ABU DHABI – Fellowship Daily Session
Wednesday, November 1, 2017 – 12:00 to 14:00 GST
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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: November 1, 2017 – Fellowship Daily Session in Capital Suite 14, starting time at 12:00.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, I know people are gathering. Yes. We'll start in four or five minutes. Yeah, we still have four –

My dear fellows, take your seats. I know I gave you a hard time for the last 15 minutes but my apologies that change, which has been taken it relates to tomorrow, not today. And knowing that Capital Suite 14 is that far, I understand that some of you just – many of you are on their way here so they can't hear me, I know.

But yes, our first presenter already providing their gift to you. Wow. This is actually the new brochure, huh? Oh. Yes. Fellows are everywhere.

[Khalid], so he's – he is the part – good.

So, let me introduce our first presenter for today. Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency, which the abbreviation stands for ISPCP, so Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency and the Chair

of this Constituency, Mr. Wolf-Ulrich Knoben is our guest today. Thank you, Wolf, for your time to come to us and talk to us.

I hope many of you have seen Wolf-Ulrich doing the announcement about the outreach event and you had a chance to go there and learn about this constituency. But now we'll have a bit of time. So 5 to 10 minutes for the presentation and then the other 15, 20 minutes for Q&A. We will have a chance to ask questions directly to Mr. Wolf-Ulrich and without further ado, the floor is yours. And we have mics. Actually, movable mics, yeah.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Hello, good morning to everyone. And I promised on Sunday I will come back after my short speech about the outreach event we had. I do not have presentation slides here so I would like more to have an exchange with you on the understanding of the ISPCP Constituency and where we are and what we're doing.

So, thank you very much, Siranush, for the kind introduction remarks. You may have learned – I'm not familiar how many of these groups from the GNSO have already had the chance to introduce themselves to you so that you may be familiar more or less with the structure, a little bit complicated structure of the GNSO and what is behind.

But if you look at this and you know that the GNSO is a one body who is in charge for the policymaking for the top-level domain's areas and there are several interesting interested groups in the GNSO and it is structured in a part that there is a GNSO at all let me say, which is comprised from the stakeholder groups and the constituencies there.

Plus, there is a council, a GNSO Council who is going to take to discuss the policy and to push the work ahead within the GNSO and then takes at the end decisions based on community input from the various stakeholder groups and constituencies. And you can see that on the left-hand side, one part of the GNSO is the so-called Commercial Stakeholder Group and we are one part of it.

So, there is not really, let me say, a body, which is called Commercial Stakeholder Group, which means that is a kind of institution but it is really comprised from these three constituencies, the Business Constituency, Intellectual Property Constituency, and our constituency called the ISPCP (Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency).

So, in order to file our input route towards the GNSO Council, so we can participate in the GNSO Council by ourselves so we send two members of our constituency to the GNSO Council. Each of the stakeholder groups, these constituencies, which are in the

Commercial Stakeholders Group have two seats. I'm also one of the members of the GNSO Council but today is my last day. It says I was appointed two times being on the GNSO Council starting in – oh, the first time, it was in 2009, yeah. And then, another round for beginning three years ago and I had a lot of time spent [inaudible] in GNSO Council. Also, I have been appointed the Vice Chair of the GNSO Council in order to move works forward.

Now, the first question to you is who is close to the business what ISPs are doing or who knows what ISPs are doing just to get a feeling about what is it if you're around here. There are some hands up but maybe more familiar with what is about TLDs and what, for example, registries, registrars and so on are doing.

So, let me just briefly explain where we come from. We have a background in telecommunications mostly. So, our members come from big telcos and associations of those telcos. Plus, so-called Internet Service Providers who run facilities providing access to the Internet for customers and providing add-on services to that access. For example, cloud services, in parts hosting services. But all is about in addition and allocated also and connected with the access to the Internet itself.

And why we have an interest here to take part and to participate in the work of ICANN is because you know, we have, to some extent, we are the ones who are providing the infrastructure. We are running networks so we have to operate networks. We have to take care about that the networks are safely operated and that our customers are satisfied.

This doesn't mean that we have the right customers related to an ICANN interest but all the customers who are as a user for example, Internet user who are using the DNS itself, they may be confronted sometimes with operational issues regarding their requirements.

And what is often happening is that those customers don't refer to the registrars or where they have gotten website or an e-mail address from, they refer to the provider who gives them access to the Internet and ask them, "Well, I have a problem and please solve this problem."

This is why indirectly so we are mostly interested that all these services which are running on the access we are giving to them reliable and we have the right context and we can also do our inputs in make these services running well.

Well, that is one of our major interests. In addition, well, there may be some business interests from a strategic point of view. If you look at the development of the DNS and, for example, also

future identifier systems in connection with TLDs all about is from a perspective of an ISP and telecom provider is traffic generation on networks. That's where our business and our money comes from and that is why we are interested as well, also to shape this development on the Internet according to our interests. So that's just opening speaking about where an economic interest is behind of that.

So, we are the members coming from telcos, associations of ISPs and ISPs itself. And we are fitting into the discussion of ICANN, with regards to operational aspects, with regards to security, reliability aspects of the ICANN – of the DNS system connected to the Internet network.

That is the major items. We have also [SC] – the others – the other constituencies. Throughout the ICANN meetings, we have our open meetings. We had [now] an open meeting yesterday where we're discussing, for example, operational things with regards to universal acceptance.

Universal acceptance is one of the major issues we have been dealing with and where we are engaged since years in in order to make for the global network to make it the TLD resolving acceptable. So in the different networks to… Despite [inaudible] information about how to do that to that, TLDs could be resolved in all networks available. We had in the past a bigger

issue with the names collision and we have cooperated in working out procedures as well in order to overcome issues with names collision, for example.

So, that's it. In total I would say, some of the backgrounds we have, I would be happy. So if you could have a dialog. Let me just tell you that in the brochures, you'll find some nice pictures as usual they are from me and from my colleagues and also some information about us.

And of one of the very last pages, if you are interested, we have addresses and very, very quickly refer to in case if you are interested, well, to join our work or to get more information about that. We have also a website, which is also indicated of this site. I think it's ISPCP.info if I'm right. And so, you can contact to these addresses to the Secretariat or to that website, our constituency. And if you are around and you meet any colleague of us, we are very open now to also to give you any answers you may have to your questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you for [inaudible], Wolf-Ulrich. We can go for the questions for now. Yes, [Sam], let's start.

[SAM GANDU]:	[Sam Gandu], Fellow, Fiji Islands. Do you have any influence on Internet package pricing or censorship?
WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN:	What? Sorry?
[SAM GANDU]:	Do you have any influence on a country's Internet pricing and censorship?
WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN:	Internet pricing –
[SAM GANDU]:	And censorship.
WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN:	Censorship? No. Openly speaking, not. So, are you referring to regulations [inaudible]?
[SAM GANDU]:	Yeah, like we come from the [inaudible] islands and the Internet price or access to ISPs in the [inaudible] islands is beyond the reach of ordinary people. We cannot afford that and then certain

countries, the same for certain information. So I was wondering as an end user, what can I do?

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: I would like to ask whether others of you have got any experience with this in regards to pricing in your country. So usually, well, to my knowledge, for example in Europe, we have regulatory authorities. We look at the – from the competition point of view because we have several companies giving access to the end user, they are looking well to their pricing models as well. I'm not familiar how it is, how it works in your country and how it works in other countries as well. Maybe that's different that the party you have, regulatory authorities, which are also overseeing the operation of the networks and have control of the networks maybe, so that may be different.

But though in general, I don't have this information what is available in general for that. Thanks.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Alexander and then – you both, yeah – Salvador and [Dora].

ALEXANDER: Well, time for intervention questions, to come and to help you to answer the previous question, you have not stated these four

letters the GNSO. So actually, you are working on operational concerns of ISPs related to domain names and the parts of domain business. So it's one of very important part, this universal acceptance. So that the new domain names are well accepted by new pieces of software, [inaudible] authority [inaudible] browsers whatever else that's working. So that's an answer for previous question, not about censorship.

