stay engaged. We are a multi-stakeholder model. The beauty of the system is that it rises from the bottom to the top and makes its way into policy and subsequently in how we manage the unique identifier systems. So what we can do is ensure that we keep the namespace unique, preserve it, then we're doing our part in ensuring fragmentation. But as you know,

fragmentation means many things. You can still create different islands of networks that do certain that serve the purposes of their communities by using policy-based routing, firewalls and so on and so forth. That is clearly outside of ICANN's remit. However, we do fly the flag of one world, one internet, and do our part in it. I hope that responds to your question.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN

Thank you. And I think it was a very good presentation. Tripti reflected the core. And of course, if you go out there and we engage all over the world, I'm often in the Brussels offices too where the European Commission is contemplating on things. When we talk about fragmentation, often it's not about fragmentation of the internet as we in this room know it, the single root that ICANN manages. It's often about data. It's often about applications, often about what can be done or not done. So on different layers, what happens on the internet. Very good to keep that in mind. We are just going to continue to offer the best unique namespace possible that everybody wants to be part of.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thank you very much. We have another of our online questions. So, Andrea, please.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. This is from Mohamed Ali, ICANN 84 fellow. How can ICANN strengthen targeted support for ccTLDs in fragile states to

improve DNS resilience, accelerate DNS deployment, and advance universal acceptance despite limited local capacity and resources?

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thank you. Very good question. Looking to colleagues who might be able to provide some insight here. Kurtis, please.

KURTIS LINDKVIST

So we do a lot of capacity building and support to many countries and ccTLDs. We work with them on capacity building on best practices, DNSSEC, universal acceptance, etc. When it comes to—I forgot the term that was used, but let's say countries that are unstable or have issues, every situation is slightly unique, so it's a little bit hard to make this a one-size-fits-all answer, but we do tend to work with them. We do try to look at the stability, because at the heart of this is that we have to ensure that the DNS in that ccTLD is stable, even in situations like this, and where we can work with the local operators, we do, and we try to provide guidance and help and support where we can, and that is needed. We do engage with that and we do practice. That's not possible in all cases, but where we can, we do, and we try to help and support even in those states.

JIM GALVIN

Jim, please. I would just like to take a moment to acknowledge Mohamed and his question as a NextGener and encourage and hope that he continues to be part of these discussions. I had the pleasure of meeting him and speaking with him over the course of this week

on this issue and encouraged him to bring his question forward to ask, and I'm glad that he did. I think just to reiterate a bit of the response that he and I had talked about and what Kurtis said, not all of this belongs as ICANN's remit. We have a role to play. We all in the community have a role to play in policies that don't make the situation worse, and ICANN certainly does do its part to provide tools and resources to help those who, as much as possible, as much as we can within our remit. And I do hope, Mohamed, that you have the opportunity to continue to participate in the discussions here to help bring us and make us aware, keep us aware of the kinds of issues that you're encountering and looking to solve, and we'll certainly be responsive as we can in listening to those and do our part to help you.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thank you very much. We'll take one—next one from the microphone, please.

LAWRENCE
ROBERTS

OLAWALE

Thank you. My name's Lawrence Olawale Roberts. I happen to be a member of the business constituency, a GNSO councilor, but I'm speaking in my individual capacity. Over the last couple of months, the African Internet community saw a number of intervention from ICANN with regards to issues bedeviling AFRINIC. I would like to put it on record that these openly vocal interventions did help to resolve and restore other, and today we have a co-rate board in place. We hope—thank you—thank you. We hope to see ICANN sustain

pressure to keep the African RIR stable, doing without hindrance the job it was set out to do. Most importantly, we are aware that the ICP2 review is ongoing, but as ICANN's remit covers both the names and the numbers, we are hopeful that a broad and detailed audit and study will be commissioned by ICANN into evaluating the impact of the impasse witnessed over the last couple of years, with a view to understanding where things went wrong and helping to prevent a reoccurrence. There is still fear within the community that AFRINIC might not be out of the woods yet and there might still be prospects of capture by organizations that have also stepped in to help. Would like to know what the plan of ICANN is concerning this. Thank you.

