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ABU DHABI – ICANN Public Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 2, 2017 – 18:30 to 20:00 GST  
ICANN60 | Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

STEVE CROCKER: Seated in front of you are all the members of the current board plus the future board. When this board meeting is over, those of us who are departing will leave. And the new board will be in charge.

The -- what else? The way we operate these board meetings, there are two important points. One is we divide the agenda into a consent agenda and a main agenda.

The consent agenda we treat as a single entity, single motion. And we generally pass it all at once.

If there's an objection by anybody on the Board, then we have to stop and take the items off of the consent agenda and put them on the main agenda and then process those individually. The second important comment is that we have done an awful lot of preparation for the agenda, a lot of internal discussion. As a consequence, we take all of the resolutions as if they have been moved and seconded already. And so, if one is a fan of Robert's Rules of Order, we're already a couple of steps down that path.

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When we take the votes, anyone who objects or votes nay or abstains or even someone who votes yes is invited to put a comment on the record. And that applies to our non-voting liaisons and by extension, to our honored incoming honored guests, the incoming board members which we will treat the same way.

I doubt there will be very much of it. But, as a matter of form, I wanted to cover that.

We're still working on the agenda?

I can take care of the next piece of business, which is a formal roll call.

Let me ask everybody who's seated here to just speak your name, starting with Goran Marby at the far end.

GORAN MARBY: Goran Marby, ICANN org.

AVRI DORIA: Avri Doria, incoming board.

SARAH DEUTSCH: Sarah Deutsch, incoming board.

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MATTHEW SHEARS: Matthew Shears, incoming board.

KHALED KOUBAA: Khaled Koubaa, ICANN board.

LITO IBARRA: Lito Ibarra, ICANN board.

AKINORI MAEMURA: Maemura Akinori, ICANN board.

RON DA SILVA: Ron da Silva, ICANN board.

GEORGE SADOWSKY: George Sadowsky, ICANN board.

RAM MOHAN: Ram Mohan.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Rinalia Abdul Rahim, ICANN board.

STEVE CROCKER: Steve Crocker, outgoing chair.

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CHERINE CHALABY: Cherine Chalaby, ICANN board.

CHRIS DISSPAIN: Chris Disspain.

MIKE SILBER: Mike Silber.

JONNE SOININEN: Jonne Soininen.

BECKY BURR: Becky Burr.

LOUSEWIES VAN DER LAAN: Lousewies Van der Laan.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Maarten Botterman.

ASHA HEMRAJANI: Asha Hemrajani.

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MARKUS KUMMER: Markus Kummer.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thomas Schneider, outgoing GAC liaison to the Board.

MANAL ISMAIL: Manal Ismail, incoming GAC liaison to the Board.

LEON SANCHEZ: Leon Sanchez, incoming board member.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Kaveh Ranjbar.

STEVE CROCKER: Thank you. Mr. Secretary, do we have a quorum?

JOHN JEFFREY: It's my honor to say to you one final time, Mr. Chairman, that we do.

STEVE CROCKER: Thank you. We have the consent agenda up. The consent agenda has quite a few items on it.

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I'm going to read a quick synopsis, less than the full resolution but a little more than just the titles, just to give a sense of it so that you can see where we are. See where I am here. Okay.

The first item is the approval of the board meeting minutes from 23 September 2017.

The next item is the appointments to SSAC -- Rod Rasmussen as the incoming SSAC chair, reappointment of members, Greg Aaron, Benedict Addis, Don Blumenthal, Lyman Chapin, KC Claffy, Geoff Huston, Russ Mundy, Rod Rasmussen, Mark Seiden, and the appointment of a new member, Bobby Flaim.

The next item is contract extension for current third party outsourcing firm Zensar in order to complete the RFP process for -- before renewing another multi-year contract. Zensar provides staff augmentation services for ICANN both on and offshore supporting web development, web content management, sales force development, and quality testing of applications.

The next item is ICANN meeting venue contracting, to authorize the ICANN organization to complete contracting for the host venue in Marrakech, Morocco, for the June 2019 ICANN policy forum as it will exceed half a million dollars, \$500,000 and, therefore, require board approval.

