

**ICANN 53, Buenos Aires
New gTLD Applicant Group (NTAG) Meeting
23 June 2015
08:00-08:45 ADT
Transcript**

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Samantha Demetriou: All right so to begin, we're just going to go, if you guys don't mind, around the room, get a quick headcount of everyone who's here. I'll start. I'm Samantha Demetriou, contrary to what my nametag says. I'm chair of the NTAG and I'm with a company called FairWinds Partners LLC.

Maxim, you want to go and then we'll go this way.

Maxim Alzoba: Maxim Alzoba FAITID, Vice Chair of NTAG.

Susan Payne: Susan Payne from Valideus. I'm a representative for Amazon EU, and I'm the Secretary of the NTAG.

Reg Levy: That's Paul Diaz over there. This is Reg Levy with Minds+Machine.

Rubens Kuhl: Rubens Kuhl, NIC.br.

(Joshua Lino): (Joshua Lino), (dotEU).

Christine Willett: Christine Willett, ICANN.

Donna Austin: Donna Austin, dotShabaka.

Jordyn Buchanan: Jordyn Buchanan, Google.

Woman: (Unintelligible) from (unintelligible) Registry.

Man: (Unintelligible) of dotJPRS.

Cherie Stubbs: Cherie Stubbs. I'm the RySG Secretariat.

Sue Schuler: Sue Schuler, I'm the RySG Data Management Assistant.

Susan Payne: I don't think we've got a roving microphone but would you mind just quickly running up to the mic and saying who you are so we have a record?

Jim Prendergast: Hi, Jim Prendergast, Galway Strategy Group.

Kristina Rosette: Kristina Rosette, Amazon.

Jamie Baxter: Jamie Baxter with dotGay.

Fabien Betremieux: Thank you. Fabien Betremieux, ICANN Registry Services.

Mert Saka: Mert Saka, ICANN Registry Services.

Samantha Demetriou: All right, thanks everyone, for stating your name for the record. Welcome to the NTAG meeting here at ICANN 53. The biggest topic that we're going to talk about today that we kind of need to start reaching some resolution on is this ongoing discussion about the sunseting of the NTAG. It was about a year ago, right now, that we started this conversation I think back in London.

And we've kind of gone back and forth. Some people have said, yes let's shut it down. Some people said, no, let's keep it going. So one of the things that we on the ExComm have been discussing that we want to get some feedback on is the idea of a voting trigger, voting threshold trigger, that would automatically sunset the group.

So when we get down to three voting members that at that point NTAG would automatically shut down unless those three voting members voted to keep it going.

At this point there are about 37 voting members of NTAG that are, you know, listed on the roster. Not everyone participates obviously. So we would also probably need to consider doing something to kind of prod those members along to either, you know, kind of get up and change your status or, you know, continue as a voting member.

We do have an ExComm election coming up. We're all willing to keep going since there's not a lot of volunteers if you will. But, you know, it's going to just get harder and harder to get the votes that we need to keep things going.

And as you guys can see, if you've been, you know, following along, there's not an abundance of topics that are just applicant-specific at this point. So does anyone have any feedback or thoughts on the trigger? Reg?

Reg Levy: It seems to me that an automatic trigger that - well (unintelligible) can be overridden like I'm down with the three members or maybe slightly more as well. But in what circumstance do we think that they would override it and then it would continue with just three members?

Samantha Demetriou: I think that's a very unlikely circumstance but, I mean, we're kind of doing - we thought, you know, that might be a good way just in case there's anyone who really wants to keep this party going. And then, you know, at that point it's up to them.

Reg Levy: That's really my only comment.

Samantha Demetriou: Anyone else?

Rubens Kuhl: Rubens Kuhl. Have we met (unintelligible) goes 37, haven't already withdrawal or something they might be still listed as voting member but it might not been the run anymore.

Samantha Demetriou: Yes, that's - I mean, that's definitely a concern. When I was reviewing the list, you know, it was names that I haven't seen on a call or at a meeting in, you know, years. So it could be, you know, we're getting on to three years at this point.