KURTIS LINDKVIST

Thank you. and I'd like to echo that we're very happy that AFRINIC has a seated board. Our role you said that there's a review of ICP2, there's a current ICP2 as well, let's not forget that we're operating under at the moment. As I can take the role under this, that we have the oversight to ensure that we have an operating and stable RARs in all regions, including Africa, and that's what our role is. And we will continue to support that mission of the community to have a stable functioning RIR under the principles as outlined in ICP2, what that means, the role, the functions that has to follow from that, the governance, etc. It's not our role to prescribe how the communities build that, our role is to ensure that's being adhered to in the ICP2. I believe the AFRINIC board, in the session with the board, was it yesterday, I'm blurring together, made some comments about their future plans. We now look forward to seeing them moving AFRINIC

forward to a stable state and to do the learnings and analysis that they need to do and that the community in Africa wants them to do based on that, and I think that what you just said is echoed by that. I think everybody in the community in Africa has the same concern as you just mentioned, and that we need to learn from this, we need to analyze what happened. I think obviously AFRINIC board has access to and has insights that we don't have, our role is to provide oversight, they have the direct access, and we look forward to working together with them to see what they, within our remit, what we can do and what they will find, and we will continue to do that as we have done so far, that's our promise, and we will make sure to continue to have the oversight from ICP2 and where we can support the community.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

Thank you very much, Kurtis. With that, I've somewhat overrun my time, so I'm going to hand across to Christian Kaufmann to continue shepherding this session.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you, Chris. And we go to the left microphone. Please.

ROBERTO GAETANO

Thank you. Roberto Gaetano, member of GEMS, the Global Equal Multistakeholder Band. Ten years ago, almost exactly, I think it was the 21st of October, just on the other side of the river, I think it's on that side. At the Ferryman's, thanks to Afiliás' generous sponsorship,

GEMS had its first concert, inaugurating a series of successful events that put together the community on a level that was different from everyday business, and providing that framework that, in a more relaxed way, could build stronger links within the community. And also sometimes with the local communities. We had several concerts, almost every ICANN meeting until COVID. We had interactions with the local communities. For instance, in Marrakesh, we had over the local Gnawa musicians jamming with us. It was a unique opportunity to play a different type of music. In Copenhagen, we were also mingling with the local community, especially in Puerto Rico was a special moment, and kudos again for ICANN to having done the meeting in Puerto Rico. It was the first time that an international meeting was done after the hurricane, and that was a big help for the community. Thanks again to Afilia's, we bought a lot of t-shirts. This is one of those. We sold them, and all the money then was given for the reconstruction of Puerto Rico. This is to say that we had an impact, and then this was taken over also by the IGF. We played at EuroDIG, we played at IGFs, and we had a lot of talents coming on stage, I'm proud of you. In my opinion, that has helped in building more the links in our community.

Now here is the question, it's not necessarily for the board, but generally for the community. How come that in an industry where we have a business that turns over billions, we cannot find a couple of thousand dollars for continuing this activity over the years? Is the general feeling that this is not useful? In that case, we just stop it and

we continue in the IGF and EuroDIG and so on. But if it's useful, I think that we should really be able to revive this activity.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you for your comment. I think you speak for a lot of us. Kurtis.

KURTIS LINDKVIST

So I heard that the GAC chair, who is a member of the band, might not be completely unbiased, also threatened with GAC advice on this topic. I think there is a lot of support for music. Again, if there are sponsors who are willing to help us with this, I'm pretty sure we would be very happy to work with them to do something. It's a bit hard for us to fund that and to get it with the opening notes, but maybe there's something we can do and look into this. We don't want GAC advice on music, do we? I do think some board members might be slightly biased on this as well, but I'll let them get over to Matt.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE

This is your COI statement, Chris. As a fellow GEMS traveler, Roberto, thank you. My objectivity on this point is certainly compromised to say the least, but I very much appreciate you bringing this point into the forum and into the community's awareness. Hopefully, we can find a positive way forward and have GEMS back on stage.