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The next item is the SSAC advisory on the use of emoji in domain names. On 25 May 2017 SSAC published its report SAC095, advisory on the use of emoji and domain names. Based on the review of this, the current technical standards and relevant ICANN contracts and agreements and best practices, it is recommended that the Board resolve (1) to direct that conformance to the IDNA2008. IDNA2008 continues to be a necessary condition for determining valid IDN TLD labels and requests that the ccNSO and GNSO ensure that IDN standards are adhered to in their policy development process for security and stability and interoperability of IDNs and to request that the ccNSO and NSO engage with SSAC to more fully understand the risks of consequences of using domain name that includes emoji in any of its labels and directs the ICANN CEO or his designee to engage with the gTLD and ccTLD communities on the findings and recommendations of SAC095.

Next item is revision of the board committee and leadership slating procedures. This is just an alignment of language across -- I'm sorry. This is an adjustment to the formalization of the process that we use for committee slating. You will see in the second meeting the actual slating of our committees for the next year.

The next item is committee charter amendments which aligns the charters with -- and standardized. And the resolution

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includes revisions of charters of the audit committee, the compensation committee, the executive committee, the finance committee, the governance committee, the organizational effectiveness committee, and the risk committee as part of a process to standardize committee charters.

We then have a thank you to departing community members, which you have seen if you were here prior to the public forum where we actually had most of them come up and were presented. All of them were named.

Thank you to the local host of the ICANN60 meeting and a thank you to the sponsors. And, finally, a thank you to the interpreters, staff, event, and hotel teams of the ICANN60 meeting.

That's the consent agenda. I ask your consent. All in favor say "aye."

[ Chorus of ayes ]

STEVE CROCKER:

Any opposed? Any abstentions?

The consent agenda has now passed. And we move on to the main agenda. The main agenda starts off with -- where am I here? -- a consideration of the .CORP, .HOME, .MAIL and other



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collision strings. This has been a subject of considerable discussion.

Ram, will you take us through this, please.

RAM MOHAN:

Sure. Thank you.

It's a fairly long resolution, so what I'd like to do is just provide a very quick summary. The Board has had several discussions about name collisions and has gone through quite a bit of background material in preparation for this topic.

And the Board has decided to look at the problem in a somewhat different way now.

The Board's primary consideration is the potential impact of strings that manifest name collision on Internet users and end systems. And the consequent impact on the security and stability of the DNS. So that's the motivation behind what the Board is doing on .HOME, .CORP, .MAIL and other collision strings.

So we go to the -- there are three resolutions here. We'll go to the first Resolved.

Resolved, the Board requests the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee to conduct a study in a thorough and

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inclusive manner that includes technical experts (such as members of IETF working groups, technical members of the GNSO, and other technologists) to present data, analysis and points of view, and provide advice to the Board regarding the risks posed to users and end systems if .CORP, .HOME, and .MAIL strings were to be delegated in the root, as well as possible courses of action that might mitigate the identified risks. The Board charges the Board Technical Committee to act as the Board's liaison to this study and requests the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee to conduct the study in a timely and organized fashion with adequate visibility on costs and schedule which shall be subject to review and approval by the Board."

The second resolution is a much longer resolution. So the first one was about just .HOME, .CORP, and .MAIL.

The second resolution says, Resolved, the Board requests the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee to conduct a study in a thorough and inclusive manner that includes technical experts (such as members of IETF working groups, technical members of the GNSO, and other technologists), to present data, analysis, and points of view and provide advice to the Board on a range of questions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

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- (1) a proper definition for name collision and the underlying reasons why strings that manifest name collisions are so heavily used;
  - (2) the role that negative answers currently returned from queries to the root for these strings play in the experience of the end user including in the operation of existing end systems;
  - (3) the harm to existing users that may occur if collision strings were to be delegated including harm due to end systems no longer receiving a negative response and additional potential harm if the delegated registry accidentally or purposely exploited subsequent queries from these end systems, and any other types of harm;
  - (4) possible courses of action that might mitigate harm;
  - (5) factors that affect potential success of the courses of actions to mitigate harm;
  - (6) potential residual risks of delegating collision strings even after taking actions to mitigate harm;
  - (7) suggested criteria for determining whether an undelegated string should be considered a string that manifest name collisions, (i.e.) placed in the category of a collision string;

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(8) suggested criteria for determining whether a collision string should not be delegated and suggested criteria for determining how to remove an undelegated string from the list of collision strings; and

(9) measures to protect against intentional or unintentional creation of situations, such as queries for undelegated strings, which might cause such strings to be placed in a collision string category, and research into risk of possible negative effects, if any, of the creation of such a collision string list.

The Board charges the Board technical committee to act as the Board's liaison to this study and requests the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee to conduct this study in a timely and organized fashion, with adequate visibility on costs and schedule, which shall be subject to review and approval by the board.