And then, her question which I got [looking on this], you're stating that [Minog] is a member of ISPCP. As far as I remember, you, at least that year ago, [Minog] was not a legal entity. So, who can join ISPCP and what are the requirements? Because [there we have] some questions, some of them noncommercial and nonprofit constituencies can be joined only by formal nonprofit organizations, which might bring difficulties. So, if an informal [now] could join your ISPCP, I think we could do this [easily now].

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Okay, thanks for the question. Well, we have a charter of the ISPCP, which is on our website. And in this, it is explained about the membership. So we have two types of membership organizations or entities. So mainly, you accept members, organizations of ISPs or telcos or whatever giving access to the Internet to their customers, yeah, not just let me say excluding

those companies who are just giving access with regards to hosting services for example, yeah. It should be given an access to the… and they should run at least also as the access and be responsible for the access.

So, in this regard, it's very open to us. Well, for rich organizations, they are on which that you represent. For example, I'm personally – I'm from eco association in Germany with – eco, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's formal [inaudible].

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: And eco is a formal member of the ISPCP and in addition, for example, I personally, I'm working for the DE-CIX, which is the Internet Exchange and which is, well, the major part – strongly related to ISP matters – and DE-CIX in addition is a member of eco. So that could happen as well. So if you have in your country those kinds of organizations and relationships, so please ask us, please find application. You can click on the website. You can file applications and send questions in. You will be sent I think five or four questions with regards to your organization and then we have a so-called Credentials Committee, which is the very last

one going to decide, "Okay, this fits to our requirements and other requirements or not."

ALEXANDER: Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Salvador?

SALVADOR CAMACHO: Hello, this is Salvador Camacho from Mexico. You were talking about the universal acceptance on new gTLDs but I don't know if you could tell us what is the stage or the percentage of like achieving that universal acceptance because we have that digital domain name and sometimes it's like very difficult getting the e-mails or receiving them. It has been like a quite difficult. So if you can tell us what it's like the stage right now of 100%, where are we at the universal acceptance? Thank you.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Thanks very much for the question. This is a difficult question to answer. I'm not sure whether you have a chance now to participate in one of [UASG] meetings. I think there was one at the beginning. So to better understand where they are and what they are doing.

So, the most challenge is the communication and to make the world aware about the problems, the issues to reach out, they may be faced with new software application, with new hardware tools as well with regards to accepting TLDs and resolving TLDs.

So, this is the main work, the scope is going to undergo and though they are doing a lot of outreach towards countries, towards organizations where they get input from that there are issues. So, I would like to at first, well, to ask you – you shouldn't mind, well, you should just contact this, they have a website, they have a contact, the rest as well to contact – makes them aware of the problem and they will refer it to you. That's the one thing.

You are referring them what is the success, how they do this and can they have an answer to that how much is resolved right now, so the problems. They are still in the process to develop measurement tools, success measurement tools. So, this is one of the major items they are doing at the time being as well. So, in order then to answer these questions where we are, where are the problems left and then how can we satisfy the community in saying, "Okay, it's in your part. We ask your opinion. It's mostly solved or not." I cannot say more. It's an ongoing process.

Next one, plus here on the left-hand side, please. The lady first and then you, yeah.

DORA BOAMAH: Okay, I'm Dora. [I'll ask] the issue of censorship, no censorship. So, you said you don't do censorship but then in terms of your operations, I want to find out your position or your best practice or standard on the issue of Internet shutdowns.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Issue of?

DORA BOAMAH: Internet shutdowns. Because for my region, quite often when there's an Internet shutdown, there's an order from the government to ISPs on network operators to take social media down or just shut the whole Internet down. I think even though it's not direct censorship from your end from the government and is an indirect, we were censoring people from either sharing information or assessing information. So I just want to know what your take is on this whole issue of Internet shutdown. Thank you.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Thanks for the question. So, if I understand that correctly, this is all related to the question of censorship and because –

DORA BOAMAH:	Not directly. It's about operations. It's about your operations. So if you get a request from government to shut down social media or Facebook or something, to you it's not censorship. To the ordinary citizens, it's censorship but it's operations.
WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN:	Okay. So it's on the one hand, right, to make it very clear. So, ISPs, so at least let me say in the European area, they don't interfere in the content issues. They don't care about that. It's under the regulation of different [SO/ACs].

So, the question is regards to shutting down access or shutting down let me say the communication. This is in regulation or it is handled, managed by governmental SO/ACs or enforcement SO/ACs.

So, for example, to give you an example, in Germany, so we have very much restrictive laws on that how to, for example, intercept connection. It's not just the enforcement SO/ACs, they can request that. They have to come with a decision made by a lawyer, made by a judge and then show us, "Well, okay, that is what we got because that is a criminal act or whatever else or terrorist act or what we have in face." And then, we are under certain decisions obliged to do so.

This I guess is a variety of things, which is done in different countries in different ways. We, as the ISPCP Constituency, we don't have the power and we don't care about that. So, it's not in our remit to discuss these methods.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks. We have the question from remote. [Veron], please.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Okay. Or the one gentleman behind.

VERON: Yes, we have a question from the remote participation from Albert Daniels. He says, "Is there anyone from the Caribbean in the ISPCP?"

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, we have confirmation from –

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [Inaudible].

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: No, no, no, no, no. As a part of ISPCP, not present for today's meeting.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: I'm afraid to say no, not yet. So, I would be happy really. So, if there is interested of – in regards to that to hear that and to – we are open if they have people from the Caribbean here about coming to us and contacting us, that would be great.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We do have people from Caribbean and I think it's well noted by them who are sitting here. Any follow-up for this?

MELISHA TOUSSAINT: I'm just wondering –

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Introduce yourself, please.

MELISHA TOUSSAINT: Melisha from Dominica. I'm just wondering whether do you guys [give support for] individual membership or do you have to join as an organization?

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Thanks for the question. Individual membership would mean as a person, not wanting a business or do we have an entity behind that, which is related to an access provision to the Internet?

MELISHA TOUSSAINT: Yes, as an individual who has connections with ISPs, IXPs or content providers or should you just join as an organization or both?

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Yes. I have to say yes, so it should be the organization, which is going to be a member, not the individual itself.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: One question.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Oh, no, you, the other gentleman first.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: My apologies, we have [turn], Mubashir first.

MUBASHIR HASSAN: Oh, thank you. Thank you. Sorry, I lost my [wife] during this meeting.

I have a similar question to ask – just asked before… Sorry, this is Mubashir from Pakistan. I'm a [quarter] returning Fellow. After the IDNs in place and they are [inaudible] right now, there are so

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many challenges, technical challenges we are facing to resolve e-mail addresses and all those domain names. And also in different regions, there are so many conflicts to resolve this website domain names.

So, my question is about do you guys have any approach to work together within the ICANN community and also with the IETF to develop some standards to resolve all those issues like resolving e-mail addresses and domain names to come up with new protocols? Thank you.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Thanks for the question. So, well, we are mainly with technical backgrounds, so we are keen on to cooperate with these communities also dealing this technical like the IETF or so as well. The IETF is not a part of ICANN and so it's showing up for some representatives here as well and the ICANN Board is also a technical liaison to them.

So we are dealing also with them. We have members who are members of the IETF on the other side as well and they're [paying] on such kind of issues or topics to discuss [on] to our table. If that comes up, we are open to discuss it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Duksh.

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

DUKSH KUMAR: Dursh, a Fellow from Mauritius. My question is mainly related to country code top-level domain, so should I proceed here is it not the right forum?

All right, I want to talk about .mu. And my problem is that we have a rising committee of techno [planners] who want to go for .mu. But our concern or our issue is that the price being practiced by the .mu registry compared to as domain names is quite high in comparison.

So, if we want to take a position on that, so what would you recommend us to do in terms of convincing the registrar or the registry to reduce the price? Considering that, yes, of course, there's the operational cost but then if there's any such option that we can explore. Thank you.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Right. You're coming here so I'm not so deeply familiar with – is that possible? But I know there is a lot of – around [BC] registries and registrars and I know they have – since they are competing to each other, the different pricing models may to some extent

may vary. So, I would like to refer to you to a discussion with registries or registrars. Do we have, Siranush, with the other constituencies and stakeholder groups and –

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We do have and the registry group will be tomorrow.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Will be tomorrow, that will be the best place now to place that. I can't really give you any advice at all about that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, Fellows are asking difficult questions, I know. And we'll take last question from – and then we'll stop here.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you. [Inaudible] Armenia, second time Fellow. The question is quite simple. Do you have any IXP as for members, and if yes, is there any restriction of being for example, the At-Large Structure or At-Large involved organization and a member of your structure? Thank you.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: So, if I understand correctly, you're asking me whether the IXP [inaudible] cost membership?