ROBERTO GAETANO

This was not specifically addressed to the board, but to the contracted parties that are making business on this and maybe some return on this could be invested.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you. A new working group coming up. The right microphone, please.

TORSTEN KRAUSE

Hello and good morning. My name is Torsten Krause. I'm a child rights researcher and a political scientist working at the Digital Opportunities Foundation based in Germany and engaged as an individual member with the EURALO here. I would like to share two thoughts. First, I highly welcome the progress ICANN does with regard to the registration data request service and urgent requests. I would like to encourage us all to go further in this direction. Second, and this one is connected to the previous one, I would like to touch on the ongoing process with the human rights impact assessment. In the last days, I've heard a lot of things and discussion about privacy and everything on that was valuable. Nevertheless, I would like to raise the awareness of us all that it would be not legitimate or appropriate to prioritize one human right against or over another human right. So I think there is no discussion that privacy is a human right, but we also have an interest in protection of other vulnerable groups which were harmed online and where it could be necessary to get information who's on the other side. So I think we have to balance both rights, privacy and protection of

vulnerable groups to find solutions that are meaningful for us all and to protect and fulfill the human rights for everyone of us. Thank you very much.

BECKY BURR

So first of all, on RDRS, the board is planning to consider a resolution extending the operation of RDRS for up to two additional years so that various policy recommendations that exist and policy and the work of the RDRS Standing Committee can be aligned and move forward. So just to say that work will continue on urgent requests. There's a very good collaboration going on between the community, among the community with respect to timeline work that's been out there and also law enforcement is working very hard on authentication. So we feel like that's all moving in the right direction. But as I said, RDRS was a pilot that was scheduled for two years and it will be extended for up to two years going forward.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you. And with that, we go to an online question.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. This is from Gann James. Question to the ICANN board chair. Thank you, chair. We have heard some recent public comments made by the board chair and vice chair regarding the nominating committee's appointments. Considering that the ICANN NomCom is designed to be an independent body and that no receiving body, including the board should influence or question its

selections. Could you please clarify how such remarks align with ICANN's commitment to independence, mutual respect and non-interference. One other note, the 2025 NomCom made excellent board selections with Sajid, Constance and Raul. But imagine how they might feel hearing that the chair believes one of them should not have been selected. How does the board plan to ensure that such public remarks do not discourage appointees or undermine confidence in the NomCom's independent process and that all members of our community are treated with respect and dignity?

TRIPTI SINHA

First I'd like to say thank you for the question and I'd like to make one thing very clear. My comment was not directed at the incoming appointments. We are delighted that Sajid is returning and I have welcomed Constance and Raul. What made this very difficult when I made my statement is that in the last several years, highly skilled board members with deep experience have not been returned. Either they were on the leadership team or leading significant projects. It is extremely disruptive to the board in how it conducts its work. It takes, believe you me, at least one full term to get fully acclimated with the workings of this board and how to be good fiduciaries. So I implored in my statement to the NomCom to look at its processes. The ICANN board gives feedback to the NomCom. That feedback was disregarded. We state continuity. It made it very difficult to make that statement because it was not a commentary on the new board members who have come and we are delighted they are with us today. So I respectfully shared an individual

statement that I made, which is actually a public statement. If it isn't posted yet, it will be posted soon. So I simply asked the NomCom to look at its processes to ensure that they take feedback from the board seriously. The BGC put significant work into developing the feedback that is given to the NomCom in consultation with the full board. And there is no disrespect meant to any member of this community or any existing board member.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you, Tripti. We go back to the left microphone.

