
ICANN84 | AGM – GNSO: NCSG/C Membership Work Session (3 of 3)
Tuesday, October 28, 2025 – 15:00 to 16:00 IST

ANDREA GLANDON

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RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Andrea, and thanks to all who made it for this session. I stopped counting, but I think this is the first session for us today, NCSG. We're kind of labeling or titling here as a work session. We are planning to meet with two teams from ICANN Org. First, the ICANN Planning and Finance Team, and that is more a continuation

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of interaction or discussion that we started in September. We had several calls, even a tutorial and a way to know more about the process and to understand which document or material we should review and read to know more about the Budget and Operating Plan, since that's really what kind of operationalize the strategic goals that's set by ICANN for the next year or this year. So we'll continue there. Maybe we'll have also some questions, and hopefully we'll be ready more—it's coming in December, I believe—for the Public Comment when we share our input.

In the second part we'll have members from the Security, Stability And Resiliency Research Team, and we wanted to share with them some thoughts and discuss about their report. I am not sure how to pronounce it—INFERMAL Report. It's about also an opportunity to discuss, since it's related to DNS abuse, and we have some position on that topic, so it's good opportunity to give input.

So that's what we'll discuss for this session. We believe we can start with the first item, and we'll ask here who will speak from the Finance Team?

BECKY NASH

Hi. This is Becky Nash from ICANN Org Planning Team. I'm here with my colleagues, both in Planning and Finance, so we'll have a few speakers. Thank you very much for the invitation. We have a short presentation regarding the Operating Plan and Budget. If we go to the next slide, please.

We're going to cover ICANN's Operating and Financial Plan, and that will set the tone for the planning process and the priorities for ICANN. And then we're going to cover the FY26 financial update, and then the FY26 activity-based reporting. And then we have time for Q&A. Next slide, please.

ICANN's Operating Plan, we have just a short update, if we could go to the next slide please.

Overall, we like to present what is ICANN's planning process and what are the key major steps within it. On the left-hand side of the slide, we have our Strategic Planning process. This is the process where the Board of ICANN engages with the community, and then defines ICANN's strategic direction which supports the mission and aligns to a five-year vision supported by strategic objectives and goals and strategies.

The Strategic Planning process that we're currently in is for FY26 through '30. So it's a five-year plan that was adopted in March of 2025. Supported then by an Operating Plan, where we have a five-year Operating Plan and a one-year Operating Plan, and this is the process to evaluate key initiatives, which we call strategic initiatives in our Operating Plan, and also aligning what each functional area or functions, what they plan to do during the fiscal year, called our functional activities. We then have the budget process, which is the process of allocating resources to these planned activities, and it includes the prioritization of activities as needed. And then finally, the step in the planning process is

progress measurement and reporting. This is the process of explaining achievement via a series of mechanisms such as our Annual Report and the CEO Report to the Board, and then progress measurement and reporting at various other levels within the organization. Next slide.

So how does the planning process get cascaded down from the mission, the strategy, and then our execution, or our planned activities? We were asked about the priorities for ICANN. So we just wanted to iterate that the mission sets forth the purpose for ICANN, and the mission is outlined in ICANN's Bylaws. And in addition to all of the work that ICANN does, there is then this strategy that is set for each five-year fiscal years. And the strategy, again, a five-year plan, starts with a vision of where the organization, along with the community, wants to be, or where ICANN wants to be in five years, and focuses on long-term success and how we will achieve it through our strategic objectives, our strategic goals, and then strategies. Our current Strategic Plan, in effect, has four strategic objectives and 10 goals and 28 strategies, and we will be sure to put a link to our adopted Strategic Plan in the chat.

So then the next key phase for our priorities is to outline in the Operating Plan and Budget, and also supported by our fiscal year organizational objectives, and that is where we carry out the work to achieve both the vision and the mission. And this is where we focus on operations, resource allocation, and then accountability to achieve both the vision and the mission.

In the next section, my colleague, Victoria, is going to cover several aspects of our Operating Plan, and again, talking about our priorities that have been set forth for FY26 through '30. Victoria?

VICTORIA YANG

Thank you very much, Becky. Hello, everyone. My name is Victoria. I'm a senior manager from the Planning Team. Let's move on.