Finally, the third resolution reads, Resolved, the Board directs the President and CEO or his designees to provide options for the Board to consider to address the new gTLD program applications for .CORP, .HOME, and .MAIL by the first available meeting of the Board following the ICANN60 meeting in Abu Dhabi."

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STEVE CROCKER: That's quite a lengthy resolution, as you can see. Any discussion? Any comments? Avri?

AVRI DORIA: Thank you.

First of all, and also thank you for allowing me to speak on this and to participate in the coming of this.

I'm very happy to see these resolutions at this point. I do want to speak about a couple of concerns that I've had. One of them relates to the -- one of the "whereas" comments that speaks about the de facto use of names not being an error.

Perhaps it's not an error, but I do worry about the de facto use of names continuing if we don't find ways to mitigate those uses.

So it's something that I find to be perhaps worrisome that we're not worried about as much. I spoke at length while we were discussing this motion of a preference for something that was cross-community in terms of working this.

I accept very much that SSAC will be working with the specialists from the rest of the community. And I really do hope that they will be able to work with the SSAC fully in terms of doing that.

In terms of the mitigation, I think that that is a serious part of the research in that we need to find not only the practical ways of

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mitigating, not only practices that may mitigate but actually research into technical solutions. Because I really, as I said in the first one, am concerned that, as we start to put names on a reserved list for collisions, that we may find that we have to put more and more of those names on, especially as we take longer and longer to come out with new gTLD options. So I do worry about that.

I think this is important. I think it's important work to do.

I'm very glad that we're doing it at this point.

And so thank you for, as I say, giving me a chance to speak on this even though I am not yet seated. Though I'm sitting. Thank you.

STEVE CROCKER:

Thank you. I'm going to consider it a feature. We have thoroughly integrated you in early and deeply enough so that you're up to speed on this.

Better yet, for the benefit of everybody, Avri and I have rehearsed a duet. And you've heard her side of it.

My response on this is -- the word "mitigation" presumes that that's the desirable and necessary thing to do. That's an understandable viewpoint. But it's an assumption that I think is

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open to challenge. An alternative viewpoint might be that the use of these names is, in fact, serving a purpose and that attempting to interfere or perturb or supplant that purpose may have more negative consequences than trying to reduce that.

As an intellectual exercise, I think both points of view are open. And part of what should come out of the examination that we're asking SSAC to do is to provide factual information that can then be used for various kinds of policy and values-oriented discussions as well as an assessment of what the practical possibilities are.

And I'm very hopeful that this will not just be a one-shot study where we get a simple recommendation that says "We think you should do this and you do it like that or we're going to be angry with you," but rather a careful unwinding of the various components of this situation.

And I expect that you will hear multiple points of view, not only from Avri and me, but from many other people in the community.

Any other -- yeah?

RAM MOHAN:

Khaled and Asha are in the queue.

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**KHALED KOUBAA:** Thank you, Ram. I'm actually fine with both of the first Resolved. My question is to the third one. Why don't we find another wording that will include the study that will be done on .CORP, .HOME, .MAIL and the decision from the board will be based on at that time evidence of that will come out of that study. Because the way I'm looking at it now, we will be probably -- there's an overlap in the time line between the study and the decision that we will make.

**RAM MOHAN:** Khaled, thank you for that. Just a quick response. If I recollect correctly, I think the idea was to ask the SSAC to perform a study on .HOME, .CORP, and .MAIL. And the risks -- gather technical data and perform a technical study on the risks of delegating .HOME, .CORP and .MAIL.

In parallel, there was a discussion on the board about the responsibility of the board to provide clarity of response to the applicants of .HOME, .CORP, and .MAIL who have been waiting for a while. And so the third resolution is intended to ask the ICANN organization to come back to the board and provide a set of options. But what could potentially be -- what the board could potentially say to the applicants of these three names



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knowing that these three strings are subject to the study in the first resolution.

KHALED KOUBAA: Thank you.

RAM MOHAN: Asha.

ASHA HEMRAJANI: Thank you, Ram. I just want to express my support for this study -- for this resolution and for SSAC leading this technical study along with the technical experts from the community to help us get a better picture of the challenges we're facing.

I just wanted to make a comment regards -- in regards to the study. I would recollect -- I would hope that there will be proper and sufficient focus on project management, cost management, and timeliness without compromising on accuracy and completeness where the study is concerned. Thank you.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you, Asha.

