

---

ICANN84 | AGM – GNSO Council Wrap-Up  
Thursday, October 30, 2025 – 9:00 to 10:00 IST

TERRI AGNEW

Hello and welcome to the GNSO Council Wrap-Up Session. Please note this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Community Participant Code of Contact, ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

Please observe the following guidelines to participate in the session. I will also post them in the chat for your reference. Only questions posted in the Zoom chat identified as a question will be read aloud during the session as time permits and as directed by the chair of the session. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in Zoom or otherwise as directed. When speaking, please state your name for the record and speak clearly and at a moderate pace. I will now hand the floor over to our GNSO Chair, Susan Payne.

SUSAN PAYNE

See, now I think you're just all doing it on purpose to make me blush. Hello, good morning, everyone. Hope everyone's feeling rested and not at all fuzzy headed. Wonderful. So, this is our wrap-up session. We have this at every meeting, I think. And it's really just a chance to sort of pick up on if there's anything hanging over. At the AGM, there are a few kind of changes of personnel where we've had things like liaisons to various PDPs and sometimes

---

***Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file but should not be treated as an authoritative record.***

---

they've rotated off or people-- you know, it's an opportunity to reset that and things like that. But it's usually a relatively light meeting, unless there's something really thorny comes up that we're not anticipating, but I don't think that's the case today, so that's good.

I can't see the agenda at the minute. There it is. Okay. So, the first item then is call for volunteers for the GAC Communiqué response. We traditionally now for some time have been doing a response to the GAC Communiqué and we do that as just a small group of volunteers put their hand up, willing to kind of work together to draft some responses. And oftentimes, our Council liaison to the GAC will help sort of shepherd that effort. And so, I'm looking at Sebastien and thinking, I think he's hoping to do that again.

And we put in just some kind of feedback on items of advice, and usually we will also do so in relation to any issues of importance that the GAC raise. And the idea of this, the GAC Communiqué response for those who maybe haven't been involved before or are new on Council is not that this drafting effort is to sort of create new information or to come up with new positions. It's very much just to highlight where we've got an existing kind of Council level piece of work, or an existing position, or if we've previously sent some communication on something. It's just an effort to try and highlight that so that when the GAC and the Board meet together, that information is on the table.

Ashley is asking a really good question, do we know what their Communiqué is looking like? And traditionally, no, we kind of like, we have our volunteers and we get ready to work, but we oftentimes don't know what's in it. And I certainly for this meeting don't know. But having said that, like, I mean, this is not a closed group. So if something turns up in the Communiqué and you suddenly think, well, I definitely need to be involved on that this is not a one-time opportunity to volunteer. But I think if anyone wants to volunteer now, then that is absolutely super.

And if not, I'm sure we'll do a quick email, just reminding everyone and putting in a call for volunteers. And ideally, if we've got a sort of a call of volunteers, we can get something in the diary so that there's something scheduled to start work on this, because we usually have a bit of a time constraint in terms of when the Board and the GAC will meet. So we want to obviously get our input in before that. So, yeah, I'll just pause and see if anyone's got any questions. Oh, loads of questions. Vivek?

VIVEK GOYAL

I volunteer.

LAWRENCE  
ROBERTS

OLAWALE- I was also putting up my hand to volunteer. Sorry, it's still early in the morning.

SUSAN PAYNE

Okay, so we've got two volunteers at the minute, Vivek, and I'm having a moment. Lawrence has volunteered. Yes. Oh, are you a volunteer? Okay, Hong-Fu as well. Brilliant. There's a question. We've got Sam in the chat volunteering. And we have a question from Farzi in the chat. Does our liaison know what's in the communiqué at all?

SEBASTIEN DUCOS

No, sadly enough, I don't. But I haven't heard of any incoming advice, at least. Yeah, maybe I'm wrong, but I haven't. I spoke to Manal last night and she didn't mention me.

SUSAN PAYNE

Which will be nice. Okay, some suggestions that maybe the Quebec question will be in there, but we don't know. Okay, so that's brilliant. I think we are-- Oh, Jen?