So, yes, so I think that one of the things we had also discussed is working with Sue and Cherie to do a little bit of an outreach even just an email to those members and say like, you know, do you want to continue your voting membership with NTAG? You know, do you want to switch your voting membership over to the RySG? Or, you know, do you want to just kind of withdraw? So I think, yes, kind of an outreach to really get a better - like a more accurate number is probably in order.

Susan Payne: Yes, I was just going to add, I mean, we sort of theoretically, as you got know, got back some voting members. I think the last time we did an ExComm vote we - well we had to extend the time periods I think to even feel that we'd had, you know, enough people to vote that it was sort of mandate (unintelligible) kind of keep appointed. So, I mean, we're not getting huge numbers of people voting.

Jim Prendergast: I guess I should have sat at the table the first place. I just got to leave it.

Samantha Demetriou: You had your chance, we invited you.

Jim Prendergast: I know, I'm leaving to go sit in the board session all day. Jim Prendergast for the record. Along with the review of membership I don't know the answer. Is there still the payment requirement to be part of the NTAG, the observer fee? And would the payment of that tie into whether or not it's still an NTAG member?

Samantha Demetriou: I believe so. Cherie, can you shed a little more light on that?

Cherie Stubbs: Yes. And I may be - this is Cherie. I may defer to Paul but as the charter sits now that is correct, that in order to be a participant in the NTAG or as an observer participant in the Registries there is a membership fee.

Jim Prendergast: And that's an annual recurring fee or a one-time? Annual recurring? So...

Paul Diaz: It's Paul Diaz for the record, Jim. Initially it was set up with the idea of annual recurring but my expectation - I believe what we've done in practice, we assessed it once and because the drawn out status of NTAG I don't believe we've rebuilt, re invoiced.

Jim Prendergast: I was just looking for another criteria where you might be able to get a firmer flush out of who's still engaged and money is obviously a good indicator if they are.

Paul Diaz: Cherie, what were the plans for fiscal '16 for us?

Cherie Stubbs: And just to back up a moment, we have re invoiced those who joined as observers who have been in that status for now, what, almost two years. And the plan is, is that we're revisiting all the observe members because many have signed their contracts now, to try and encourage them to, yes, move on, to go to the next...

((Crosstalk))

Cherie Stubbs: So and if they've paid the \$500 renewal fee that would be applied to their new membership fee. So it's kind of in an assessment. The program is just in a little bit of an odd stage right now. But we will communicate out. Does that help, Paul?

Samantha Demetriou: Jordyn, did you want to chime in?

Jordyn Buchanan: No, Jim asked my exact question. It seems like if you did some combination of making people pay and then just auditing whether they seem to still be eligible you would probably solve most of your dangling membership problem.

Samantha Demetriou: I mean, I think if that - if that - as long as that doesn't break any rules in the charter or anything I think that's probably a great way to get people to either commit or to not. So maybe that's - is that something that's going to be taking place like in the next couple months - the re-invoicing?

Cherie Stubbs: Yes, we will - as we set up in the last couple of years, the invoices for fiscal year '16, of which is on the same fiscal plan as ICANN, the invoices will go out in late September and then be due by December 31.

Samantha Demetriou: Okay so then by January or so we should have a pretty clear understanding of who is still a voting member and who's not. And at that point we can kick in the mechanism where - sorry, (unintelligible) where if it's, you know, fewer than three it disbands.

I think that's probably going to require a vote among the group which really gets us right back to where we're starting. But among the active voting members, we'll put this out to the list. We'll do an official like online vote so that everyone who is not here can not vote as well. Sorry, that was their joke. Go ahead.

Susan Payne: Yes, we also thought we might take the opportunity to do a couple of other kind of charter type amendments because if we're going into a kind of sunset period we obviously don't want to have to keep doing six month reelections for ExComm so we need to do something about kind of not having an ExComm.

And there are sort of charter requirements to hold meetings at certain points, and again we might want to kind of remove those obligations and just have meetings, you know, to be called at will or something like that on the assumption that this kind of sunsetted NTAG ever wants to kind of reinvigorate itself. So we thought, again, we could get some sort of just minor charter amendments to kind of cover off the practicalities of sunseting.