May I suggest, Cherine, that we take Asha's friendly comment as an action and we provide that, you know, and we pass those

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comments on to the SSAC, you know, via the Board Technical Committee.

CHERINE CHALABY: I think absolutely. That is a very good suggestion, particularly that one of our priorities this year is to make sure that we're all fiscally aware and conscious and make sure that we spend every dollar with a lot of careful thinking. So thank you for bringing this up, Asha. And we will adopt your recommendation and pass it on to the SSAC. And thank you, Ram, for making that suggestion. Thank you.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you, Cherine.

I have Jonne and Lousewies in the queue.

Jonne.

JONNE SOININEN: Thank you. What I would like to add to this -- and I think it's also somewhat already in the resolution -- and I'm not proposing any changes to the resolution but just as a reminder now also to be brought to the attention of SSAC -- is that the cooperation on this topic with the IETF is extremely important. And reaching out to the IETF community and reaching out to the technical

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knowledge there will be worthwhile for finishing and having a successful result in this study.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you, Jonne. Again, Kaveh as incoming Board Technical Committee chair, I think effectively all of these suggestions are going to route to you to keep track of and to make sure that they get passed to the SSAC as it begins chartering the study.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Yes, definitely. BTC will be on top of that. And also on behalf of RSSAC, I want to mention that we discuss this possible solution within RSSAC. And we are looking forward to work with SSAC. Although RSSAC is not specifically mentioned but for data and a lot of other cooperation, we are looking forward to work with SSAC. And BTC on the other side will be receiving all the input from SSAC.

RAM MOHAN: Great, thank you. Lousewies.

LOUSEWIES VAN DER LAAN: Thank you. I don't want to change the resolution. I just want to make a comment with regard to the third Resolved, that as the organization provides options to the Board about what's going

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to happen with the existing applications that they also consult obviously the applicants because it's their money, it's their application and we don't do that in isolation.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you, Lousewies.

Goran, could we make sure that that suggestion is acted upon?

GORAN MARBY: Yes.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you. Is there any other discussion on these three resolutions? Khaled.

KHALED KOUBAA: I think we have discussed it already, but I would love to hear from you more about the process of the approval of the board in regards to the costs and the schedule of both of the studies.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you, Khaled. That's a tough question. I don't know that there is a process set up at this point.

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The way I understand it, once the resolution passes, the SSAC -- the ball will move to the SSAC's court. The SSAC has a responsibility to develop a proposal and a timetable as well as a cost estimate and to do that in an expeditious manner. And then they have a responsibility to bring that to the board for our review.

Once that is done -- and my expectation is that the board will have a discussion and potentially a decision -- that they'll communicate back to the SSAC, which will effectively act as a trigger for the SSAC to get the resources necessary to conduct the study. So that's the first phase or the first stage of it.

The other part that is anticipated is the Board Technical Committee is not only going to have in general the liaison function with the SSAC but also that the Board Technical Committee be engaged in an iterative process with the SSAC to make sure that there is an assurance from the Board's point of view that it fulfills its fiduciary responsibilities and that the study and the project and the costing and the project management is done in a way that is predictable and in a way that is understandable and is then communicated to the community.

You had a quick redirect? Thank you.

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KHALED KOUBAA: A quick succession would be probably to use the Board Technical Committee as liaison to recommend to the Board a resolution to agree upon the cost and the schedule of the study.

STEVE CROCKER: Yeah, I think that's exactly where we are. The common sense of this is that we want an orderly process that is -- we have some idea what's going on and it's under some cost control and schedule control. And at the same time, we don't want to be overbearing and say we must have an answer by the following date before we -- so it's an iterative process.

First step is SSAC then takes this on, comes back to us. And by coming back to us, they come back through the Board Technical Committee with as much interaction as necessary to scope out what the steps are, what the time frame is, what the resources are going to be, and then we have an oversight into what's going on there. And not only we have oversight, but the community can see the process. And I expect this will be a highly visible project. And I expect that it will take a little while.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you, Steve.

Are there any other comments? Any other discussion on these resolutions?

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STEVE CROCKER: Thank you.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you. Back to you, Steve.

STEVE CROCKER: I call the question. All in favor say aye.

[ Chorus of Ayes. ]

Any opposed?

[ No verbal response. ]

Any abstentions?

[ No verbal response. ]

The motion passes, and our good friends in SSAC now have a pile of work to do.

Next item is net asset excess transfer approval. This has something to do with the reserve fund.

Asha.