JENNIFER CHUNG

Just a quick question. I don't know if staff knows when the board will be meeting with the GAC, so we know a timeline of if we need to react to GAC advice. Usually that might be quite it's quick. Yeah. So if there's GAC advice, we usually have to react quite quickly. If it's just issues of importance, then we typically have a little bit longer internally to do this. I also volunteer.

---

STEVE CHAN

Yeah, thanks, Susan. Jen, I don't know the answer to that, but it's usually scheduled shortly after. I just want to add a tiny bit of additional context. I think Susan hinted at it. It's that for the advice that input goes to the Board for their discussions between the Board and the GAC. For the issues of importance, it's not necessarily limited to just input to the Board discussion. It could potentially be input, like say, to the GAC directly. It's not as prescriptive as for the review of the advice. Hope that makes sense. Thanks.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thanks for that, Steve. I think we've got a good core of people volunteering and we're set. That's great. Thank you very much, everyone. Oh, hand. Sebastien?

SEBASTIEN DUCOS

Sorry, I should have raised it in Zoom and I realized it wasn't open. I'm doing that. So I have Vivek, Lawrence, Sam, Jen, and somebody raised their hand there. Oh, thank you. I was typing when you did and I didn't see you. Thank you.

SUSAN PAYNE

Okay, thank you. All right. Our next item on the agenda is-- we traditionally have a representative from the leadership team to be the rep on the empowered community. And that's to basically as and when if one of the empowered community powers is envisaged being used, there's a kind of formal process for the various different

---

parts of the community to get together and perform those functions. So this is what that post does. I might turn to Steve and see if he wants to give a bit more color on this.

But traditionally, I think Tomslin for the last term or two has been our representative on that. And obviously with Tomslin terming out, we one of one of the leadership team will take that over. I think we haven't quite agreed yet, but I'm going to quickly turn to Steve and see if he's got anything I need to remember on this one.

STEVE CHAN

Thanks, Susan. Not much more than that. I think at this date, we just need an interim, at least for the moment. And then by November, one of the three of you needs to figure out who is the lucky volunteer. And as Susan noted, it's usually pretty passive unless there's actually something that needs to be addressed, then it's more active. Thanks.

SUSAN PAYNE

So then I think for present purposes, probably I'll volunteer to be the interim with the strong hope that I will then have one of my vice chairs do those tasks. Do we have to do anything formal that we have to like for me to be the interim or do we vote on this or anything? No. We're good then. And then Anne has her hand up. Sorry, Anne, I missed you earlier.

---

ANNE AIKMAN SCALESE

Yeah, I was just going to ask Susan if you were willing to do it because I think it's not supposed to be empty. So if you say yeah, you'll go interim. I think that's great. Thank you.

SUSAN PAYNE

Okay, perfect. All right. We're speeding through the agenda and we're on to number four, which is reviewing our Council liaison roles to various initiatives. And that's the details are on the next page, apparently. And as I said, we have liaisons to key work efforts, so we'll have a liaison from Council onto any PDPs that are running and onto any implementation review teams that are running and so on. People we have a few, as you can see on the slide where Councilors have turned out or evaporated. And so there are some very much open posts. And obviously, it's also this is an opportunity for if a Councilor were a liaison and felt that they, for whatever reason wanted to stand back. It's also an opportunity for that to happen, too.

But I think I mean, I don't know if we need to actually appoint them here or whether this is just to flag it to people. But if anyone is keen to serve as liaison to any of these efforts, it's certainly very important we have them. I mean, PPSAI, Paul has been serving in that post. Obviously, the work of that PPSAI IRT will start back up again now that we've had our small team effort and that will send responses back on the various questions that group had. So that group will be picking back up. I'm not even sure that EPDP Temp Spec. That's the group that was looking at things like urgent

---

requests, isn't it? That Thomas was serving on. So those are a couple.