BILL JOURIS

Thank you. My name is Bill Jouris. While I am a member of the Latin Diacritics PDP Working Group, I'm speaking strictly in an individual capacity. This is somewhat a continuation of the remarks Sergio made earlier. When the Latin Diacritics Working Group was established a year ago, the GNSO gave us an extremely aggressive timeline for getting the work done, which happily we're in fact ahead of. But they would not have done that, it seems to me, if they were fine with the idea that, well, we'll get around to actually implementing this at some hypothetical future round sometime years down the road. I think they did that because they thought something needed to be done now. In the beginning of the year, the working group put in a request that the applicant guidebook include a placeholder for our work to be added in. And we were assured that will happen. In the event, it didn't. So sometime soon, maybe even this afternoon, the board will be asked to sign off on the applicant

guidebook. It may be that you will do that. It may be that you will decline and send it back for them to get it right. Just be clear, if you say we're approving it, you are sending a message. There are doubtless reasons beyond those Mr. Barrett offered earlier, ICANN internal reasons why things ought to charge forward. Just be very clear that outside the ICANN bubble, nobody cares about ICANN internal reasons. All they will hear is a message. We at ICANN does not care about your language, does not care about you. Now, you guys may be comfortable with that, or you may feel like, no, that's not the message we're sending. But be clear, that is the message that will be received. ICANN does not care.

ALAN BARRETT

Thank you for your comment. Alan, do you want to comment on it? Thank you. Sure, I'll try to take this is Alan Barrett. Thank you very much for your comments. I very much agree that it's important. But on the other hand, we do have to follow our process. We have not received policy or guidance from the GNSO Council on what to do. And maybe the GNSO Council would like to make a request to the board to put in some placeholder. Personally, I would very much welcome that, but it hasn't happened. And yeah, for now, I think our hands are tied.

BILL JOURIS

You have authority. Your hands are not tied by anyone but yourselves.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you. And with that, we go to the right microphone.

ANUPAM GAUTAM

Hey, everyone. It's me, Anupam Gautam, ICANN Nexen. So this is not directly a question, maybe an idea or a comment and a follow-up to what Sadiq just said earlier. And we heard something else about the internet fragmentation too. So it's a follow-up on that. I think something like a Nepal Internet Steering Committee would definitely be a good step forward for things like this of the different internet issues that we've been facing in different worlds. Maybe in Nepal, if there's a committee like that composed of a multi-stakeholder model, then instead of this much of conflict, then we might have reached a consensus. So I was wondering if anyone from the committee has more insights on this or if anyone wants to have a conversation with me. I'll just be around because I definitely think that Amal needs to have one. And the Brazilian one, the czi.br, is doing an exceptional job as per my homework done. So thank you so much.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you. And with that, we go to the left microphone. Please state your name.

EDMON CHUNG

Edmon Chung here with .Asia. Not going to talk about my favorite topics of UA and IDN or ASP. I'm here to talk about norm-com. And

not really building on the previous comment, but I think the norm-com and the board together can involve and needs to evolve and have more transparency and accountability. And I'm talking about things that could be done not including reviews. Beyond bylaw changes or reviews, I think there are possibilities to enhance the transparency and accountability on this very important topic. And I offer two particular suggestions. One, the norm-com, I think, can be a bit more transparent with their processes. Of course, not after the applications come in. I understand the confidentiality is important. But before that, the deliberations on what questions are going to be asked, what are the criterias that they're using to evaluate the candidates, those things could be more public and could be made more transparent so that not only candidates themselves, but the wider community can take a look at. That's number one. Number two, I think that the board can also offer the NomCom a chance to have a peek in the board's own deliberations. There are certain sessions that the board can possibly invite the NomCom to observe to actually see the board members in action. For example, when the board prepares for the community joint sessions with the stakeholder groups. Those are things that will be public very shortly and the NomCom is already bound by very strict confidentiality rules. So there are things that can be done. This is a very important part of the ICANN process. Please think about it and do it.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you very much. We appreciate all of the input. Thank you.