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I mean, do you have any IXP Internet Exchange Point as your members, as a member of your structure? Because it is ISPC.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: IX and Internet is –

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We have Internet Service Providers in the IXP. They are all members. So, can IXP itself be your member?

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Sure. Sure. For example, we have the DE-CIX, which is a German –

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Sure. But it's a commercial structure. I'm representing ARMIX (Armenian Internet Traffic Exchange Foundation) that is a non-for-profit organization.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Not any problem, really. So, welcome, really.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Yeah.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much and we'd like to thank Wolf-Ulrich for your time coming and talking to us. At least you now know who is the Chair. You have only one day to take this opportunity to talk to him in person because he is the Outgoing Chair, so next time probably we'll see the Incoming Chair. But thank you for your time.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: I'm sorry to say I am the Outgoing Council member.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Oh.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: I will remain the Chair because [inaudible].

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: You make my life. You made me happy, so no changes in my mind for the next time then.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: So as you know, there will be never and after ICANN Live. So, if you change from one position, so you will be immediately think about how can I stay here? And I will remain as Chair.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We won't see you. We won't see you there.

WOLF-ULRICH KNOBEN: Yes, okay. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: For sure. Thank you very much and our applause is to you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: More brochures there.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, there are more brochures there so feel free to go and pick up. We do have lunch actually outside of this room waiting for you but I have requested that we don't go out now and take it but keep on the control for us to leave the room and take the lunches with us. So be sure your lunch is here.

And with that, I would like to introduce you our next speaker who is here, Raoul Plommer. Please, if you can come closer to

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mic. Yes, that will be better, otherwise, our cameras can show you.

So, this is Non-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency, which we heard a lot and talk and Raoul will be telling us what does it mean and how we can become members of this community and what are the vital and important discussions you are running now within your own group.

We have 5, 10 minutes for you to introduce and to talk about your community and then the rest, 15, 20 minutes for Q&A. Thank you. The floor is yours.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Thank you. My name is Raoul Plommer, the Vice Chair for NPOC, which stands for Non-for-Profit Operational Concerns. I think my presentation is going to be quite short but I was trying to come up with concrete examples of the priorities we are going through in ICANN. We've been very engaged with our charter work. We're at the process of reviewing our charter and that's been taking a lot of time, so I wasn't able to prepare that well for this session but I'll have a go.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: We'll come to you, don't worry.

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RAOUL PLOMMER: Okay. So, I'll try to give some examples that NPOC deals with and what we are going to concentrate on and I'll start with domain name fraud where the offending domain name, registrar attempts to trick domain owners into switching from their existing registrar to theirs under the pretense that the customer is simply renewing their subscription to their current registrar. So, they are actually trying to steal your domain name by letting you think that you are merely renewing your website, for example.

There is also like a reverse version of that where a domain name owner would be getting an offer like a purchase offer and they would be trying to fool you into paying some administration fees and such for doing that.

The Intellectual Property abuse is something I think sort of kick-started the whole NPOC. There was the Red Cross and Red Crescent organization that came into ICANN and actually led to the foundation of NPOC and that had to deal with basically criminals trying to use the brand name of Red Cross to skim money off people for the wrong purposes.

I could also give you another example that – I'm not sure if I should tell you but it's a really simple one and I think something should actually be done [about it]. It's sort of hard to

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demonstrate to all of you but, for example, we have city of Helsinki. Helsinki University uses the domain name Helsinki.fi. And, just about a week ago, a friend of mine showed me how that can be abused in a way that you could register a domain name and instead of using the letter "I" you would be using a small "L" and in most browsers, it will look exactly the same, you could be the owner of the false domain where the letter "I" is represented as the "L" and people would not really see it. The font can be exactly the same. It's very hard to determine that. You could have a link to something like that and be totally fooled that this is going to the right place. So that's an example of the Intellectual Property abuse for skimmers would be using the Helsinki University brand to get money off people.

And there's privacy concerns. That's kind of my favorite I guess. I've been working for digital rights protecting or fighting for digital rights for some nine years now. And previously, I think concerning, for example, WHOIS data on record and we are glad to see that the GDPR is going to decrease the amount of data available. GDPR is the General Data Protection Regulation that is going to full effect in May. It's going to change a lot of things. ICANN is all abuzz about it.

But essentially, ICANN is trying to identify user cases where there are different types of request from the WHOIS data, databases and it will be reduced according to the need of the WHOIS data.

For example, law enforcement would have pretty much the full length of the WHOIS data, whereas some other types of request wouldn't have that lengthy. They would only get the essential details, not like sort of everything is law enforcement could be given.

Then there is cybersecurity, that's in a way self-explanatory in a way that – well, in our case as NGOs have to take care of their domain name through cybersecurity so that it can't be taken over or to be giving false messages to people that the owner of the domain certainly doesn't want to present on their website.

And last, there's public interest software concerns. For example, that could be an application or a software in the registry website or registrar website that was basically trying to identify who exactly is asking for that data. And we'd want that software to be open and free, so people could have a look at the code itself at what exactly it is doing when people are coming to find their registration details.

What else? NPOC currently accepts only organizations as members and basically, the [inaudible] is a person who is interested like some Fellows here should ask their organization whether they can represent their organization in ICANN. And after they get that permission, they can apply for us and we take

them as a member to address these concerns that I was just going through.

I think that about concludes my presentation.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes. Let's go for the questions. We'll start – oh my God. So, okay, let's start with Bram and then we'll move forward.

BRAM FUDZULANI: Thank you. So, I just wanted to ask two questions. One is do you have any control on the matters, so if I have been compromised, my website has been compromised, Intellectual Property issues, someone skimmed my website like the case you gave in your presentation. And then I complained to the registrar to say, "I have been phished or my website has been compromised. I want you to take down the domain of the skimmers." And how long that process takes for them to respond to you and then to get to the point of them taking down the website? Do you have any jurisdiction over that?

And then, the other question is how long if an organization applies to become a member? How long is the vetting process for them to be approved and the whole due process? Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Just a quick intervention, make sure your question is not compiled out of three or four questions. So brief, concise to the point because we need all come to the mic and take their opportunity. Thank you.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Yeah, thanks for that. I'll start with the easier one. We had one of the very first sessions in this ICANN meeting. There were a lot of interested people coming there. And, well, that was my fault but I basically said that the period of vetting or like going through the member applications would be from 30 to 90 days. Sometimes it can take quite a while if a lot of people are absent but I definitely shouldn't have said it there because we had the following day we had the meeting where we were accepting new members just from that meeting as well. So basically, they could have applied right there and then and it would have been accepted the next day. So, it really varies.

But I think the sort of average would actually be 30 days. We tried to have the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group Executive Committees having meetings pretty much every month. So, that's when we accept members and that's usually the main agenda on the list.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks. Dora?

RAOUL PLOMMER: And, the first one that he also asked is another question in the beginning, so –

DORA BOAMAH: Maybe if I ask my question is to be somehow in line with that and then he carries onto that one?

RAOUL PLOMMER: Okay.

DORA BOAMAH: I mean, [inaudible] questions anyway. So, the first one is you listed a number of issues that you deal with including what Bram talked about. But I wasn't sure I had specifically what NPOC is doing in this place about those issues. So you just listed the cases, the incidence, the issues, but what is NPOC particularly doing about them?

And then the second then is, yeah, talking about WHOIS, NCUC is talking about WHOIS, at what points do you intersect? Are you working separately from them or you work together? Thank you.

I'm just saying that NPOC is working on WHOIS. NCUC is working on WHOIS. Do you work separately or do you at some point come together to pursue the same issues especially as they are basically about the same objective just the [inaudible] organizations and for NCUC organizations and then individuals. Thank you.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Okay. So, again, I'll answer the easier one first. Yes, the answer is yes, NPOC and NCUC definitely work aligned and that's actually something that's been sort of changed recently while NPOC has had a quite a restructuring of its leadership recently, this year and then we are looking forward to doing much more cooperation with NCUC than previously.