As you can see on these slides, the ICANN's Operating Plan really consists of all the activities that we plan to do, and then these activities are mainly in two categories. The first one, let me lead your attention to the category on the right, which are the functional activities. These are basically the majority of the activities that represent ICANN's ongoing continued operation, either continue to fulfill our mission, such as the Policy Support Team, or to operate the organization, such as the Finance Team and HR Team.

On the left side is the category that consists of all the strategic initiatives. These are basically the key project or program identified to achieve the Strategic Plan. This is also the most direct linkage between the Strategic Plan and the Operating Plan. If we move on to the next slides.

These slides, along with the following two slides, these three slides consist of 35 strategic initiatives. This is basically the priority for the next five years. The color code here on these three slides basically align with the strategic objective in the Strategic Plan. I just want to give you a heads up there. So, on these slides, we also provide

the execution roadmap of each initiative. I highly encourage the community to look at which initiative are under execution or planning for Fiscal Year '26 and '27, and those will be a great area of focus if you want to prioritize your resources and your stakeholder focus for this current year or the next year. This is also a good approach to help focus on your review when preparing for the upcoming Public Comments.

Another way to look at these three slides is to review the description of the strategic initiative in the Operating Plan and Activity Plan. To see which of this initiative is very close to your stakeholder group, as example on these slides, I'm just suspecting, for example, strategic initiative number three, improving stakeholder representations, or perhaps number seven, new skills and leadership training for the community. So what I'm suggesting is all the activities and the description of this initiative are included in the Draft Operating Plan. So I highly encourage everyone to look at those activities and what we plan to do, what are the key milestones for the next five years, and to see which of these initiatives is close to your interest. If we move on to the next slide. Advance one more, please.

I have another good example. Here is strategic initiative number 31, as example, security risk identification and mitigation. This will be related to DNS abuse, how to ensure the DNS is secure, what ICANN plan to do in the next five years. And as you can see, that this initiative is currently under execution. So what are the activities

planned there? The Operating Plan will be a best place to go and look at the details.

Moving to the next slide, I'd like to share some of the key timeline of the Fiscal Year '27 planning process. The first one is already done, which is planning prioritization process. This one, this is a step where we involve the community and we have representations from each stakeholder group help to prioritize activities that the Board adopt. This was done between May and July. Right now, we are in the process of drafting the Fiscal Year '27 Operating Plan and Budget. According to this timeline, we do plan to publish the draft for Public Comment in December, and we will have a webinar to explain the draft and help the community to understand the structure, the high-level content, so that, hopefully, that will be helpful when you review on how to prepare your public comment for this work.

Following the closure of the Public Comment, the ICANN Org staff will look at all the submissions, prepare Summary Reports and also revisions to the draft where necessary, and the revised draft will be presented to the BFC and followed by to the Board around the April timeline. As usual, the draft Operating Plan and Budget are subject to the Empowered Community process. It usually takes about 28 days following Board adoption. If there's no any pending petitions by the end of the 28 days, then the plan will be ready, in effect, for the first day of the fiscal year, usually it's the 1st of July.

So that's the key timeline. We do want to highlight that December 16 is the day that we aim to publish the draft. And again, webinar information will be made it available, and we'll make sure that we announce it through Community Digest to ensure that you receive the webinar information. I will pause there to see if there's any questions. Yes, please.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Victoria, for going through this. Maybe two questions or comments. So we know that we have the Public Comment Proceeding. How much can the budget change based on the comment that can be sent? Why I'm asking here? Because one thing we are trying to do is, in fact, two things. First is to be more involved in this Budget and Operating Plan process, to share our input about what is being operationalized for the year, from the standpoint of which topic or priority we care about. That's in general. The other is that we have our priority and we might identify that we need or we ask for some support. Not necessarily for us, but also for the activities or strategic initiative that we care about. But by the discussion with the Policy Team, understood that also they prepare, as a function, they're planning that discussion with you.

So the concern for me is that maybe you are missing the timeline here because you are preparing with a different function in any corporate that they try to make the planning, they try to estimate how much they need, and maybe they try to identify, from their perspective, what we might need as a group here. But it's missing

that we don't have a clear kind of channel or way to kind of make the list of what we think or request or activities we want to support, how if we need to go through that function, so maybe you are at late stage, and how to ensure that you will take that into account. That's, I think, what is missing. Because I can understand this is the timeline, but for us as a group, we are not necessarily following closely all this. It's not clear at which time we should make the request to share our priority. And then again, how much, really, if we go only maybe the Public Comment Proceeding, how much it can change and how much we can have influence at that time.