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ASHA HEMRAJANI: Thank you, Steve. So this resolution is about the allocation of the past two years' cash surpluses to the reserve fund to the tune of \$5 million.

Over the last few years, the reserve fund has been depleted by about \$36 million to pay for the costs of the IANA transition stewardship -- IANA stewardship transition.

Meanwhile, ICANN operations have generated some surplus thanks to the expense management and some unexpected funding excess.

ICANN organization and the Board Finance Committee are recommending to the board the allocation of this surplus that I just mentioned to the reserve fund. This allocation will demonstrate to the board's resolve to reaching the financial stability that ICANN needs to carry out its mission.

This contributes to replenishing the reserve fund which is our duty as a board and as a community. There is still a long way to go and more will need to be done, but this is a good start.

As the departing chair of the Board Finance Committee, I want to encourage ICANN organization, the Board, and the community to continuously pursue financial responsibility to do all that is necessary to ensure the long-term financial stability of ICANN as a responsible and accountable steward of the public benefit.



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This resolution is rather short, so I'm going to read out the Whereases and the Resolveds now.

Net asset excess transfer approval.

Whereas, the operating fund includes the funds used for ICANN organization's day-to-day operations and must contain sufficient funds -- enough funds to cover at a minimum ICANN organization's expected expenditure for three months.

Whereas, periodically, any funds considered to be in excess should be transferred to the reserve fund.

Whereas, ICANN organization has performed an analysis of the required levels of the operating fund and has determined that the balance of the operating fund as of 30 June 2017, based on the audited financial statements, contained excess funds.

Resolved, the board authorizes the President and the CEO, or his designees, to transfer U.S. \$5 million from the operating fund to the reserve fund.

Back to you, Steve.

STEVE CROCKER: Thank you. Any discussion? Ron.

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RON DA SILVA:

Thank you, Steve. I rise in support of this resolution and wanted to add additional commentary to what Asha had provided; namely, that this is a very small amount to address the deficit in the reserve fund. And we recognize there's a lot of interest not just in the Board, in our fiduciary oversight, but also in the community of how we're going to address the reserve fund deficit in the future. So this is a beginning of that. And there are related topics with respect to what are we going to do with the auction proceeds and what is our new five-year strategic plan and what is the five-year operating plan to accommodate that. And all these activities are being driven from the CFO's office. And I encourage the participation of our community to participate in the input and the conversations about how do we further close the gap in the reserve fund and what do we do with these other funds that the organization's responsible for. Thank you.

STEVE CROCKER:

Thank you.

Any other discussion? I'm going to call the question. All in favor say aye.

[ Chorus of Ayes. ]

Any opposed?

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[ No verbal response. ]

Any abstentions?

[ No verbal response. ]

Thank you. The motion passes and the reserve fund is -- I was going to say better but it's a little less worse.

Next Item, uniform board member integrity screening, a very interesting topic.

Cherine.

CHERINE CHALABY:

Thank you, Steve. I'd like to give a bit of a context before reading the resolution. The board has been considering the issue of integrity screening for some time now. And in particular the Board Governance Committee carefully considered this matter in great detail at two meetings, one on the 11th of October, 2017, and the second one on 27th of October, 2017.

And yesterday, I don't know if you had the opportunity to see it but I posted a blog showing two major actions that the board has taken. The first step was really a -- the four current and incoming voting members who have not gone through the due diligence screening process that the Nominating Committee utilizes have volunteered to do so immediately.

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I want to thank these four board members. They are Chris Disspain and Mike Silber from the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, Becky Burr and Matthew Shears from the Generic Names Supporting Organization.

Today I'm also pleased to announce that the four current and incoming liaisons to the ICANN board, Manal Ismail, the liaison from the Government Advisory Committee; Ram Mohan, the liaison from Security and Stability Advisory Committee; Kaveh Ranjbar, the liaison from the Root Server System Advisory Committee; and Jonne Soininen, the liaison from the Internet Engineering Task Force have also all volunteered to go through the due diligence screening process that the Nominating Committee utilizes.

So I'm really very glad and very proud of my colleagues on the board. This means that all board members, liaison or directors, will go through the screening process.

[ Applause ]

Thank you. I also said in the blog that the board today will pass a resolution directing our President and CEO to prepare a paper asking all ICANN supporting organizations and advisory committees to seriously consider utilizing the same or similar integrity screening process for both voting directors and nonvoting liaisons.

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And, therefore, this resolution which I'm about to read is reflecting that blog that I mentioned yesterday. I will not read any of the Whereas clauses, but I'll read directly the two resolutions.