And, I would say at the moment to be perfectly honest, the NCUC, they have a lot more, for example, PhDs and people educated on the Internet Governance than we do at the moment. So, that's why especially I would encourage anyone really interested on working on policies of the issues I've just said, we would really welcome them with open arms.

And, you had the combined question of you, too. I have to say I don't exactly know how the process works. I mean, for example, if a member organization of ours got skimmed their domain to somebody else if it was going to another registry, for example,

and to another owner's name, my impression is that it is really quite hard to get the domain back if you lose it once.

But this is something I have to check. It's an interesting question, and I don't know exactly what is NPOC's process for that for helping, for example, our member organization to get their domain back. But I believe already like registries, registrars, they do have some processes for this and I would assume that if it can be shown that it's been taken away from the rightful owner, it could be gotten back fairly quickly. But that's all I know.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks. We'll go for Roxanne and then we'll have one remote question. Oh, your question has been covered?

ROXANNE JOHN: Actually, [inaudible] asked by my Fellow there but I'm not sure if I get it clear in terms of how do they – what is your role in terms of addressing the issues? I'm not clear still.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So Roxanne is still not clear what is the role of NPOC.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: A follow-up question, is getting the name –

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Follow-up question from [Caleb].

ROXANNE JOHN: No, no, no, no. We may combine?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: In terms of the issues that you have highlighted. Caleb, can you come closer to the mic and ask?

CALEB OLUMUYIWA: Okay. My name is Caleb for the record.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [Inaudible] answer the question first and then –

CALEB OLUMUYIWA: Okay.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: He said that this is the follow-up, that's why I'm trying to combine.

CALEB OLUMUYIWA: Okay. So, great. Quick question on domain name speculation and those who are trying to speculate to actually get domain names. We are still talking about the fraud case now. So, assuming right now that I have an interest in buying YouTube. That's U.be, right? I know that the brand name actually belongs to YouTube but I know that more recently they've been U.be.

Now, if I buy that, is there any what you guys have a way of saying domain speculation is wrong, you have policies that are standing against that. Are you supporting domain name speculation for businesses probably for small businesses? Those who decide, "Oh, I could speculate on business and buy certain domain names and just keep packed them and then probably when a brand is ready, they complicate and then I auction it."

RAOUL PLOMMER: As far as I know, there are a lot of – I think it's the Trademark Clearinghouse that has actually reserved or they keep the right for well-known brands for sort of domain names around their brand name. I think it can be up to 50 names like that. They don't have to register all of them themselves but if somebody else tries to register those and it looks too close to the address that is the famous brand name, you can't have it.

And, what is NPOC doing about these policies? Basically, we are making public comments, for example, with NCUC, in

coordination with them and we are trying to get our voice heard. For example, content regulation popped up just a few days ago and that the NCUC prepared an excellent comment on. Unfortunately, the NPOC wasn't helping with that one but once it was shared in the NCSG e-mail list, we supported it.

We are really in the process of making more policy work but unfortunately still at this moment, we've gone through all this restructuring. We've been a little stuck with all the administrative duties that the new charter and like the new way of NPCO working is happening.

But definitely, our intention is to participate in making ICANN policy to make sure that the NGOs are being heard and issue is especially relevant to them. For example, I could give you one example, like when I was coming to Abu Dhabi, I was thinking, "Hmm, if…" and they're probably are. Some people in ICANN in this very meeting that, for example, have registered a domain name for LGBT community, which is a community that to my understanding a little frowned upon in this country. So basically, somebody could get that the information from the WHOIS and the government when they're vetting who are they letting in, they could be using that information to restrict their access here or cause them some other kind of trouble.

That's something I was thinking about. And so, it's important that, for example, we uphold the right for freedom of association.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks. We have remote question. Veron?

VERON: We have a remote question from [Pooja Porda]. She asks, "Is there any member in NPOC who is working for reducing gender bias in the digital arena?"

RAOUL PLOMMER: Not that I know of.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. We'll move to Mubashir.

MUBASHIR HASSAN: Hello, thank you. My question is about, I mean, you've told that you are working in cybersecurity but you didn't explain how you are working at this. Your work's kind of more mature and is it taking the staff or is there a letter to policy? And how you work with the – I mean, within the ICANN community on policy stuff in cybersecurity? I mean, do you guys work with the GAC members

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or with any community which can actually affect or can have an effect on the national policies? Thank you.

RAOUL PLOMMER: A tough one. I'm really not the expert on cybersecurity issues.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Tell us. Tell us who can help us and we can reach that person. I mean, there is no need for knowing.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Okay. Well, at the moment, I don't think we have… at least in the active membership that we have on at the moment, I don't think we actually have an expert for cybersecurity. So, just for now and until I find out what you just asked, the answer to it, in all honesty, right now, I would recommend to talk to Tatiana Tropina. For example, he's a good expert on cybersecurity issues and that's another area that we would really like somebody to participate NPOC and join us and maybe do some policy for cybersecurity, like that'd be wonderful.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Raoul. Thomas Lane.

THOMAS LANE: Yeah, my name is Thomas Lane and I happen to be a member of the Next Generation WHOIS Working Group. And, you did mention about the issue with the LGBT registration. I mean, you would appreciate that there is a need for academic research based on that WHOIS data. And, how would you propose that they go about – if there was to be an academic research on that and there's an absence of the registrant data, how would you propose the [inaudible] with such?

RAOUL PLOMMER: Okay. Well, as I understand, some of the registrar data can be used in anonymized way like it goes for a lot of personal data in the world. If large amount of personal data is anonymized, it can still be used for statistical purposes and for research purposes.

Also, I think there is also going to be user cases for this type of data. So basically, if a university was asking for this data, they could be getting a little more data than a normal – well, anybody on the Internet would.

THOMAS LANE: All right. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. And the last question, Chenai, please.

CHENAI CHAIR: Thank you. I hope these are simple questions. What is the criteria for selecting an organization to be part of NPOC? Do they have to be a technical or can they be a nontechnical organization? And then, the second question is, what is the communication that is done to nonprofit organizations around the issues that you mentioned? So, I know, for example, our organization was exposed to a – I think it was a domain registration abuse and at one time, we almost paid money to this organization but fortunately, ICANN connections saved us.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Yeah. Any NGO, not-for-profit organization can join us. It doesn't need to be technical or lawyer firm or anything like that. Well, okay, there is an exception, which is political organizations like you can't have –

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [Inaudible].

RAOUL PLOMMER: Yes, let me make that more specific. We can't have political organizations that main purpose is to elect government officials or the representatives in the parliament. That's pretty much the

only exception I remember. And also, your organization cannot be part of some other stakeholder group but those are pretty much the exceptions. Otherwise, any organization can join us.

And, I would actually want to thank you for the point you made because I do feel that if your organization is member of NPOC, we do have connections to escalate the problem here in the ICANN in the mailing list and so on. I'm quite sure we can start the process of getting the domain back, for example, a lot faster than you would just as a random guy in the Internet.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much and our applause is to you Raoul for your time coming here. Thank you very much.

I know we are asking difficult questions but that's why we are well prepared group coming to ICANN. Thank you one more time.

And with great pleasure, I would like to introduce our next speaker. We'll have another interesting topic to talk to us. This is Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC). Lars-Johan Liman who is former RSSAC... Melisha, can you give a place to our presenter because we need camera. No, the problem is with that mic, we don't have camera showing you and people wants

to see you and our remote participants have problems with seeing you. So, if you can take that seat, that would be great.

So, Lars-Johan Liman, he's former RSSAC co-Chair and he will tell us what they are doing and what kind of important advices they are giving to ICANN.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: Thank you very much. I'm very, very glad. I'm pleased to be here. I've talked to Fellows in several occasions before and this is actually one of the most interesting sessions that we tie in our committee because you have so interesting questions and I love this exchange here.

My name is Lars-Johan Liman. I am – as Siranush mentioned, I'm the previous co-Chair for one of the previous co-Chairs for the Root Server System Advisory Committee. The RSSAC is currently in session so that's why the current co-Chairs are unable to make it.

And, I would like to tell you some about what the Root Server System Advisory Committee or RSSAC is about, that usually in these sessions leads into discussions about how the root server system works and that's fine, but I will try to identify when we stepped away from RSSAC and into the root server system

because these are connected but they are also – have different, different properties.