BECKY NASH

Thank you for your question, Rafik. For the record, it's Becky Nash from ICANN Org Planning, and I'll just jump in here. The approach that is suggested with the SOs and ACs and Constituencies is to identify priorities and share them with the Policy Team up front in the process before the development of the Annual Operating Plan and Budget. We know, year over year, there are activities to support all of the community groups such as funded travelers. There's also the CROP programs, there's other types of activities. So that is the process that we at ICANN Org had notified the community approximately two years ago about having that open dialogue and doing a planning session early on, before the development of the detailed Operating Plan and Budget, because it's a joint effort. However, in the event that a dialogue or some needs have not been discussed or expressed, noting that all of this is always within the affordability principle as well, meaning it's always looking at what

is affordable for ICANN overall. Then what we would recommend is that you do submit a public comment, and public comments then are reviewed each year, and should there be an approval and affordability factor that is approved, then there could be a change as a result of Public Comment. And we would note that then in the Public Comment Summary Report.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Becky. Then follow-up comment here. So, if it was communicated, SO/AC, I'm not sure at that time, I cannot recall. So the question here is, can we make it more clear in terms of process? Because even discussing with the Policy Team, meaning here I discussed with Russ, I mean, it seems is not clear, maybe it's not known, and we should maybe add it to make it kind of not saying formalized, but to be sure that it will be captured. If that what you are expecting, that really at early stage we are talking here maybe July, August, not now, that they can capture and to factor that in the budget or plan they have.

About you said the affordability here, who will make this assessment? Will it be just the Finance and Planning Team, and also the Policy Team, in our case, they will make kind of assessment or evaluation is still...? You will not share this maybe. Just to be sure, who will make that assessment when you get the comp...? Why I'm saying this is really for us to learn. Maybe I don't know if you are at late stage, if we still can influence, but please, we understand about that timeline, but sure how can we as a group to know when we

should prepare, when we should be able to input, and then to follow up.

BECKY NASH

Thank you very much, Rafik, and we will be sure to discuss this internally as well. What I always like to say is the Planning and Finance Team, we're the coordinators, we're the facilitators, but we represent the work with the organization and with all the departments. So, absolutely, identifying needs up front is the best approach, and that would be normally before the planning process launches, which you can see is usually right after the planning prioritization process with the community-led group, and then a discussion about needs.

I just wanted to comment on the affordability aspect of it is that one of our key planning principles for ICANN overall, which means the entire organization, is that we do not plan for expenses that exceed the funding that's available each year. And that's where the affordability aspect comes into it, and then also the needs of all the different stakeholder groups. Ultimately, it is the Board of ICANN that adopts the plans after the recommendation from the Executive Team and with public comments from the community, which are all analyzed and responded to. So hopefully that gives you a view that we will definitely discuss having more timeline indicated for community input on suggestions, but public comment is the best way to voice that opinion, too.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks. But just to be more practical, can we have someone to find out how we can do it in the coming days, coming weeks? I mean, we are kind of catching up, but just to be sure if it's possible. I see that, Farzaneh, you are in the queue. Please go ahead.

FARZANEH BADII

Thank you. Thank you for the presentation. I'm not sure about the process, so forgive me if we cannot consider these things. But one thing that we have to do in these PDPs that is quite new is the Human Rights Checklist and the Human Rights Impact Assessments for each of these, or for each of the PDPs, and that needs, I believe, some budget so that we can hire experts to look at that and do it professionally. Of course, NCSG can help, but I believe that there might be some need for expert advice on that.

Another is the registrant protection and about their rights and responsibilities. Beforehand, ICANN have these initiatives to protect registrant to give them enough information about their roles, their responsibilities, and their rights. We don't see that much activity. I might be wrong. I don't see that much activity with that regard. This is my personal opinion, and I'm sorry if I'm saying it in the wrong meeting, but a few years ago, there was a Middle East DNS Study that the proposal was out, but then suddenly it was decided that because of budget deficit that we are not going to go do Middle East DNS Study. Middle East is one of the regions that is

in need of attention and research and studying. I don't know if that can be considered. Thank you. Sorry if I said anything that wasn't—

BECKY NASH

Thank you very much. This is Becky Nash, again, from ICANN Org Planning. Whenever there are items that you wish to comment upon, it would always be with your Support Team, and along with the teams that support the work that you do as well. And again, I would view this as what we call a planning process up front, asking ourselves, what is it that we would like up front in in the annual planning cycle? We can certainly facilitate ensuring that those steps happen. Then if, once the plans are developed, you don't see expenses budgeted for, that's where the Public Comment process comes in as well.