TOM BARRETT

Thanks. So now I have a little bit of dilemma because I closed the queue and I know that some people walked away and someone states there, but we also have some time left. So I take the right microphone and everyone who is unhappy about that afterwards, please find me and complain to me. Thank you very much for that. So my name is Tom Barrett. I'm the new chair of the 26th NomCom, joined by James Gannon, who's the new chair elect of the 26th NomCom. Amir Qayyum, who was last year's chair, is also joining us as associate chair. Now, first of all, we want to thank the BGC for their vote of confidence in appointing us to leadership of the NomCom. We have a fantastic group of delegates this year. Half of them are returning, half are new. And while the ICANN bylaws designate the NomCom as an independent body, we do rely on resources and support from BGC, from ICANN Legal, from ICANN Marketing Communications, and several other organizations. So we cannot do what we need to do without that type of timely support. And in fact, this week we met with all of those groups because we have some additional requests for their support, and the response has been fantastic. So as chair elect, I had a front row seat to how the NomCom operates. And you all heard about how much time they put in. They go through, they evaluate interviews, they do soft dives, reference checks, deep dives, face-to-face interviews, etc. So I do want to say a little bit about the chair's comments today and throughout the week. I'm not going to discuss how 2025 NomCom made its decisions, but without knowing why and how, I think it's

inappropriate for any board member, especially the chair, to question its due diligence or the fact that they have chosen incorrectly. the advice from the BGC is always given in an enormous amount of weight. It's not exclusive. And as I said earlier, we've given the BGC some suggestions on how to improve that. But I simply want to say one key point. The bylaws exist, they created the NomCom to make sure that the ICANN board is not self-perpetuating. They cannot select their own directors. So that means no one that applies to the NomCom gets a golden ticket. Reapplying candidates do not get a golden ticket, even if they've been appointed by two previous NomComs. Board leadership doesn't get a golden ticket, even if they've been chair or vice chair. So I ask you to respect the NomCom process and work with us to make sure we can improve the outcome.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you, Tom, for your statement. Thanks, Farzaneh, for coming back. And I'm closing after her. Farzaneh, please.

FARZANEH BADI

Thank you, Farzaneh Badi. So first of all, the format of this public session was really screwed up because some of you cannot do time management and you do not stop people who talk over time. And also you put the staff in a position to tell us that the queue is closed, it was not fair on them. So rethink that. One thing that I wanted to mention is that we were going to hold this meeting in Oman, which is in the Middle East is a war-stricken region. It should be treated as

other regions when war and civil war and conflict happens. We should provide support, we should provide training. And just like when it happened that there was a war in Europe and there was help and there was projects and initiatives, they should be helped as well. Another thing is that I'm from the non-commercial stakeholder group. We care about human rights and advancing human rights. We had an, if RDRS becomes mandatory, it should have the right safeguards in place. We cannot pick and choose the recommendations that we want to implement. The registrant's rights matter. Another thing is that for the human rights impact assessment, we do human rights impact assessments on RDRS and others. As well as, I want to talk about accuracy. We believe, as the non-commercial stakeholder group, accuracy of the domain name registrant data is about contactability, nothing more. And we hear on and on, because of the terrible Article 28 of NIS 2, that accuracy might mean identification of domain name registrant. That's a myth, it should never happen at ICANN. I'm done.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Thank you, Farzaneh, and perfectly in time. Thanks for that. The cue part is on me as I closed it, because I didn't want that people stand there and then we cut them off in the last minute. So I apologize for that. If we find a better way, happy to do so. And otherwise, thanks for your statement. And with that, before I just in time give the token back, I want to remind people that there is the review of review session later here after lunch. So that is another opportunity where you can comment and give us feedback, in that case to a specific

topic, which a lot of you have quite a keen interest. So please come back. And with that, I give back to, who actually, that's a question. Tripti. All yours.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Christian. I'd like to thank everyone who participated today. If you had a question written in the Q&A part that wasn't answered, we will forward a response to you. To my colleagues on the board, thank you for this discussion. On behalf of the board, I extend my appreciation to the language services team for their exceptional support during this session. And to Andrea Glandon for moderating the online interactions. We will see you at the ICANN board meeting this afternoon, which will be held in this room at 1630 local time. The session is open to all. Again, thank you for being here and making your voices heard.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]