The first resolution reads the following: Resolved, the Board directs the President and CEO, or his designees, to develop a proposal paper to be posted for public comment; the paper should ask all of ICANN's supporting organizations and advisory committees that do not currently employ a due diligence integrity screening process similar to the Nominating Committee to seriously consider utilizing the same or similar due diligence integrity screening process for both voting directors and nonvoting liaisons.

The second proposal, the second Resolved is: Resolved, the board directs the President and CEO, or his designee, to ensure that ICANN organization facilitates and funds the due diligence integrity screening process for all supporting organizations and advisory committees that choose to utilize the process during future board member selection periods.

Would anybody like to make a comment?

Kaveh, I know you've passed -- is that what you want to say. Go ahead, say it.

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KAVEH RANJBAR: So thank you very much. While I support this resolution, I just want to mention for clarity of the record that before joining the board, I as a liaison passed this screening test.

CHERINE CHALABY: Any other comments or discussion? Okay.

Steve, back to you.

STEVE CROCKER: Thank you. Thank you, Cherine. Thank you, everybody on the board who worked quite vigorously on this over the past several days. This is an item that, as Cherine has said, has been under discussion for some time but we brought it to a head and are making now rapid progress. So appreciate that.

I'll call the question. All in favor say aye.

[ Chorus of Ayes. ]

Any opposed?

[ No verbal response. ]

Any objections?

[ No verbal response. ]

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Thank you. The motion passes. This now moves us on to the sort of downhill stretch on the agenda, thank yous and so forth.

In addition to what's on the agenda, I'm adding one additional item at the tail end. So the next item on the agenda is a thank you to Thomas Schneider for his service to the ICANN board.

Whereas, Thomas Schneider was appointed by the Governmental Advisory Committee to serve as liaison to the ICANN board on 16 October 2014.

And Whereas, Thomas Schneider concludes his term on the ICANN board on 2 November 2017.

And Whereas, Thomas has served as a liaison member of the following committee, the New gTLD Program Committee.

Resolved, Thomas Schneider has earned the deep appreciation of the board for his term of service and the board wishes him well in his future endeavors within the ICANN community and beyond.

Any discussion?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Seriously?

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STEVE CROCKER:                   Apparently, so.

Maarten.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:       It's just I don't want to let it immediately go to just that, because it's really been exceptional what we've experienced and how I've seen how Thomas has managed with his colleagues to get the GAC to discuss and to meet in a very constructive fashion. And he's a great guy. We will miss him.

STEVE CROCKER:                   We will. Thank you.

Manal.

MANAL ISMAIL:                   Yes. Thank you. Just also to thank Thomas Schneider very much, the GAC outgoing chair, but also a dear friend for his excellent leadership throughout his three years of service, actually, his continued support and commitment for a smooth handover despite his workload and his new responsibilities now that he's being promoted.

Thomas managed to stay very friendly and very cheerful and very relaxed despite the tense discussions in the room. And he maintained the room calm and at ease.



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STEVE CROCKER:            Yeah.

MANAL ISMAIL:            And he'll be very much missed as a GAC chair, but I hope he'll be around in other capacities. Thank you.

STEVE CROCKER:            Thank you. Rinalia.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM:    Thank you. I just wanted to say thank you to Thomas. Because, through the course of our term on the board, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you on public interest issues, together with George. We've just forged ahead. We've always aligned, and I really appreciate that. Thank you.

STEVE CROCKER:            Thank you. A comment. One might ask why we didn't put these thank yous on the consent agenda and just make sure -- we wanted to highlight the thank yous in this case.

On the other hand, we've also had a history in the past of having very extended testimonials. And we've decided that we're not going to do much of that.

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So we'll go through each of these. But we'll ask that we keep the discussion short, all the way down to zero, if decided.

Any further discussion? Call the question. All in favor say "Aye."

[ Chorus of ayes. ]

[ Applause ]

Congratulations and best wishes, Thomas.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: May I say something, a moment?

STEVE CROCKER: Yeah, six words.

[ Laughter ]

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: In which language?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: All of them.

THOMAS SCHNEIDER: So I tried to be brief. Just one or two points. I've already spoken yesterday, or whenever that -- yeah, yesterday, in the GAC. I

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think there's one message that I would like to share with you that -- yeah. It's a learning for me and maybe also for some others.