So, the Root Server System Advisory Committee is one of the original committees of ICANN. It's been around since ICANN 1. And it's there to have a forum for discussions regarding the root server operations. The root servers are the DNS servers that serve the data from the root zone and the root zone is the list of top-level domains.

So, the amount of data in a root server is very, very small. It's just the least of all the top-level domains and the servers for each top-level domain. So the total amount of data accounted in bytes is around two megabytes, tiny.

But it's a very important part because that's the entry point into the DNS system, which is hierarchical so you can find your way down through the system and you have to start somewhere.

So, if we look at the ICANN Bylaws, the role of the Root Server System Advisory Committee as it's stated there is to advice the ICANN Community and Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security and the integrity of the Internet's root server system. That's actually a very narrow scope, so we don't at all have the same width as the SSAC, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. We focus on the root servers and the data there and the operations of that.

So RSSAC consists of 12-appointed members. There are 12 organizations that operates – that kind of operate jointly the root server system, which is essentially, it's a cloud service. And, there are 12 organizations that work together to provide this service and each of them appoint one representative to RSSAC and also one – what's the name – an alternate. So there's a back up person for each and everyone.

And then, we have liaisons coming in from various places and going out to other places. So we have a liaison to the Board, we have a liaison to the NomCom. We have a liaison in the new system regarding the root zone administration. There are two organizations called the Customer Standing Committee and RZERC Root Zone Evolution – sorry, I don't remember too many acronyms. RZERC look at the technical properties of the root zone and whether we need to add any technical changes to the root zone.

The Customer Standing Committee is a performance monitoring committee that looks at how the IANA function as operated by the PTI, how they perform against the certain service level expectations, so it's an organizational overview or auditing function, if you want to.

We also have incoming liaisons from the Internet Architecture Board, which is the technical side associated with the IETF. We

have incoming liaisons from SSAC and we used to have one from the Department of Commerce, NTIA, but since the separation, the IANA Stewardship Transition, that's no longer the case. So, we don't have a liaison from there anymore.

So this makes up the formal committee. Now, that is a very small committee and we don't have all the resources to do all the work we would like to do. So, in order to have a broader spectrum of people, help us deliberate on the various issues that we need to deal with, we have something called the RSSAC Caucus, which is a body of experts, mostly technical but some from other fields as well and that's roughly today's 75, 80 people-ish.

And there are three purposes with having this pool. One is to have a wider selection of people with expertise than just the 24 or most 30 people in RSSAC. So, we need more varied expertise that we can provide ourselves.

It also means better transparency. So we have this group of people who help us think through the problems and produce the documents and there's always a list of authors who helped write the documents and their affiliations and so on. And everyone who's in the Caucus has to make a statement of interest. "I want to be a member of Caucus because…" and that is all public information. So you can always see, "Oh, it's written by that

person and he's affiliated with that company. Okay." And then, you can make your judgment from that.

And there's also framework for getting work done. I mean, we're only 24 people. Sometimes we have a lot of work to do and we need simply more hours to make things happen.

This group is actually open for anyone to apply to. There is a mail address. I'm happy to share if anyone of you would like to be a member of Caucus and we would welcome new members absolutely.

Unfortunately, we just missed the Caucus Meeting here in Abu Dhabi unless you happened to be there. There will be another one at the IETF Meeting in Singapore in a couple of weeks' time on November 12th. But we have them on – let me see. We have them at the IETF Meetings twice a year and then at one ICANN Meeting per year because many of the experts are more technically oriented so they tend to attend the IETF Meetings more than the ICANN Meetings. So that's what we try to balance that [with].

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Lars, can have go to Q&A and use the rest of the time we have for opportunity to ask your questions.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: Yeah.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So, just one, two minutes to wrap up and then – your speech and then we'll go to Q&A.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: All right. Then I would like to mention, the biggest task that we're trying to work with right now is that the root server system has been steady for many, many years. I've been working with it for 25 years and it hasn't happened much in terms of how it's designed. It's been working well but how it functions.

But we realized that we need to make the system more transparent, we need to build more accountability into the system, we need to find a way to modify the system for the future, have an evolution happen and so on.

And some of these questions are very, very sensitive to people, not only the rules of operators but it's also politically sensitive in some circles. So, we're just treading very carefully but we have an ongoing series of workshops where we discuss how to – we try to understand what the problems are, we try to build a very coarse and initial model of how it could possibly look in the future and with the long-term idea to hand this over to the ICANN Board with the intention to create some kind of Cross-

Community Working Group or something along those lines to finalize what the system and processes should look like in the future.

So, I'll stop there then and we'll happily try to answer questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, I will start with Thomas Lane.

THOMAS LANE: My question is about the meetings. You just mentioned there are a couple of meetings and I understand they're mostly closed. You did invite us though. But I'm trying to understand their rationale behind the closed sessions. Is it because of the political sensitivity of the topics I do discussed there?

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: Yes. There are different types of sessions. Our work sessions are for the moment closed. We do our formal meeting where we make the decisions and actually do the work that we are required to do by the Bylaws. They are nowadays open. So there will be a formal RSSAC Meeting this afternoon and you are most welcome to observe. I'm sorry to say, I don't have the exact location at hand but I'll dig it out before the end of this session. We realized that that is a problem so we're trying to change that.

Our working sessions are closed for the moment because we are, as you said, trying to deal with these political sensitive things. And until we, ourselves, know where we stand and until we understand what the problems are, we would like to keep a bit of lid on it because otherwise certain ideas which we [inaudible] would realize are probably not a very good idea, it could explode and go somewhere else without any intention from either side. There are so much contention to these issues, so we want to be really careful.

But as I said, the idea is to construct an initial model, a strawman proposal where we identify what the problems are and then have that discussed in a more open fashion. But it's a long-term plan. We don't see that happening in the next six months. We are talking maybe five years here so we realize that we have to tread very carefully to avoid upsetting various political side because there are indeed high level political problems here.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks, Kemel, go.

KEMEL ZAIDAN: Kemel Zaidan from Brazil. I don't know if this is the right place to ask but like I'm trying to find where these kinds of discussion

have a place on ICANN. So, I would like to ask what's the [role] of the RSSAC or maybe in the ICANN when DNS is used to – in order to prevent freedom of speech. For example, when some governments, they try to take down certain sites by taking the DNS out of it, so like in the – a famous case is the WikiLeaks for examples. So, do you guys try to think about ideas to prevent that certain governments or certain institutions are able to use the DNS to prevent the freedom of speech, for example?

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: Thank you. That is a question that at least is on my mind occasionally and I think about it. The Root Server System Advisory Committee does not deal with that. That doesn't mean that is not a problem. The thing is that we don't generate the data that we publish. We get the data from someone else and we just publish it to the Internet. So, if you compare this to a book, we don't write the book. We just print it and sell it but we don't change the content in it.

So, we have no control over the content of the root zone, that it arrives to the root server operators through a process where the IANA function that's operated by the PTI initiates the change or addition or whatever it is, sends that off to the root zone maintainer, which is currently contracted with Verisign, and Verisign then publishes that to the root server operators who

picks it up, puts them in all the servers and publish this information.

The things you're talking about very seldom pertained to the top-level domains. It's very seldom that the government does something, tries to take out a top-level domain. More often, it happens longer further down into the chain and then it's already out of the hands of us. We cannot really help there in any good way because we don't have that data. If we don't have the word WikiLeaks anywhere in our files, not until you get down to the next level, the org files, that's where the problem starts.

That said, all kinds of tricks can be played on the network and there is not a whole lot we can do. The basic [stance] for me as a root server operator – and I will speak only for me because we are 12 different organizations, I haven't heard anyone say anything else but I'll speak for me – saying that we receive incoming queries to our servers and we respond without any prejudice to these queries. We have no filters. Unless there are filters that are put there because of technical overload of the system. Someone is trying to overload our system. But we don't filter and respond differently to anyone who can [inaudible]. So every query that we receive, we respond to appropriately with the data that we receive from the IANA.

Now, we don't know what happens with our response after it leaves our server because then it hits the network and there are various service providers and then possibly government filters and we don't know. But we cannot really do a whole lot of what the government does to the network in a certain country when we are not in the country and we just receive a query and we do our best to respond. But we certainly don't interact with them, the governments for changing the data or modifying the responses that we send.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Afifa?