HAYDER HAMZOZ

Hello, everyone. Hayder Hamzoz, I'm from Iraq INSM and a digital right defender here. I have a question related to the strategies, if it has been taken into consideration from financial perspective to increase the participation of underrepresented regions and youth into consideration, and also more local resources for that. Because I still see a big gap here, even at ICANN84, about the local resources here, representation from the Middle East, from my region, representation in terms of translation for even big sessions, I don't see that, unfortunately. And it seems this is like increase the gap between our region. And then definitely this will not be helpful in terms of feedback and receiving more public comment for the

upcoming webinars. I hope strategies have been followed here for the next five years that has been taken into consideration from financial perspective.

BECKY NASH

Thank you very much. We did drop a link to the adopted Strategic Plan. And as we presented in this presentation, each of the strategies then has a strategic initiative listed to support that. And these are five-year strategies. So if the activity is not starting in year one, it would then be addressed in year two. And each of them has detailed plans talking about how representing the entire global community, and also all sorts of other activities as it relates to achieving that mission. So there are activities within both the five-year Operating Plan that take action on the strategies for ICANN. And certainly under our strategic objective number one, evolve and promote ICANN's multistakeholder model to sustain its inclusive approach to Internet governance, there are strategies as it relates to supporting the community. We do have a few slides after this on the financial update. I just want to highlight that.

XAVIER CALVEZ

Very quickly, just to add to what Becky just said, if you look at that Strategic Plan, and then you don't feel that the activities that are listed there would help or achieve the objective, that's a very good comment to put in the public comment, on the draft plans, so that we can gather and the rest of the community can see that these activities are deemed to not be sufficient, because then that's

something we can take into account. We pay very much attention to every single comment that is submitted, and then we would provide a response. But this is how the voice of everyone who can submit a public comment is heard, is through the Public Comment. It's very public, and then we have to answer, and that can be done then on the basis of what the plan is in that objective that Becky mentioned. So I think this is a good venue for you to voice that importance, and also that you think maybe the plans are not sufficiently supporting those activities.

I just wanted to go back to Farzaneh's questions or points. I can't remember if the Human Rights Assessment has already been adopted as one of the checks in the policy development process, but if it has, then we need to make sure we build the resources to be able to do that, to your point, into the policy processes. And if that's been adopted, that will become a requirement policy development processes. And therefore, we will make sure that it's budgeted. When these type of things are new or have been decided after the plans or the budgets have been developed, sometimes we need, therefore, to amend the plans afterwards. And when changes occur, we have a contingency that we use to be able to fund activities that may not have originally been planned for, but have been decided afterwards. Of course, this is more an exception than a rule, but if that occurs, then we'll make that happen.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Xavier, for the clarification. Taking into account the time, we'll try to hear, maybe briefly, from Alex, since he's joining us remotely. Then we go to the next section.

BECKY NASH

Thank you, Alex, for joining and we'll hand the floor to you.

ALEX MORSHED

Thank you. This is Alex Morshed from the Finance Team. I'm going to go over a few slides, financial update, and then a look at some of the activities that we report on. First, if we could go to the next slide, an update on FY26, which is the fiscal year that we're currently in. It started July 1st, 2025, and will end June 30th, 2026.

The adopted budget for this fiscal year for ICANN Operations planned for balanced funding and expenses at \$150 million each. We are about three months into the fiscal year, or we've just completed three months, so almost four months now, at the end of October. We're still very early into the fiscal year and we're updating our forecast assumptions as we go. But at the current moment, our funding forecast for the year is projected to be higher than budget, and this is driven by a higher than planned domain registrations and the number of contracted parties assumed versus the adopted budget. On the expense side for ICANN operations, we are more or less aligned to the adopted budget. And then the same goes for some of the other business segments that ICANN does, including the Next Round and Grant Program. Those are also

aligned to their respective budgets. If we can move on to the next slide.