I've spoken about where I come from, my culture, and my basis, my values. One of the elements that I have been taught is that everybody should have the right to free -- live his life as possible, live in all determination at the same time respect the freedom of others and make sure that whenever there's a conflict or something that you don't go to war, because mostly there's more losers than winners in a war. But you try to find mutually-acceptable solutions. And also, that it is not necessarily useful to have a system where the winner takes all but actually a system where the ones that win, the ones that get more, because they are maybe in a coalition of a majority, that the majority voluntarily offers the minority that may not get something through a hand and thinks about how can we make them satisfied in the system. So that in another case where the coalitions may be different, you may be in the minority. And you would be very happy that in the majority then would offer you a hand, and, if everybody would think that way, that actually creates a kind of a sustainability in the model that you mutually constantly try to find solutions that are acceptable to all.

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This is something that I've -- that I've grown up with. And I've learned to appreciate the system, and it's part of the spirit with which I understood my role here in the GAC.

One of the reasons I think why people have chosen me to become the chairman of the GAC and to represent the GAC in the board. And I also have learned that it is normally not necessary to put yourself as a person in the middle of your actions, that, if you try and serve the community to try to do something, that you think or you hope is good for -- for the people around you and the rest, that normally something is in it for you automatically, something falls back on you automatically. And that also helps to, basically, try and do a job knowing that you have a role and you don't have to care about yourself because other people do that for you. This is -- this is something that also helped me to perform the function as a civil servant in the GAC and also in the board, trying to help building bridges, contribute to finding solutions. And something that I particularly cared about is to try and help creating equal chances, equal opportunities to everybody, not just the ones that come from countries like I do where many people have more reason -- enough resources to somehow be present and make their voices heard but also to others who don't have these resources, to support them in making their voices heard. Because, as much as there's a right to freedom of expression, which is very dear to

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me, I think in environments like these, there should be not just a right to talk but actually to be heard and to be listened to and to try to be understood.

So -- and my bigger -- another big advantage was that I wasn't alone in doing this. I wasn't alone in the GAC. I had a number of people that were supporting me and trying to build bridges.

I would particularly name Benedicto, a colleague of mine who has always, despite substantive differences, been open to find compromises, with the transition, with other things. And I forgot him to thank yesterday, so I want to add that today.

And, of course, Manal was a very useful person. And she was working more behind the scenes than in front on the stage. She was putting another focus on good governance and helping to improve mechanisms in the GAC, in ICANN, which is something that many people don't see or to the outside don't see. And I think she has proven that she's an authentic, honest, hard-working, intelligent, and capable and amiable person.

So I'm very, very happy to have her as the next chair. And I'm looking forward to supporting her whatever way I can.

And also in the board, I wasn't alone. I was very happy to work with Steve and learn from him in many ways with his experience. And we had not too often. But, whenever we had discussions, I

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think they were mutually inspiring. So I would also like to thank Steve.

I'd also like to thank Goran for his not Swiss but Swedish caring about good governance and trying to earn trust through not only good intentions but improving structures, improving communication. We are still struggling. And also for his very amiable Swedish humor that is absolutely complementary to the Swiss humor, so we had a lot of fun together.

And I have to say that they have all worked hard to earn the trust of myself as the chair of the GAC.

And I think there has been a development of mutual trust and understanding. Or trust based on understanding, based on good governance between the ICANN community, the board, and the GAC. And I hope that these developments will continue. This is positive.

I'll just say thanks to the multistakeholder group that I had the pleasure to play with a number of times --

[ Applause ]

-- in the last few years. This is also something that is unique about ICANN. That all -- despite the substantive issues, it has a great human aspect that I have never -- not experienced in any other institution as big as this one.

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In the end it doesn't matter what color of your skin, what clothes, what language you speak, as long as somehow understand each other, you do things together, you share passions together. And that was something that I will deeply miss. And that is, of course, the only reason I will be back whenever I can at ICANN future meetings to have more time to play music with my friends. No, that was a joke. Not that I will not come, but that was the only reason, of course.

And I will stop and thank you for your patience by inviting y'all to the next thing that will keep me busy the following few weeks -- the IGF, the U.N. Internet Governance Forum. That should profit from the experience of the multistakeholder model here in ICANN.

It's taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 to 20th of September (sic). And I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you there. Thank you very much.

STEVE CROCKER:

Thank you.

[ Applause ]

Thank you for your -- I know those are very heartfelt comments.