AFIFA ABBAS: Thank you. Afifa, a second time Fellow from Bangladesh. So you have talked about RSSAC Caucus. So you have maybe nearly 85 members. So I wanted to know how to make sure that each of the members are well utilized and occupied with the task? And, do you really have a mentorship for them?

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: First question, we don't do that. We don't make sure that they are utilized. It's a voluntary thing to join the Caucus and it's also voluntary to join the work parties that we create to look at

various issues and produce documents. So, we have no intention of making sure that – it's a pool of volunteers.

Mentorship – no, we don't have much of mentorship today but it's a bit of an idea. I can see the benefits of having that and I will try to take that back to RSSAC as an idea to look into. That said, I would argue that if you are in the Caucus and are a bit uncertain on whether to join a work party or not join because there will be experienced people and these are friendly people. They will be thrilled if you ask questions and try to approach and want to join the group and be a part of it.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. We'll go to Alexander.

ALEXANDER: Hello. I have political questions but not as easy as human rights. Okay. Your certain organizations, you say it's sometimes that was two megabytes and nothing but station changes. Some of these organizations doesn't even use unicast so they fail [inaudible] the DDoS. How about replace of this [unresilient] organization but [inaudible]? First question,.

The second question, certain letters, letter in alphabet have at least 25, how about increasing the number of organizations operating such [inaudible] it is kicked of [IC] but he's I think

confident enough to operate also alternative root zone operating technologies like the [inaudible]. So, what is the opinion of your committee on this?

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: Oh, that was a whole lot [inaudible]. If we back up, I believe – I need to double check that. I believe that actually all the root server operators now use unicast to distribute load over several servers.

When it comes to the number of letters, the letters are an artifact that the cloud service that we provide has a number of IP addresses and in the DNS system, you have to put a name to every address in order to – how to put it? You need to put names to the addresses. You can do it in various ways. We happen to use letters just to enumerate the 12 organizations, all the 13 service points that we have. We could have used colors. We could use green, brown, red, blue. We could have used something else. We could have used the names of the seven dwarves and something else.

That said, we are trying to step away from the letters. We're trying to find a way to not have that be part of the system because it creates a lot of contention. When we have more letters today in the alphabet than we are utilizing, so from that single perspective, it would be possible to add more letters. But

my first question is what could the benefit be from a technical standpoint? Would the system be better if we have 26? I'm not quite sure. I could honestly say that it might be better if we have fewer.

So, it turns into a political question and that is one that we are trying to address with this work of the evolution of the root server system because we realize that there will have to be changes in the future to the list of operators.

And, at the end of these five years or whatever it takes, we hope to have processes in place and the various functions that can make decisions on this and there will certainly be a – what's the working term we have? The strategic architectural and planning function that looks at for instance the number of operators and the total number of servers and the quality of the servers overall and so on, and from that can produce recommendations regarding the number of operators and so on.

So, that is one of the most pressing questions for driving the work to evolution – to have evolution [inaudible].

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Mathias?

MATIAS JACKSON: Yes, hi. Thank you for your presentation. I was just wondering I have a [inaudible], a little bit nerdish question. But why 13 root servers? There is a reason for that? Thank you.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: Yes, there is a reason for that. I don't know how many times I've had that question. So, we have to go back in time. Remember that the DNS system is more than 30 years old. Spin back your brain 30 years in time, the Internet was a totally different thing. It actually says in the standard, the original standard for DNS that a DNS packet and the DNS usually sends the query in one single packet and receives the response in another single packet.

And those single packets were not allowed to exceed the size of 512 bytes. That's not a whole lot of room to put data in. A resolver, the client side of this exchange, the resolver that helps looking for data in the DNS, it must know where the root name servers are, so that's configured into them in a configuration file or something corresponding. But they want to have a fresh list. The first thing they do when they start is to ask one of the root name servers, "Can you please give me a fresh list of all the root servers?" That list with all the names of all the machines and all the IP addresses needed to fit in 512 bytes. The limit is 13.

Now, since then, things have evolved. We now have something called extended DNS that would give us more room in the packet. We can have a signaling between the client who says, "I can't take these big packets." And the server can say, "Okay. I can't really do that but I can do at least this big."

And we could in principle have a longer list of servers. So that limitation is kind of going away. The problem is that we have no process to change the operators. We have no process to add another one. We have no process to remove one. That's what we're trying to create for this evolution work.

So, it's an old technical limitation that's still there for reasons that are no longer valid but we have no process to change but we are trying to create one.

MATIAS JACKSON: So, sorry, it's a policy problem.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: It even sounds it's a process problem, it's not a policy [problem] because we haven't reached that but before, you can apply your policy. You most have a process underneath to apply it to and we don't have the process.

MATIAS JACKSON: Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Alice?

ALICE BAIN: I just wanted to find out related to your process, you stated that you do have political issues coming up within your discussions. Do you ever have joint meetings with the GAC or are they involved in any of your discussions to reach out resolutions?

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: We have had exchange with the GAC. There was even a talk for a while to have a GAC liaison to the RSSAC. But in the exchange we have with the GAC, we concluded that there were no issues that we needed to deal with – that was so pressing that we needed a liaison. I absolutely expect the GAC to be one of the groups that take part either wider discussions when we have a strawman thing to discuss in the future. But right now, we don't have any formal discussions with the GAC but I definitely expect the GAC to be engaged when we start to talk about the real and hard stuff, which is probably a year or so down the line.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I hear Michael who wanted to ask question. Yeah. And Mubashir and we'll wrap up.

MICHAEL JOSEPH OGHIA: Thank you very much. You just mentioned that the – okay, question is over. So, one more provocative question I think. Sorry, yes, not because we are from Russia, sorry.

You know, [inaudible] let's see external audit for the server assuring and ensuring independent users, there's none of any external software installed and so on and so on. Thank you.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: A very good question, thank you. No, currently, there's not but that is also very much part of the discussions that we're having in this evolution work. One of the functions that we're looking at is a monitoring and performance function and that will monitor the system as a whole and the individual root server operators and their performance under specifications that are done by another function that we're discussing, which is this architecture and policy function that will kind of set the standards for how this is to be operated.

There is however a few. There are two documents. One by the IETF, it is called RFC 7720 I believe, which sets the expectations for how several operators would behave when it comes to the

quality of the DNS service, what type of answers should be given out and what type of transport and so on.

There is also a document issued by RSSAC, RSSAC001, I believe. We have versions in our documents because we need sometimes… we need to update them. So RSSAC001 latest version has specifications more for volumes and quantitative specifications for how root server operators will behave. So there are at least two documents, which all root server operators have subscribed. They have to kind of signed on as, "Yes, we will fulfill these expectations." But that's the extent of it today. Hoping to have better the future. Come back in five years' time and I'll tell you differently.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And the last question, Mubashir.

MUBASHIR HASSAN: I have a similar question asked by Alexander. Almost a year ago, I did ask a question at the public forum at ICANN Meeting57 that how much infrastructure is required to run the Internet of the whole world? I got a response from the Board Member that studies have been carried out by the RSSAC to evaluate how much infrastructure we require in terms of root servers, number

of root servers. We require to run the Internet of the whole world in the coming… in maybe the 100 years.

So, my question is, is it the RSSAC who decides, we require just – these 13 used to [inaudible] to run the Internet of the whole world in the coming 50 years or 100 years or is there any study being carried out to identify there should be a body, independent body other than this member of root server operators?

There's just an added question. As you said, there are just two Mb of data and the space required to store that data of the whole world, then why we need 13 root servers? I mean, one root server is efficient to run the Internet of the whole world. Why are you not allowing further licensing? If they are starting coming up results, how much time is required to evaluate how much infrastructure we will actually require? Thank you.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: I'll do the infrastructure one. The RSSAC doesn't deal with the amount of infrastructure needed as it is today. That said, again, back to the evolution work, one of the functions we're looking at is this strategic architecture and policy function. It will probably – and we are talking about [the future], I don't know. We will probably looking to thinks like do we have a sufficient system for the Internet? And it will look into the future, maybe not the 50

years because that's a very long time and I'm not sure we have an Internet in 50 years time. We didn't 50 years ago.