We also have a new one called the SPIRT. And for those who don't know, that's oh, I don't even know what it stands for. But it's to do with subsequent procedure. It's to do with the next round. And it's a standing implementation review team for in the event that issues arise when the formal IRT for SubPro has finished its work. If there are new issues arising, this group is meant to be there to be rapidly deployed. And so we should have a liaison to that.

The SSC, the liaison to the Standing Selection Committee, I think is often one of the vice chairs. So that's probably one that again in the leadership team will have a chat about. But I'm looking, I'm sort of just flagging all of these keen to have any people who are looking forward to-- Oh, yeah. Okay, if anyone's keen to volunteer or the like, I've got a ton of hands up. I should also say, as mentioned in the chat, we might be missing the liaison to the ccNSO. And so that is another one because that was a post that Desiree had. So we may also be looking for that one as well. So I'll go to the queue anyway. Anne.

ANNE AIKMAN SCALESE

Thank you, Susan. I just wanted to mention with respect to SPIRT that Saewon found the charter for us and I put the charter in the chat and it's standing predictability implementation review team. And so the SPIRT is supervised by the GNSO Council. So the liaison role, I think, is an important one. It is for any issues that arise after

---

the publication of the AGB. And I think that we already there were people who signed up to be part of the SPIRT. GNSO made a call for that. I have no idea how many people were there.

But the SPIRT itself will be electing a chair and probably a couple of vice chairs. And there's a whole framework within the applicant guidebook as to the level of difficulty of the issue that arises and whether it stays as ICANN operational work or is something that the SPIRT itself can work out or is something that the SPIRT needs to raise to the Council level. So for whoever wants to volunteer for that Council liaison role, I think it will be quite an interesting one as you work with the SPIRT to help classify those issues and solve problems that arise after the applicant guidebook is published. So just a sales marketing pitch.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thanks very much, Anne. Okay, I have Vivek next.

VIVEK GOYAL

Thank you, Susan. It will help to know some background as to whether this effort is ending, like it's its last leg. Is it just beginning? And how many times do they meet? What is roughly the effort requirement for these? So, I mean, I'm not saying do it now, but if it can be sent out, then it will be easy to volunteer and you go in with your eyes open, because if SPIRT meets every week, I mean, that's a different discussion to have. If they meet only when the issue arises, that's a different discussion to have.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thanks, Vivek. That's a really good suggestion. And I think in the case of SPIRT, I believe it's going to be as and when issues arise, but it could theoretically be quite a heavy lift or it could if the IRT has done its job extremely well, and there are no problems arise, they may have nothing to do. Who knows? I think that's probably an unreasonably optimistic view.

VIVEK GOYAL

Very unlikely, like I learned.

SUSAN PAYNE

Yeah, okay. Lawrence. Oh, sorry.

ANNE AIKMAN SCALESE

It's just a follow up that answer that question. I don't think really a timeline can be supplied other than that it should begin when the AGB is published, which is anticipated to be in December, but we're not aware of any issues right at the moment. But I don't think it would necessarily be possible to predict a time commitment because it's as needed as issues arise. So going to be super interesting though.

SUSAN PAYNE

Lawrence first. Yeah.

---

LAWRENCE ROBERTS      OLAWALE- Thank you. I was going to actually put my hand out for the liaison to the CCNSO, but I see that Nacho is offering to do that because I also have some background with the Nigerian ccTLD having worked on their Board. So in order not to cause any conflict, I'd rather step in for the liaison to the SPIRT.

SUSAN PAYNE      Thank you so much. That's excellent. We also have a couple of volunteers, as you've mentioned in the chat. So scrolling back up, Nacho has put his hand up for the liaison to the ccNSO, which is super and actually for PPSAI. So I think then we probably have most of these posts filled. I think we're still looking for someone who will think about the IRT: EPDP (Temp Spec) Phase 1. Again, doesn't have. Oh, Bruna, is that a volunteer? Perfect.

BRUNA MARTINS DOS SANTOS      I'm willing to, yeah.