This is a look at funding. On the left, we have year to date through September. We can see that our actual funding is \$4 million higher than planned, and \$5 million higher than last year. The variance versus last year is somewhat driven by the fee increase, although this was assumed in the budget. A lot of this is just the continued positive moment and we're seeing in the domain marketplace. Then on the right, the full year view, the current forecast for the year is between \$158 million and \$162 million versus the budget of \$150 million and prior year, 155.

On the next slide, we can talk about our operating expenses. The same type of setup. On the left for the first three months of the year, the actual expenses are a million dollars favorable to budget or plan and flat to last year. And then for the full year expenses, we're still in the range of the \$150 million budget with an increase versus prior year. Mainly due to the fact that there were inflationary increases in the budget costs, as well as some travel that didn't occur in FY25 that we're planning to do in FY26. Next slide, please.

We'll look at the expenses across all of ICANN. We just went over in detail ICANN operations, which is the orange bar, then we have the New gTLD Program, which is made up of the Next Round and the 2012 round. That's \$35 million. Then the Grant Program, which was \$7 million and \$5 million of that is actually grant disbursements

that we plan to make in FY26. For a total of a range of \$190 million to \$195 million for FY26.

The next slide, I'd like to talk about somewhat new reporting format that we're using called activity-based reporting. Then next slide, we'll break it down into the categories that we're using for our activity of ecosystem within ICANN operations. We've developed this format to be supplemental to the expense reporting that we already do. And this is to be more transparent and useful for both internal and external audiences. The community and engagement activity is where most of our workflows began in ICANN operations. I'll get into what each of these categories means. But essentially, the community and engagement are what we're doing right now at ICANN84. It's basically to facilitate Internet policy development and engage with the community.

I know we're having some slight trouble, so I'm starting to talk through this. Thank you, Andrew, for trying to fix this. Then from there, the work that's done at these meetings flows to the policy implementation quadrant, which is where policies actually get implemented and the contracted parties who are engaged in this whole process are managed by ICANN and liaised with ICANN. In between and through all this stuff, we have internal operations that are supporting all aspects of ICANN, as well as the technical mission, which we'll get into on the next slide as well.

If we jump to the next slide. Here is a little bit more of a breakdown of what is included in each of these buckets. As I was saying,

community engagement, the main objective here is to support the community and facilitate work, such as policy development and reviews. If you want to think about costs that would go into this bucket, you would have all the ICANN public meeting costs and support, the language services that's provided at these meetings, as well as outside these meetings, engagement with the community and Board support, as well as staff support for the SOs and ACs. Becky, did you have a question or comment?

BECKY NASH

Thank you so much, Alex. This is such useful information, but Rafik has indicated that we're a little bit over time. If it's appropriate, Rafik, we would love to present again to this group, because we do feel that the activity-based costing and reporting actually reflects a lot of the questions that you were asking us on previous calls.

RAFIK DAMMAK

We can have another call after this ICANN meeting, if possible. Yeah.

BECKY NASH

Thank you again, Alex.

ALEX MORSHED

Sure, no problem.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks for the Finance and Planning Team. Usually, I only say Finance, but they're both. And also, thanks for Alex, since he's joining us remotely. And as we said, he's a Morshed so he will guide us here in this topic. Okay. Thanks again. We can move to the next agenda item. Here, we will talk with the Security, Stability and Resiliency Team. Maybe if you want to go through some slide quickly to have more interaction. Farzaneh, you want to add something before?

FARZANEH BADI

I just wanted to explain to the group. The reason that I thought that we have a conversation with you is that your work has become very important. The research you commissioned is trickling down to the small teams and the Council. They are mentioned multiple times during GAC meetings. They are referenced in the communiqué, and its great work. But it's also affecting—I mean, not in a negative way, but it's becoming critical for our work. For example, the INFERMAL Report had done several research on the access to API and DNS abuse, and those might become the focus of some of the PDPs that we are going to have. That's why I thought that we should have a conversation with NCSG to get to know you better. Go ahead.

SAMANEH

TAJALIZADEHKHOOB

Thank you, Farzaneh and Rafik, for inviting us. It's our pleasure to be here and also to share some of the things we do and also get feedback from you guys of how you see our research from your perspective, specifically in INFERMAL, which is now we see the

word everywhere. In the interest of time, I will just briefly touch upon some of the research we do or at least the core idea, and then I'll leave time for you guys to give us feedback on INFERMAL.

Today I'm here with my colleague from the SSR team, Siôn Lloyd. This presentation is actually the work of Siôn I'm presenting. Basically, in the next couple of slides, I will share the mentality of our work.