But there will be some function that looks into the future on a very high level side. But it's down to the root server operators to make sure that they fulfill that the requirements that we have today, which are very coarse, these two documents and the requirements of the future, which will be set by this architecture and policy function I predict. And, it's actually a matter of fulfilling a service quality rather than knowing exact how much infrastructure is needed.

And, it's down to the root server operators look at – in the future model, to look at what the architecture and the strategy group says, "Take that into account for their own operations and then do the planning for how much infrastructure that they need to roll out."

And, it's also difficult to look at it very long term because there are changes in how the Internet evolves. If you had asked me 10 years ago, "Can you please make your 10-year projection for what the Internet will be in 10 years time?" I would have been wildly off, large errors. I can tell you that.

So, we have to take this gradually and we have to be able to adapt but it's important that we avoid building things around the root server system that change very rapidly because

expanding this infrastructure, it's not extremely difficult but it takes time for us to double the number of servers, we are looking at a couple of years time to do that. So, we need to have a system that is predictable in the reasonable future a couple of years. What's happening 50 years down the line, anyone's guess.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you, Lars. And like on behalf of all the Fellows, thank you for your time coming to us and our applause is to you.

If you have any special PowerPoint presentation, you can send it to me and I will share this with the group.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: Thank you for having me here. As I said, it's always pleasure because here is where I have the most interesting questions.

I think I suggest that you have a look at the presentation from our open meeting. RSSAC usually has a meeting where we present to the general ICANN Community what we're doing and that was yesterday, that meeting. And the slides up from there are actually pretty good and they are available up the schedule already under yesterday's session.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN:	I'll make sure to send the link to all our Fellows. Thank you very much one more time.
	And we have our last presenter, last group who came to us to talk to you. This is Business Constituency. And with great pleasure, I would like to introduce you the Chair of Business Constituency, Andrew Mack, who is accompanied by Vice Chair Jimson Olufuye, if my pronunciation is good. And to our bright alumnae joining them and accompanied them is Lawrence and Omar. Yes, please take your seats and – thank you, guys. Thank you for coming with this really nice crew. And, Andrew, the floor is yours.
ANDREW MACK:	Great. Thank you very much. And, thank you to all of the Fellows for being here. It is a great honor to speak to you. It is a great honor to speak about something near and dear to my heart and a great passion of mine, which is the BC here at ICANN.
	So I'm going to start off by asking how many of you have your own business by raise of hands. Okay. Great. You're on our membership list already. And how many of you work for a business? Okay, so, you understand where we're coming from.
	The BC is the voice of business in the ICANN world. One of the important components of the formation of ICANN was that it

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was and remains a very successful public-private partnership that involves different aspects of the business community, not just in the formation of this ecosystem but also in its functioning.

Let's face it. An important part of the future of the Internet is that we can all use the Internet to develop our economies, to make money, to feed our families, right? This is a big part. If you look around the world at any country, you will see that they have in their vision 20/20 or their vision 20/30, there's something about the Internet creating jobs and creating opportunities.

So the business community not only is important on the policy side, the business community is important on the life side of all of what we're doing.

So, one of the things that we are very, very strongly… the BC is a really diverse group of people. You're seeing my colleagues here, Afghanistan, from Nigeria – we have members from more than 13 countries and the BC is expanding very rapidly. We are a very diverse group linguistically. We are one of the most gender-balanced constituencies that's in the ICANN eco space and we think that these are really important. It's been a big focus of our work over the last few years to try to expand our geographic presence.

And, one of the things that you will see is wherever we go around the world, we make a big effort to reach out to local business

attendees and to local business community. We also are community that works really hard. So if you join the BC, we will put you to work. We will get you involved with the actual work of policymaking.

People get involved in working on BC positions and you'll see that we are very, very active in terms of our public comment, we're active at the mic, we're active on committee and community work, and we're active because we know that there's a lot at stake and we want to create as part of the work that we do an ICANN community and a future Internet community that is open to business and open to opportunity.

So, I can go on all day about the BC. We often talk with the BC. We have people from, like I said, many different countries who speak many languages. And I want you to know that we are very welcoming community. So when it is time for you to find a long-term home in the ICANN world, that if you come to the BC and if you are a company, we will be very interested in talking to you. It's not just large companies and it is definitely not just companies from the Global North. One of the things that oftentimes people have is a misconception about the Business Constituency.

We are a very welcoming group. Jimson has been one of the people, very central to our work to try to bring in new members

and to onboard new members. And Lawrence and Omar, two of those new members who've recently come into our boat. So, let me pass the mic to Jimson to talk a little bit about what we're doing and then from the experience of some of our very active new members.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And leave us at the end 10, 15 minutes for Q&A.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Okay. Thank you very much. Distinguished Fellows, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Jimson Olufuye. Thank you dear Chair on the remark.

I'm this Chair of the Africa ICT Alliance. It's made of 30 countries where there are businesses, where there are businesses all over Africa but we have businesses from 30 African countries as members today. My day job is managing an IT firm. We do data centers, went to cybersecurity.

And so, I joined in 2012 during the ICANN, BC 2012. Well, as the Chair mentioned, membership is quite diverse. Members, they use the Internet to conduct businesses and they literally [inaudible] in the [inaudible]. And the Business Constituency is representing customized of other companies who provide

domain name, Internet protocol addresses and related services. We are typically members of the contracted party [house].

The mission of the Business Constituency is to ensure the ICANN policy positions as has been mentioned are consistent with the development of an Internet that one, promotes end-user confidence because it's a safe place to conduct business, it's competitive in the supply of registry and registrar and related services and is technically stable, secure, and reliable.

So, we have diverse membership on the executive committee. Andrew Mack said the Vice Chair of Finance and Operation, we also have Vice Chair of Policy and we have Commercial Stakeholder rep, a nice lady, Barbara. We also have Counselor, a lady and a gentleman. And we have also reps on the NomCom for log business and the small businesswoman [inaudible].

So generally, the scope of BC as I've mentioned focuses on the policy development and the compliance issue. An outreach to boost diversity, our Chair is doing a lot of outreach and also the Chair of the Outreach Committee and also the Credentials Committee. We maintain a webpage and a public quarterly newsletter. You can pick some more copies of business that are right there on the ICANN booths. Please, feel free to pick – you have some in Arabic, just on the [inaudible] diversity again.

And, we also relate effectively with other colleagues in the ISPs simply, in the IPC, making up the Commercial Stakeholder Group and of course ICANN Staff, GNSO Council and other SO/AC.

Andrew mentioned about Outreach. Yes, we've been diversifying. When I joined in 2012, I happened to be the only African businessperson there in the Business Constituency and we have grown. Last year, we had moved up to 6% but this year we moved to 10%. And Lawrence, one of our active members from the African region and I'm involved because Internet shares my business so I was not [likely] to fail so that's why I'm here is my self-interest.

And I believe as you have shown, because you are into businesses on the Internet in particular, so it's self-interest for you to be involved now that the global community is managing our ICANN.

So, we continue to engage and want to encourage you, feel free. Some of our [inaudible] will be speaking. Lawrence will speak now then Omar. They've joined in and they are playing very active role. Lawrence and Omar, play a very active role. So very easy to joining, go to the website www.bizconst.org and it's online. And you'll be welcome. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. We always are lucky to have [inaudible] and Omar with us with Fellows spending time with our Newcomers and sharing their experience. So, that's why we are lucky having them both in your group. So, thank you for giving them back with their new knowledge and to keep that knowledge to Newcomers. [Olawale]?

LAWRENCE OLAWALE-ROBERTS: So, good afternoon everybody. Like we've heard, I happened to be from this block as an alumni and I'll tell you like for those who have – we had an opportunity of meeting within these corridors, I'd say that this is the very best place to be and especially this is your first time in ICANN because like we are here now, you'll get to meet all the constituencies in one place. And, please make the best use of it.

So, to the BC, we happened to be in the GNSO block of the ICANN environment and because we don't have a contract with ICANN, when it talked about contract, the registries and the registrars, so we happened to be in the Non-Contracted Party House. And, also, go further to be in the commercial stakeholder unit.

Now, our membership is unique, not to scare you because we onboard companies. We don't have individual memberships like you find in some other constituencies within ICANN. You have to be a company. You have to be a registered company to be a

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member. So, for those of us who run companies of us, this is one of the best places to be.