SUSAN PAYNE      That's super. Oh, and Hong-Fu volunteered as well. Well, oh my God. I may leave it to you three to sort it out offline. Yeah, last one standing. And I'm seeing, I think those are all the old hands. I will say I'm down for a couple. One where I'm co-liaison with [inaudible - 00:18:34] SubPro. And I probably will just ordinarily, if I thought that work was going to go on for a long period of time, I probably would step back having taken up the chair post. But we're close to

---

the applicant guidebook being approved. And I think that's essentially the end of that group. Maybe, maybe.

And RPMs Phase 1, likewise. I mean, we are not meeting very regularly. Staff are working on some drafting. There may be some future work, but unless anyone is super keen to take over the RPMs Phase 1 liaison role, I'll probably stick with it. And unless it turns out to be much more of a heavy lift than I'm imagining. Yeah. At which point I might see if there's someone else, but I would willingly cede that to someone else if they're keen.

I've got a couple of hands in the queue, but I'm not sure if they're new or old. So Anne, is that old hand new hand? She's gone.

ANNE AIKMAN SCALESE

Just to comment that Lars has let us know that the IRT needs to stay active for a while because there are three or four things coming up that he wants us to work on. And I can't remember what they are, but yeah. But hopefully, very soon.

SUSAN PAYNE

Yeah. Relatively time limited, isn't it?

ANNE AIKMAN SCALESE

Sometime next year. Yeah. We all thought maybe it would just end now. But he says no.

---

SUSAN PAYNE

Okay. But you're happy to continue on. Okay, that's good. All right. I think then, did I miss any posts? I think we're apart from a little cage fight that will go on the Temp Spec. I think we're good. Okay. All right, I think we can go back to our agenda again, which is on the previous page. Farzaneh?

FARZANEH BADIEI

So we have this informal internet governance group and Desiree was our leader. Can she stay on? Yeah, I think so. It's not a matter of her decision. It's informal. No, it's hard.

SUSAN PAYNE

So maybe help us understand a bit more about that group. Is that just a Council group or is it more of a, just a kind of ad hoc?

FARZANEH BADIEI

It's really informal. And sometimes the update that we did with the Board and stuff. But Desiree is involved. I mean, Jen is involved with that process. Maybe Jen should volunteer. Yes. Jen, that's it. I take it back.

SUSAN PAYNE

Given how informal this group is, I think this is another one for the cage fight. Don't you? Bruna.

---

**BRUNA MARTINS DOS SANTOS** No, just checking. Wasn't Desiree the representative of Council at the WSIS discussion group? Then we need to replace her, right? Because we need to have an official rep there. I'm also involved in these things for the record. No, I don't. No, definitely don't. But I'm happy to follow, but definitely not.

**SUSAN PAYNE** Again, we don't have to appoint all of these posts in this meeting, if there needs to be a bit of discussion. It sounds like that's an additional post that we do need to think about having a volunteer for. And anyone who's interested should think about volunteering. We don't have to make Jen do everything.

Okay, so we move on to next steps on IGO, INGO implementation. I mean, for me, this is a super quick. I'll let Jen speak as well, if she has anything to add, but really just to flag, this is, we obviously had a bit of a snafu yesterday. It was unfortunate that an issue in one of the stakeholder groups came up at the last minute, and it was literally at the last minute.

I mean, if there'd been a tiny bit more time, there would have been time, I think, for us to come to some kind of sensible language and move it forward. But there simply wasn't enough time. If we to change the language, people didn't have time to get input from their groups if they felt they needed it. And so it just was a bit unfortunate.

---

Jen has already got some a sort of amendment on the table, which is something I think that she's socializing with her group. And since I'm the proposer of the motion, I'll have a quick look at it as well, see if I think it's friendly, but in any event, it will get circulated within the next few days so that people have plenty of time to look at that. And we actually have another Council meeting. I think we said it was something like the 13th of November. It's really soon. So we have in two weeks' time, we're meeting again, which will be lovely.