What we see is that the domains and DNS infrastructure and its components are not adequately secured. There's opportunity for malicious actors to do different work, could be exploits, vulnerabilities, could be DNS abuse. Some of the means that are involved in this is phishing, malware, botnet, and command and control that we all know about because it's been repeated multiple times in the community. How we approach it at SSR is that what we do is we see security failures as bad or misaligned incentives as much as it is bad design. We do not think that systems are not secured. We think that it's the problem of incentives of the actors who protect them.

There it comes our research. What we do is actually to improve metrics. Metrics we think influence decision-making by quantifying security performance, allocating resources, or impacting policy decisions, priorities. Poorly design metrics can create preserved incentives, leading to unintended consequences and short-term focus. This is the core of our work. What we do is that we try to improve, we collect data. Basically, our research is on how different

data that is related to security and stability and resiliency of DNS are there. How can they be improved and how can they be used in improving the existing metrics or creating new metrics. Some of the examples—this is also in line with the research we fund from ICANN OCTO. Examples are we published methodology on how to evaluate reputation lists. This is a very topic that has been discussed in the community for a long time. How do you know a list is good or bad? We published a set of metrics on that. We are, at the moment—moving on.

Some of the research that we are working at the moment are the following lists. Domain Metrica is obviously our main project. It's a platform where the result of our research goes into. Each module will include a research project. We are currently working on identifying associated domains that are used for DNS abuse. It's a research project that Sam, our colleague, who is a machine learning engineer, works on. We are working on measuring the amount of time that the domain is up from the moment it's reported for DNS abuse. Basically, on the mitigation time. And we are also working on detecting parked domains that are used for DNS abuse as well as domains that are registered in bulk. We call them Batch Registration.

The last item is also where INFERMAL comes into the picture. The core message that we took, which is also kind of miscommunicated in the community, is that what was the factor that was most affected, most influential in increasing the odds of DNS abuse was that domains could be registered in bulk. If they can be registered

in bulk, they can be used in bulk for DNS abuse purposes. We looked into whether the legitimate use of bulk domains also exists and how much that affects other ecosystems, and the analysis showed that most of the domains registered in bulk are actually used for malicious purpose only. So, the legitimate use is very limited.

With that, I would hand to you guys to go into INFERMAL and the concerns you have so we could clarify or help. Thank you.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Okay. Let's see who's in the queue. Anyone want to go first? Farzaneh, we've volunteered you to go first.

FARZANEH BADI

Thank you so much. We are in the beginning of looking at the reports and we will provide more feedback. This is personally what I see on—it would be good to have this slide. For example, if you have the RBL, the reputation-based list, that's not solely an economic issue. You also have many social and legal issues that those reputation-based lists raise. For example, if somebody just landed on this reputation list by mistake, that could affect their rights, if there's no appeals mechanism. When you're looking at different mechanisms for mitigation of abuse, it matters how effective they are, but it also matters what is their impact on the rights of the users and the rights of their domain name registrants. Elimination is usually very effective. Even if it's the most effective

mechanism, if it has a societal impact and if it has a rights impact, then we need to have a conversation on how we should frame these mitigation frameworks.

I'll give you an example on the associated domain check. One of the problems that we have with that mechanism, we actually withdrew our support from the Small Team Report on considering this as a mitigation mechanism, is that associated domain check can literally lead to profiling, and that is concerning for us. We are not saying don't do it, but we are saying we should prioritize how we safeguard the registrant from this. And if we see we can actually have the right safeguard mechanisms in place, then we can discuss it.

I have a few other personal opinions, I wrote a blog about this, on the INFERMAL Report that I can relay to you. But the work that you do is very interesting, is very much needed. We need such research to happen. But we also need to consider as well as economic incentive how these mitigation mechanisms can have an impact on the way they treat the registrants, like incentivizing them to make hasty decisions, to disclose information or private information of the domain name registrant to others or maybe take down or suspend the domain name without doing the fundamental rights assessment.

Now, I don't have a solution for you yet because we have to discuss these things, but it would be great to have these conversations when you are doing your research, when the reports are out, maybe

we can do panels to discuss. Because even if the mitigation mechanism is the best in the world but it can have severe impacts on human rights and access to domain name, it should not be used. I'm glad that GAC and other members of the community want to be evidence-based and they refer to reports, but usually they refer to reports that supports their position. Everybody does. Thank you.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Farzaneh. That was a short and brief comment. I see we can take maybe another comment or question, and then go to you. Michaela, please.