I'll want to go further to tell you from my experience in the BC that this is one place where you actively engage in policy work. There is virtually no policy work ongoing within the ICANN environment that the BC doesn't have a say or a stake in. And aside from that, the BC is also actively involved in governance. So, if there is one place where you really want to contribute and to learn, it is the BC.

I will go further to say also that the BC is Fellow-friendly. I have had the opportunity of traversing a few places before settling in the BC and I tell you that this is one constituency where they are not waiting for you to have the membership of three, four years before they start pushing work on your table. And when you take up these responsibilities, you grow faster within the ecosystem.

So, as a Fellow, even if you are here and you're walking with a company as long as what you do thrives on the Internet, you could be the bridge to bring your company in, that's to the place where you work, to become a member of the Business Constituency in ICANN. I'll defer to Omar so that we don't talk too much and we can take some of your questions.

OMAR ANSARI MANSOOR: Thank you so much. I think the very important issues were discussed by the Chair, Jimson and Lawrence. My name is Omar. My first name is Omar and my last name is always a Fellow.

I newly joined the BC Outreach Committee, my company technician has been there for quite sometime a couple of years now. By always a Fellow, I mean that's a spirit and that spirit is about learning and sharing in collaboration and partnership. These are the things you will find at the BC.

When I first came as a Fellow in 2014 in ICANN51 in Los Angeles, it was very hard for me to pick what other people or understand or get involved in the discussions how they were involved, the other people. So I couldn't realize that there is a place for me as well. And then I met Jimson and Marilyn who told me about the BC and that I could get involved. And I had a company, we applied for a membership. It was really swift and since then we're involved in the ICANN BC.

It's very important for the Fellows to join a constituency as soon as they come to ICANN. It's going to be a little hard at the beginning but gradually they will – life I understand is busy but people who disappeared after their first fellowship, it became very difficult for them to get involved at later stage.

So, my advice to all Fellows would be to get involved in the one of the constituencies, BC. At BC, we'll be very happy to welcome

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you and provide you with some guidance and coaching, mentorship on how you can become an active member. But until that, I suggest that you continue reading about the ICANN work, the BC work if you join a mailing list or anything else, continue reading. If you have a to-do list, put ICANN on it and that we have a proverb saying, "Qatra qatra darya maisha" – drop by drop becomes a river.

So, that's what I'm taking from ICANN and the BC, and I'm hoping it will become a river very soon. So, that's what you need to do as well. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks, Omar. And we have already the queue for the questions. Alice?

ALICE BAIN: Thank you for the presentation. I'm the Project Coordinator in Grenada for Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Program. We are currently funding about 53 ICT startups to an incubation framework called Startup Grenada. It's also registered. Is it better to join as a group Startup Grenada or should I expose you to 53 different businesses and ask them to try to join individually? Which is preferred?

ANDREW MACK: It's a great question because we do have many different kinds of members. We have [iFirm] has four people, right? We have companies that have like hundreds and hundreds or thousands of people. We also have trade associations that represent a number of different groups.

I mean, in this particular instance, we had someone who also has a startup that I'm launching. It's a lot of work to do a startup. You may be very well served to have them join as a group so that someone can be the person who follows the ICANN.

I mean, how many people here don't speak English as the first language? A lot, right? And it is exceedingly difficult as a person who does speak in English as the first language to understand all the ICANN and nomenclature and the complexity of the work that we do.

And so, having someone who could be your point person might very well be the easiest thing especially in a startup stage. But as businesses, we would be happy to get their applications. I just think that in terms of the time that they may have to devote to, they may be better served by you as their coordinator or by the trade association organization as the coordinator.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Yeah, maybe in addition, my organization, Africa ICT Alliance set [medieval] for business from [30] African countries. So, we are representing them here, have an [note] on it. And also, some of our members when they are all joining because of the level of interest they have, but because of what you do, just as Mack said, that will be the best approach and the mature [inaudible].

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thomas Lane?

THOMAS LANE: Perhaps this is a question to Jim. As a business that deploys data centers for your customers, apart from issues or worries of e-mail addresses or route [inaudible] over Internet, what specific worries would you have that you intend to address by being a member of BC?

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Excellent question. Yes, communication, e-mail, routing, connected with that is the issue of abuse, cybersecurity, to ensure that that is well mitigated [inaudible]. And also, to [inaudible] as I mentioned is the desire and strong commitment seeing that ICANN remains stable especially down to the root. So, that's our interest indeed.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Abdeldjalil? [inaudible] you have addition? Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah. I just wanted to add also that there are issues that come out on the spot at the moment. Right now within this ecosystem, we allowed discussions that would be going on in the GDRP. And you might say that this is coming from one region but it has a global effect.

So, by sitting and engaging at the table, you're also able to bring the context from your region to play, you're able to look at how are the policies because give or take, policies that arrive at around the walls of ICANN got a long way to affect us globally. So, your business might be in a particular range of product but there are other things that come into effect. So when you're sitting and engaging at the table, there's a very good balance.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thanks, Abdeldjalil?

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Okay, thank you so much. This is Abdeldjalil from Chad Fellows. So, thank you so much for the BC Team. So, I know them very well. So, [inaudible]

members of Africa. So my question is that in ICANN here, we have BC and we have GNSOs. And inside the GNSOs, there's Commercial Constituency. So what is the difference between Commercial Constituency of GNSO and BC?

ANDREW MACK: So the BC is one of the constituents of the GNSO, okay? As Jimson mentioned, we are the home for businesses that are not contracted parties and which don't otherwise – and they're not ISPs and don't have a very, very narrow focus or strong orientation toward Intellectual Property concerns.

We're probably in many ways one of the broadest constituencies in ICANN because any kind of business that doesn't fall into other categories would fall into our category and there are some that might fall into one of the other categories that have decided for business reasons that they would like to be in the BC.

So, yeah, the structure is a little bit complex. Everything rolls up into the GNSO but to make it as simple as possible, if you are a business and your primary work is not with ICANN and your primary work is not as an ISP, there's a good chance you could be one of us. It's just right, isn't it?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]?

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ANDREW MACK: Please.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Okay. With the GNSO has got two houses, one is called a Contracted Party House and the other one is called Non-Contracted Party House. In the Contracted Party House, you see registries and registrars. Non-Contracted Party House then has two stakeholder groups, one is Commercial Stakeholder Group, the other is Non-Commercial.

Within the Commercial, we have BC (Business Constituency), ISP Constituency and IP Constituency. And other constituencies could also form in the future but there is a process I guess.

For the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Groups, you have NCUC, for example, NPOC and others who are doing non-commercial stuff. You have the presentation earlier about the NPOC. So, NPOC falls into the Non-Commercial within the Non-Contracted Party House and we, BC falls under the Commercial Stakeholder Groups. Yeah.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, and the opportunity for the last question because we need to wrap up. If not, Andrew, your final word to Fellows.

ANDREW MACK: I guess my final word is I think this is maybe my 34th or 35th ICANN Meeting. I know it's kind of hard to imagine, right? And –

[APPLAUD]

No, no, no, no, no. If this seems like a lot to understand, it's because it is a lot to understand and even after so many ICANN meetings, it is still a lot to understand and that is in part because policies being made in real time, it's being made – the future of the Internet is happening now. This is your opportunity to be a part of it.

One last plug, for those of you who may be a little intimidated by the language, we have people throughout the BC who are knowledgeable about – we speak lots of languages. And if you need a little bit of help getting onboard, a little bit of help coming up to speed, don't ever hesitate whether or you're not, you decide to join the BC, don't ever hesitate to come up to us because we have some nice resources. We are really truly and inspired to be everyday more a global constituency representing all the different parts of the world. Thank you.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: And please don't forget to go to the Internet, the link, the soft copy of the newsletters are there and the fact sheets. And

[inaudible] on for joining. So, looking forward to see your footprints on the BC.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yes, I will share the links for the BC with the Fellows. Thank you very much and just a special thank you for Andrew for being a part of [Gem's] team and giving us the pleasure of yesterday's evening, so thank you very much.

Fellows, we need to leave now. Take your lunch and go and take somewhere. Eat it, enjoy, and see you during the evening. We have APRALO Showcase today at 6:30. Make sure you are there.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]