So that will be on the agenda then. And I think we should all anticipate that we will have our instructions from our groups and we'll be able to vote on that. And I really hope we'll be able to vote to pass it. But that's all I've got to say. Nacho's got his hand up.

NACHO AMADOZ

Just very quickly, our apologies to you all for the situation yesterday. We really took the situation very seriously. We tried our best. We didn't succeed. And we are going to be looking into this. And we have already, but we will try to make it happen, understanding how much time and effort everybody has put into these and the compromises that we reach with the language, so we will work hard on that.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thanks, Nacho. Jen.

---

JENNIFER CHUNG

Plus one on everything Nacho said, just a quick question or procedure to staff. I don't know why I'm doing this. Okay. Since the motions have been left on the table regarding the deadlines for that, if it's considered a friendly amendment, I know we have a 10-day window before the next meeting, does that also require the same kind of strict timeline? Or if it's considered a friendly amendment, of course, I'm not going to pre all of that, but just wanted to know the timing, so we move correctly and expeditiously.

NACHO AMADOZ

I guess that seemed to me. Thanks, Jen. I think the motions are already submitted, as it is right now. So all four are still submitted. So there's still the time allowed to accommodate friendly amendments to the motions. So at the moment, you're already in compliance with the deadline because they're already submitted. Thanks.

SUSAN PAYNE

Oh, I've got a bit of a queue. Farzi.

FARZANEH BADIEI

Sorry. So yesterday, correct me if I'm wrong. Also, you wanted all the options to be on the table in order to vote. Can you explain that? I think also Lawrence from BC, yeah.

---

ANNE AIKMAN SCALESE

Sure, yeah. When the kerfuffle arose, which was just a little bit before the meeting, I actually had different people saying to me, well if this motion four doesn't go, then I want to vote for three. And another person saying, you know what, two would be better than what's going on in motion four. And then it seemed possible that motion four might be even modified to go back to only vote motion one.

And so when the language was suddenly not stable in motion four, that's why I kept one, two, and three on the table. When you guys get motion for stable in the November 13 meeting, then I think it's going to go smoothly. It's just that the motion for language needs to be stable and there's still a lot of different. It's okay that people have different opinions, right? But we do need stable language in motion four. Thank you.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thanks, Anne. Okay, I have Damon.

DAMON ASHCRAFT

Sure. I mean, it's pretty difficult having-- I mean, we all understand in this group, having four different options within the motion that does make it more difficult to explain to our different constituency groups and to parse it all out. So since we're going back and there's going to be some type of amendment to it, if possible, it'd be great if we could get that down and get rid of four and just have one possible thing and say, this is what we're voting on. Whether that's

a friendly amendment or withdrawal or a submission of a new motion, I think that'll just make it cleaner and easier for everybody to understand. So just a thought.

ANNE AIKMAN SCALESE

Just as soon as motion four is stable and everyone says that's the motion we're voting on. Thanks.

SUSAN PAYNE

Okay. Sebastien.

SEBASTIEN DUCOS

I just wanted to answer. I had a discussion with Manal last night. There was questions from the GAC. They were very surprised that we hadn't voted. And I explained a bit the situation and said that I was still confident that we would vote at our next meeting. So we're all in agreement. Otherwise, I'll just communicate differently. But we're all very confident that we will. Right? So hopefully confident, in a diplomatic term, all these notions make a difference.

SUSAN PAYNE

I think we have strong expectations that we'll be voting. It's on the agenda. And motion four, as we've currently seen, it will be mildly amended, but hopefully the amendment will indeed be mild. Vivek, where is it?

VIVEK GOYAL

Sorry to belabor the point, but can we put some timeline roughly as to when we will get four done and then one, two, three done? Because I don't want to keep going back to my constituency. Hey, four is done. Let's discuss this. No, no, no. One, two, three are done. Also, let's discuss this. So just roughly, I'm not saying put it down, but I would like some timeline so I can go back and say by when I will come back to you with all the four, or one, or only two, and then we can discuss and be ready for vote. Just rough idea.