MICHAELA SHAPIRO

Thank you. Thank you so much for the presentations. All of them today have been so helpful and interesting, so thank you. Just quickly on the INFERMAL Report to keep it particularly short. As the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group, we submitted a contribution to the preliminary report on the PDP, which also has some of our reflections based on some of the recommendations that came out from that report, and a lot of it which referred back to your report. So if that would at all be of interest, we're happy to share that if you haven't had a chance to take a look at it yet. Thank you.

SAMANEH
TAJALIZADEHKHOOB

First, we are more than happy to see both the report you mentioned and also the personal blog that you mentioned. Every feedback is useful for us and we want to hear it, also this session.

One comment that I have for Farzaneh is that what I'm hearing—most of our work lies is measuring what attackers do versus what—the discussion you raised is what the mitigation side will do. I know that from our research, they will make this bridge to discuss the other side, which is something that we, as the researchers, are very careful when we write the recommendations. That's why we also published a clarifying document that, "Hey, guys, this is the patterns we see by the attackers." We are not saying defenders should do this or that. There is a big gap between the two.

That is why it's important when we talk about—I mean, we don't talk about what the other communities do, but when they do to hear these comments, also for us to take this into account the loop of our research, our writing specifically now that we see INFERMAL has been taken up and even misinterpreted in so many ways, and being taken from the explanatory analysis of what is out there into what should be done, which is completely different things. But we are more than happy to hear this. Basically, we will need to relay this. I'm here this week and I'm behind the mic every time that INFERMAL—I'm behind the mic saying this is not true. Hearing this will also help. We need this, of course.

RAFIK DAMMAK

I have to say I had a question before we go to... I'm just learning, but just to know what you are planning. You had this study and report. Is it going to be ongoing—not sure, kind of monitoring that you'll maybe share more updates, or just it's one-time report?

SAMANEH
TAJALIZADEHKHOOB

This is a study that OCTO funded, and it came from the community. The proposal came from the community. If community has more proposals, then for sure, there will be a follow-up. If not, inside our team, we are doing research on bits and pieces of the findings to fine-grain those. The associated domain topic that we discussed, or the bulk registration, is the ones that we took out of that report and are digging deeper.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Just to understand, you did because previous request, so if the community or we think there is some area that need to be studied we can make. But as you said, it's from the OCTO budget. Maybe since we talked about finances, to be sure that it can be covered. But something to have in mind. So if we think there is an area for study we can discuss with you, but just to be sure that within the budget that will allow it.

SAMANEH
TAJALIZADEHKHOOB

Definitely. As Farzaneh pointed out, this site that has not been studied, right? The effect on human. That's a study by itself. If it comes to us, we will be more than welcome to look at it.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Hamzoz, please go ahead.

HAYDER HAMZOZ

A very quick question related to the resources that will be used during the research. Especially when it comes to region like Middle East, there is a lack of information and also maybe even multistakeholders to reach out to. What is the strategy you will use to not missing the trend and the forms of abuse that appear in that kind of region if there is no helpful partners to collaborate and contribute and there is lack of resources or maybe there is already resources there but there is a gap in terms of language, and how can we help as civil society to contribute?

SAMANEH
TAJALIZADEHKHOOB

Thank you for the question. I'm thinking as you were talking. In terms of research, because we are purely in the technical unit of ICANN, we don't have an overview of where the proposal comes from. We don't need to, right? We just need to know if this proposal is relevant to the scope of our work, and we are happy to fund it.

Please, if you have ideas and you don't have resources, please feel free to send the proposals to us because we haven't got anything. Apart from the proposal we had for INFERMAL, we didn't have any other proposal for the research. If there are proposals, maybe you can be the voice of our team who is the research team inside ICANN. If there are proposals, send it to us. We have a Technical Engagement Team which goes around and talks about the statistics out of our work. They come to Middle East also. If you think that there is need for more representation, then also again contact us and we will be in touch with our Technical Engagement

colleague and do more. I, myself, am in the session tomorrow in the Middle East space, so there will be more discussions there.

HAYDER HAMZOZ

At 3:00 p.m.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Okay. Thanks. Hamzoz is also from Iraq, that's why he mentioned the Middle East space. Thanks, Samaneh. Maybe you should be careful of what you wish because maybe we'll make a lot of requests. Juan, please go ahead.