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We're going to move along at a slightly faster pace. I'm going to go into optimized mode here. Can I have the next -- we're going to do three at once here. Thank you to Markus Kummer. "Whereas, Markus Kummer was appointed to serve by the Generic Names Supporting Organization to serve as a member of the ICANN board on 16 October 2014 and has concluded his term on 2 November 2017." That's today. "And has served on the following committees and working groups." Several. "Accountability Mechanisms Committee, Finance Committee, Governance Committee, Organizational Effectiveness Committee, New gTLD Program Committee, Board/GAC Recommendation Implementation Working Group co-chair, Board Working Group on Internet Governance, chair, ICANN board liaison to Work Stream 2 Subgroup on Human rights, for Cross-community Working Group on Enhanced ICANN Accountability, Resolved, Markus has earned the deep appreciation of the board for his term of service and the board wishes him well in his future endeavors within the ICANN community and beyond. Thank you to Asha Hemrajani. Whereas, she served since 16 October 2014, concludes today on 2 November 2017. And has served on the following committees and working groups -- Accountability Mechanisms Committee, Audit Committee, Finance Committee chair, Governance Committee, New gTLD Program Committee, ICANN board liaison to the Cross-Community Working Group on New gTLD Auction



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Proceeds, ICANN board liaison to the Work Stream 2 Subgroup on Ombudsman for Cross-Community Working Group on Enhanced ICANN Accountability --

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Steve, tell the interpreters that they shouldn't -- that they can just pause and let these go because they are struggling. But go on.

STEVE CROCKER: It's all written down here.

[ Laughter ]

Resolved, Asha Hemrajani has earned the deep appreciation of the board for the term of service and the board wishes her well in her future endeavors within the ICANN community and beyond.

And a thank you to Rinalia Abdul Rahim, appointed by the At-Large Community to serve as a board member from 16 October 2014 until today, 2 November 2017, and has served as a member of the following committees and working groups: Accountability Mechanisms Committee, Governance Committee, Organizational Effectiveness Committee as chair, New gTLD Program Committee, Risk Committee, Board IDN Variant

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Working Group, Board Working Group on Registration Directory Services, Board Working Group on Internet Governance, ICANN board liaison on the Work Stream 2 Subgroup on SO/AC Accountability, and for Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability.

Resolved, Rinalia has earned the deep appreciation from the Board for her term of service and the Board wishes her well in her future endeavors within the ICANN community and beyond.

Any discussion?

[ Laughter ]

I call the question. All three questions. All in favor say aye.

[ Chorus of ayes ]

[ Applause ]

Two more to do. Cherine, you're going to do the next one at lightning speed, not like I did. And I have one small piece of business.

CHERINE CHALABY:

So it is my honor to say thank you to Steve Crocker for his services to the ICANN board. Steve's history and achievements are well-documented. So they're all here in the resolution.

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You've heard them yesterday and the day before and the day before and the day before.

So, rather than reading every word in that, I'm going to read the resolution. And then I want to say a great "thank you" to Steve. He's been not only a mentor to all of us on the Board but a true friend. And we're going to miss him.

I'll read the resolution, and then I want to ask you to stand up and really say the last good-bye and farewell to Steve and wish him well when he leaves ICANN.

And the resolution reads as follows -- it is both emotion and also my throat was gone.

Resolved, Steve Crocker has earned the deep appreciation of the Board for his term of service, and the Board wishes him well in his future endeavors within the ICANN community and beyond.

And now, before I ask the Board to vote on this, I want you to all to -- no, I'll ask the Board to vote first. So I can't ask you to do it.

So everybody by acclamation, do you agree?

[ Applause ]

Goran is crying.

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STEVE CROCKER: Last piece of business.

In many corporate environments, there's advice given to somebody who's taking over a job from somebody else that is handed three envelopes.

And he's told that, if he gets in trouble, he should open the first envelope. And the first envelope says, "Blame your predecessor." That works for a while.

The person goes along and gets in more trouble, opens up the second envelope, and it says very simply, "Reorganize." That works for a while.

And, when trouble strikes for the third time, the person opens up the third envelope which simply says, "Prepare three envelopes."

Here are your three envelopes.

[ Applause ]

CHERINE CHALABY: One of them says, "Why didn't you answer the binary test I asked you to do two years ago?"

[ Laughter ]

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STEVE CROCKER: This concludes this board meeting. This current board is now dissolved. The few of us who are leaving will leave the stage, the dais here. And the organizational meeting will take place, which has a few specific, necessary pieces of business. And then there are cocktails next door.

CHERINE CHALABY: Thank you, Steve.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**