Samantha Demetriou: So I think what we'll do is we'll draft those, circulate them to the group, and we'll put it out for a vote. Keep it pretty easy. So, Susan brought up the next point which is the frequency of these very fun meetings that you guys are having a great time attending. I want to thank you all for waking up early for this by the way.

I support Susan's suggestion that we move from a schedule to an ad hoc system where if there's something that we need to get together to discuss, to vote on what have you and that that is what triggers these meetings because otherwise you guys are just going to have start listening to stories about my dog or something, not going to have much to talk about.

So I think, I mean, I don't think that is something that requires a charter amendment, I think that's probably more of a consensus policy. So maybe what we'll do is just check in with the membership shortly before the next in-person meeting in Dublin.

If there is a desire to get together perhaps we can, like we did here, commandeer a little bit of time on constituency day. And if not we'll just hang

out with the larger stakeholder group. Any thoughts? Just nod if you're in agreement.

Donna Austin: Donna Austin. So, Samantha, I think that'll make sense so I'm happy to support that.

Susan Payne: Okay so the next item will be the ExComm election. And I think we decided to leave the nomination period open. From recollection it's until the end of tomorrow because we wanted people - anyone who's here to have the opportunity to still think about sort of throwing their hat into the ring.

We've all sort of said we're willing to keep going. (Will) is too. He wasn't able to travel to Buenos Aires but he's also indicated a willingness to keep going. But we also would very happily, I think, any of us would very happily hand over the reins of this organization to someone else if there was someone who is an applicant and would really like to take it on.

So we're happy to keep doing it but we didn't want anyone to feel that we'd be the slightest offended if they stood against us. And so we do want, you know, if someone wants to put their hat in the ring, please do, otherwise we'll, I guess, have to have a kind of vote formally after the nomination period closes. But, you know, we'll kind of keep going as is for now.

Thoughts? Agreement. Happiness.

Rubens Kuhl: Any volunteers?

Reg Levy: Happy agreement.

Jim Prendergast: Yes, you're stuck with it.

Samantha Demetriou: I think it's you guys who are stuck with us. All right, and then the last thing we wanted to touch on was treatment of the current Website comments -

content, sorry, I'm having a little trouble reading this morning. So if you guys haven't been to the Registry's Website I suggest you go because it's great. Good job, Sue.

And there are a few archived like comments and letters and things that NTAG has written, submitted, etcetera, in regard to this round one of the program. We thought we'd give a chance for people to volunteer if anyone thinks that that needs to be built out a little bit more, if they think there's anything missing we want to archive for the sake of posterity for future rounds just to serve as a resource for applicants who might be coming in later in the game.

Rubens Kuhl: Any thoughts?

Jim Prendergast: Yes, I mean, I think archiving it and keeping it around for the eventual next batch of applications whenever that maybe probably is the wisest thing to do. I don't know what's involved with that as far as cost or effort but it certainly doesn't make sense to have to reinvent the wheel three years from now when there's a couple hundred new applicants I'm sure.

Sue Schuler: It's really not difficult to do, it's just a matter of you telling me where you want it, if you want it in the archive, if you don't want it anymore just tell me and I'll just do it, it's...

Jim Prendergast: I confess, I haven't looked at the content in a long time but it - I'm sure as useful as it was over the last three years it'll be just as useful in the next three years.

Maxim Alzoba: Maxim Alzoba for the record. I think it's - it might be a good idea to put it into archive after this - or to trigger effect of sunseting the group. Because putting like existing group Website into archive is - doesn't look good.

Samantha Demetriou: All right so that's that. Anything else on this topic that anyone wants to bring up before we quickly go over to Jacob? Is he on? All right, as I'm being

informed, Jacob has not been able to join us so we're not going to get the IRP update. So that - independent review process.

Well, kids, unless there's anything else anyone wants to talk about I say we all get some coffee. I need some for sure. And we'll rejoin in about a half an hour back with the Registries and the full stakeholder group.

Susan Payne: Thank you everyone very much for coming. It was very nice to have you all here.

Samantha Demetriou: All right well that's about it. Brings the meeting to a close. Thanks, everyone.

Cherie Stubbs: Thank you.

Samantha Demetriou: Fastest NTAG meeting ever.

END