JUAN MANUEL ROJAS

Thank you, Rafik. You mentioned that we as a community or a stakeholder group can send any proposal. Do we need to have any format, any template for do that, or just this topic we need to maybe be research or something like that? Just a topic or you need a full proposal in this case?

SAMANEH

TAJALIZADEHKHOOB

A proposal in the sense of research proposal, which is the topic. I think Farzaneh would be very familiar with the topic, the scope, the budget needed, the hours, cost, and how is this relevant to the stability, resiliency of the—

RAFIK DAMMAK

Just to be sure, if you want to make requests, we have to do some work or just we start discussion, and then fill out the details. We can follow up.

SAMANEH

Yes, please.

TAJALIZADEHKHOOB

RAFIK DAMMAK

Anriette, you want to say something?

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN

Thanks. Anriette Esterhuysen, APC NCSG member. This sounds really interesting and I just want to share something which might or might not be relevant. But in the Internet Governance Forum, we've started a best practice forum on securing core Internet resources and context of crisis and conflict. We're looking in core access and core resources. And we've been looking at numbers. For example, the AFRINIC case is one that we are looking at where there's an institutional governance crisis. We're looking at the case of Gaza where infrastructure has basically been destroyed. We're looking at the case of Ukraine where infrastructure has been destroyed but where the Internet technical community has responded in a very different way.

I'm just curious, if the research on DNS abuse, if there's any patterns that you find that correlate with context of crisis and conflict, and if there are patterns around DNS abuse that emerge in

particular ways in such context. It would be very interesting to share that in the context of this IGF best practice forum. What we're particularly interested in our goal is to find ways in which the Internet technical community and the multistakeholder community can respond. Because what we find in practice is that the response has been very ad hoc. In the case of RIPE NCC in Ukraine, when there was a request to remove Russia and ICANN as well, there was a very clear response to saying, "No, we're not going to act." But it's very indirectly related. It might not be related at all, but I just wanted to flag it in case there is something there to share information on.

SIÔN LLOYD

One of the pieces of work we did, it started at the beginning of COVID, was called DNSTICR, and it was to monitor DNS abuse, phishing mostly, that was using the pandemic as the hook to draw people in. We extended that project, actually, when the conflict in Ukraine started and we added terminology around Ukraine, the war, the invasion, the humanitarian efforts to get aid in and all that kind of stuff. And we did see phishing and possibly scam that was out of context for us, so we didn't investigate too closely the scam stuff. We did see phishing based around that stuff. But the overall volumes didn't change. It's just the tactics that the bad guys were using at the time were focusing on the zeitgeist that was around the world. Yes, we've looked at that and we have some reports based on those numbers as well.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN

Sorry, Rafik. I think that we should just invite you. When we do have a next session, it would just be very useful to invite you to share exactly what you've shared, maybe in a bit more detail.

RAFIK DAMMAK

Thanks, Anriette, and thanks, Siôn. Let's see if there is any other comment or question. We're already over time but maybe just a few minutes until they kick out us from here. Okay. Maybe we can wrap up.

Thanks for joining and having this introduction. I do believe we need more to learn about because we saw the report but it's good to hear from you and that you hear also from us. I think one of the points that you made, and it's good to hear that you are not making any recommendation about policies, just trying to give us that, let's say, more input by research, by study, but you are not saying we should do this or that. And I think it's important to highlight. Of course, you cannot control how people read or interpret your report. There is no way to do so but it's important to straighten this message.

We'll see how we can follow up. I think if you want to interact with the other NCSG members, if there is any other engagement. I guess we can wrap up and close the session. I want to thank, again, the Finance and Planning Team for joining. It's good to understand more about the process and I believe we have follow-up with other

call and we need to figure out how we can make our request. For example, we heard that if we want to make maybe a request about the study, it's also important to secure the budget for that. And also, it was good to discuss with you, Samaneh and Siôn. Maybe first time—not first time, but to have more awareness about the report and to go into that. Also looking forward for other study. Hopefully, you can expect some proposal coming from our side. It means work. The people forget, it means work. And I will chase them to deliver.

With that, thanks, everyone. We have our last and next session after the break and that will be about WSIS+20. Thank you and see you soon.

ANDREA GLANDON

Thank you. You can stop the recording.

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