SUSAN PAYNE

Okay, we think we'll have stable language, I would hope, early next week. All right. Any more questions? Not seeing any more questions.

All right. Agenda item six, Update on the Strategic Planning Session. And I definitely can't give this update beyond hoping you all have it in your diary and are super excited for it. But I know Terri is going to give us an update. Thanks, Terri.

TERRI AGNEW

Hi, everyone. I don't have a lot to share, but what I can share is hopefully you've all received the emails we've been sending. The location has been decided. It's Barcelona, Spain. And that's a big thanks to Nacho, who .cat will be helping sponsor. Yay, Nacho. Hotel contracts are in the works now. Shortly after ICANN84, you'll

probably receive your book now, Travel from ICANN Travel. Just be a little more patient, not like right afterwards.

But anyway, check for emails. We'll keep communicating on the SPS mailing list to keep you abreast as everything is going. If you do have ideas for SPS, go ahead and approach your leadership team. Otherwise, right after ICANN84, we'll start talking about agenda and how we would like that meeting to go. That is my update, unless anyone has any further questions.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thank you so much, Terri. Lawrence.

LAWRENCE  
ROBERTS

OLAWALE- Thank you. So, yes, it's cherry news that SPS is holding out of our default location. But for this happening in January, some of us normally will have huge challenges getting visas. Right now, we are, I would say, pretty much in November. And so, this leaves very, very little time to get something processed for the dates we have in January. I just want to say, just want to leave it on record that there will be a need for some expedited assistance with the travel constituency, providing the required letters to have this process started. And that needs to be done.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thanks, Lawrence. That's really good to note. And I'm sure our staff team are all nodding. So, we hope very much that that will manage to be done in a timely manner. Seb.

SEBASTIEN DUCOS

So, you guys were doing the prep sessions over the weekend, but we had a session with Steve and Caitlin in front of the GAC to explain the processes of the GNSO. And the GAC has asked us, I would suggest to put it in the SPS, but you work it out, to look maybe again at the timelines of PDPs, the Z-graph, to see if there is any way to compress these times. This is not the first time they mentioned it, but they think the whole process is very slow. Now, there's good reasons for it to be slow, but I did mention that we might look at it in the SPS.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thanks, Sebastien. That's a good suggestion. I mean, we've been having a bit of conversation anyway during the course of this meeting about the timelines. Maybe we all need to do some noodling on where we can save some time, if we can. Farzaneh.

FARZANEH BADIEI

Sorry, we are on AOB, right?

SUSAN PAYNE

I think we're still doing the SPS, but only if there are any hands up left on that issue, I suppose. And if not, I'll just say my own thanks

to Nacho. It's tremendous that he's made his office available and so on. So, really appreciate it.

I've got Farzaneh's hand up and then Mohamed from AF Registry. I think this may all be AOB things, unless you're, are you AOB, Sab? Yeah. Okay. I think we are on AOB then. So, Farzaneh.

FARZANEH BADIEI

So, I wanted to bring back up the email I sent on my questions about IRTs. So, I understand that I haven't, like there are some guidelines about IRTs that I haven't read, but I have a few questions on the process. I noticed that, so despite the majority position in this IRT, the matter was still referred to the Council and the Board weighed in and I fear that GAC is going to get involved if we don't sort it out. Like they put it in their communique and that, for me, the integrity of our process is at stake and we also don't want people to go over our head and do things.

So, this raised some questions for me, like generally, and I know that Anne mentioned that. So, I just want to say this is not about NCSG position, about the substantive issue. This is about process. If this was something that we totally agreed with and it was a policy that we totally agreed with, we would have raised it if the process was not followed like that.

So, I just have a few questions on when do we actually give instructions to the Council liaison to an IRT when they can bring the issue to the Council, when they can escalate it? Should the liaison

---

do so only when directed by the IRT or on their own? And then should matters still be referred to the Council even when there is a clear majority position? And what processes do we have for the Board? Do we have a process for the Board to intervene in the IRT deliberation?

I don't want to sort this out today, but I just want to put that on the table because I got very confused. I believe personally that this issue should have been resolved at the IRT. And yeah, I'm not giving an opinion on whether a Council should be involved or not at the moment, but I think we should discuss this, maybe as SPS thing.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thanks, Farzi. It's like you were reading my mind, I think. At a just very high level, just to respond because we have been talking about liaisons generally. There are some guidelines for IRTs. I think one of the things we can do after this meeting is recirculate them because they're not the easiest things to find. And they do cover some scenarios. It is one of the roles of the Council liaison is, liaisons if there are more than one, is to make an assessment of whether there's a consensus within the IRT to refer something to Council. And there's also, specifically covered is a concept that maybe the IRT are in disagreement with staff over what is the correct interpretation.

So I think this was firmly one of those situations where there was disagreement between the IRT community members and staff. And

---

so that is part of the role is to refer it to Council. But I certainly when we have to use some of these processes, it seems to me that there are potentially occasionally gaps, or even you have something in one set of documents that tells you do one thing and another set of documents that says something slightly different in a slightly different scenario. And you sometimes look at them all and go, well, what happens now?

And so I do think that that is firstly, just for us all to get on the page of knowing what these documents say would be really useful. But also, we maybe want to have a look at them and think, do they all make sense? Because I'm not so sure that they always do. So I really appreciate you bringing that up. I think it's a really good point. Okay, sorry. So is that on this point? Okay, Vivek.

VIVEK GOYAL

Just thoughts on the top of my head, when Board sent us this letter, and we all got riled up that how can the Board, but it was like, what was like, we just wanted to let you know what's going on in our heads to see if it helps, right? Similarly, I mean, for a liaison, it's all it will come down to be subjective, right? Whether they believe that getting Council involved now will help to move this process faster, or they think it's right now time to get them involved in this. It's an interpretation of what's written.

And sometimes we should use the best judgment that the liaison did in the scenario in which they were and in a role with it, we should not like make it a thing that liaison cannot come to GNSO

Council for help. Right? So I appreciate like, we should interpret the IRD rules and regulation, but sometimes just have faith in the liaison to say, they did the best in the situation they were in.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thank you. I'm going to the queue now. Oh, Terri. Perfect.

TERRI AGNEW

Thank you. Can we please pause, come over here, take our group photo, because our photographer needs to exit the room to go to another room, and then come back. Is that going to be a problem? Anybody? Okay, sure.

Sam, Peter's not online. But Sam, you are online. Do you want to be a part of this, Sam? Because we can put your photo up on the screen. But it's a ridiculous hour for you. So your choice. Yes. All right. Thank you, everyone. Back to you, Susan.

SUSAN PAYNE

Okay, back to my queue, Sebastien.

SEBASTIEN DUCOS

So I didn't think of it when we got to point four. But as you remember, as since last year, I'm trying to create bridges between the different working groups here and the GAC. And so just a bit of a heads up, I will contact the different new liaisons or roles and try to find matches on the GAC side.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thank you very much. And Mohamed, sorry for making you wait so long. Over to you.

MOHAMED

Thank you, Chair. Well, I think that it was just a little reminder, based on the fact that the GNSO is, if I can call it the heart of ICANN, and I think that everything that the Council was raising and trying to sum up is key and is critical to the life of ICANN. I just want to come back on this various initiative that we have, where we have some of the groups of people who want to onboard, especially on the engagement part, and who are not necessary in the process.

Just let's recall, for example, the relationship between some of the organizations that exist and want to onboard. For example, I can give you the example of the African Registrar Association, for example. This is really a very interesting example in terms of considering the organization who are part of the ICANN ecosystem, but not necessarily involved in any SO or AC, just because in the bylaws, for example, only registrar can be accepted to be part of the registrar constituency. And if you organize yourself as a group of registrars, you cannot have a voice, you cannot be heard, you cannot be accepted as key players.

In the ccNSO, we don't have that problem, because on the CC, African ccTLD are part of the organization. They form a group of ccTLD that belong to the African continent, and they organize

---

themselves. They have various meetings all over the year, and then they come to the ccNSO and bring all the valuable aspects of their organization. In the case of the registrar constituency, we don't have that mechanism. It was not accepted. And I think that for the GNSO to onboard more people, because we are the heart of the ICANN, and we really bring various initiatives, and I really recall some of the meetings that we organized to have more voice from underserved regions and all this stuff.

So I think that it's time, for example, to see in terms of how to give more power to these initiatives and give voices and some mechanism liaison that have to be discussed. If some underserved region people organize themselves to onboard of ICANN, how they can do, and especially in the case of the GNSO in the GNSO constituency, where people are well organized, they fulfill their duties, they are contractual to ICANN, they are part of the contractual party. So we're doing everything, and when it comes to come as a group in order to get involved, there is no voice where we can get in.

This is just one example. And I think that it is just how we can review our mechanism to give more voices and to challenge a little bit some of the existing mechanism that allow some other people to onboard and to engage in the process of the GNSO. This is really typically an example of what's missing and what will not help get more voice and more representation in that. Thank you very much.

---

SUSAN PAYNE

Thanks very much for your comments. I can't really respond on the substance of it. I know some groups certainly will accept, have collectives as an opportunity for a collective group to be a member. I know that's the case in the Registry Stakeholder Group. I can't speak for the registrars. I don't know. But I would urge you to perhaps reach out to the Registrar Stakeholder Group and bring this up with them if you feel that there's a kind of a structural issue we're talking at the moment.

And indeed, later this morning, we're talking about what the future of ICANN reviews looks like. And certainly, in the mix in that discussion is what will get reviewed and what won't should things like structural, the structure of different groups be part of the remit of future reviews. And so, I believe that that will be the case. And so, there will be there certainly are places where those kind of questions will be discussed.

But I would say for presence, I would suggest you communicate with the Registrar Stakeholder Group. And indeed, Prudence, my colleague has her hand up.

PRUDENCE MALINKI

Hi, Prudence for the record. I just want to flag a couple of things because there was a lot of topics that were raised in your comments, Mohamed. And one of the things I wanted to talk to you about was with regards to membership of ICANN and the accreditation process, it has been noted about the underrepresented or underserved regions and how there are

---

genuine like challenges that are being acknowledged. We have had discussions at Board level this week to try and introduce this topic. So, this is something that is being looked into.

However, with regards to accreditation and membership, one of the things I would strongly suggest to you is you can contact me directly. You can ping me in the chat here and we can start a dialogue. But speaking to the Registrar Stakeholder Group and starting that engagement dialogue, I think it would be great to have a further discussion with you to address all of the other topics that you've raised because there's a multitude of topics that you've discussed in your feedback today.

But I just wanted to reiterate that we are addressing some of your primary concerns with regards to making sure that we can engage on a broader scale globally. And we are taking very seriously the notice with regards to underrepresented and underserved regions with regards to ICANN accreditation processes and access to the ICANN membership for registrars.

So let's start a dialogue and hopefully keep some going. I also noted that you were participating in the ALAC session yesterday relating to underserved regions. So, I understand that this is a very impassioned and important topic to you. And I just want to state that it also is a very impassioned topic for me as well. So let's keep talking, and thank you so much for taking the time to share your experiences and your thoughts today. Let's keep that chat going. Thanks.

SUSAN PAYNE

Thanks, Prudence. And that's a much better answer than I was able to give. So, thank you very much. Okay. All right. I think I'm going to look around the room and see if anyone has anything else they want to raise on AOB, including from myself. Everyone's shaking their heads.

I think in which case, I think maybe we can get a tea break early. And I'm going to do my best to bring all meetings in a good few minutes early and wrap up before running over. Yeah, I know you are. This one doesn't count as the first meeting. Okay. All right, everyone. Thank you very much. And thanks for all your hard work this week. We're done.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**