
ICANN69 | Virtual Annual General – GNSO Council Wrap-Up
Thursday, October 22, 2020 – 12:30 to 14:00 CEST

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Thank you ever so much. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening, everybody. Welcome to the GNSO Council Wrap-Up Session on the 22nd of October 2020. Please note that all councilors have been promoted to panelists. Panelists can activate their mics and type in the Zoom chat pod. To do so, please remember to select “All Panelists and Attendees” in the drop-down menu, so all can read your comments. Panelists cannot ask questions via the Q&A pod, so we ask you to kindly type them clearly in the chat pod.

We’re welcoming observers on our call today. A warm welcome to you all. Observers on this call are silent observers, meaning you cannot activate your mics, nor type in the chat. The Q&A pod, however, remains available, but please note that questions will be taken if time permits.

As a reminder to all, this call is being recorded and recordings will be posted on the ICANN69 website shortly after the session ends. All panelists must remember to state their names before speaking and all participants on the call must abide by the ICANN Standards of Behavior.

And with that, I’ll hand it over to Philippe Fouquart. Please go ahead.

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PHILIPPE FOUQUART: Thank you, Nathalie. I hope you can hear me. This is Philippe Fouquart here, and welcome to the session for ICANN69. I'll just refer to the agenda that you have on the screen. At the moment we've got seven items which I think we already have one extra item. So let's just start with this. It's meant to be, as you would now, more informal than the formal council meeting. Unfortunately, the virtual/remote approach is a bit of a hinderance in that respect but we'll do our best.

So let's [inaudible] the first item which is the review of ICANN69 virtual and the survey that was circulated to the SGs and Cs and for which feedback is required.

The question marked for us on this is whether we would want to have our own response on behalf of council and whether people would be interested in sharing their views as far as the council activities are concerned on the [inaudible]. So I'll just open the floor for people to share their views on that, as to what people think we need to provide our own response and possibly volunteers to lead that task. Any feedback on this?

Okay, seeing no hands, we'll just put that to the list and see whether we want to provide our own response.

KURT PRITZ: I'm sure everybody has pretty strong feelings about how virtual meetings should be run and they're different. so just as a conversation starter, I think we might approach this more as a way of life on these

virtual meetings rather than a temporary situation and we should consider a couple of things.

One is, since we're not all together, what things need to be done under the guide of an ICANN meeting and which things could be done in the normal course of action during a calendar year where a group might meet with the Board for a certain reason or a group working on something might not finish in time for a review in the ICANN meeting but it would rather be scheduled later.

So, we might seriously consider what things need to be done in an ICANN meeting and what things could be done in the course of the year.

I know, for example, the Contracted Parties House met with the Board and there were some pretty good issues to be discussed but there was only an hour, so why have that meeting during a time where the Board's time is so constricted?

And then a second issue is, of course, it's 3:30 in the morning for me, so there's ways to spread the pain out rather than making a whole meeting painful for one or more regions. Say if there's a two or three-week meeting, one week would be painful for one region and the next week would be painful for another region, something like that. There's a few different ways that could be done. Thanks a lot, Philippe.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART:

Thank you, Kurt. In that respect, I think there's probably a way to make the most of it in the sense that [inaudible]. I think the word

“holistically” was put forward at some point in exercise and then rethink the way our former face-to-face meetings we did, particularly with our in-between activities. That’s certainly something that I would like to happen, including for council and maybe there are things that we could ourselves rethink in that respect.

As to point number two, I think it would be a good idea, especially in three weeks. The [inaudible] can be really challenging, especially for people on the west coast, for example, for this meeting and switching the time zone reference would certainly be a good idea.

Stephanie, I think you’re next.

STEPHANIE PERRIN:

Thank you very much. I agree with Kurt that spreading the pain would be a good idea. I personally like the idea of spreading the sessions out so that they were leisurely, as it were. But three weeks of 3:00 in the morning, which is when things started for me, is a bit rough.

I would suggest that the actual formal part of the meeting be in the time zone of the normal region and that perhaps some of the other stuff be spread out across the different time zones. That would be a little less difficult.

I also think that we should rethink what needs to be under the focus of the meeting. So, for instance, we had three different DNS abuse sessions as high-level topics. That could have been a full day on abuse and we could have gone into the depths of it, rather than more high-level stuff. I’m not saying they weren’t good sessions. But that doesn’t

need to be ... Those high-interest sessions could be solos some other time and I think that would take some of the strain ... Because if you happen to be tagged to be on a panel or dragging people to be on a panel or participating in the development of a panel, that impacts your ability to get ready for the meeting proper. So I think moving that would be a good idea.

I think it would do us good—I've already filled out the survey. I think it was fine as surveys go. I'm going to encourage everybody to respond. But I think a good qualitative discussion from the GNSO Council about improvement, ideas would be good. Thank you.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART:

Thank you. Many good points in your intervention. I, for one, would also prefer that in one day, for [inaudible] approach, for the reason I put in the chat. There are a number of [repetitions] in having similar sessions on [separate] days and maybe there's a way to maximize this and avoid this.

John, I think you're next. We already have I think some material to draft our own response I think. John?

JOHN MCELWAINE:

Thanks. I think I pretty much raised my hand to say the same thing that Stephanie did. I've taken the survey and a number of points that you have raised earlier and Kurt has raised and Stephanie has echoed are all questions contained in that survey.

I definitely think a response from the Council is a good idea. I'm not sure developing a response is going to lend itself well to just emails back and forth on the list because I think there are some nuances and ideas that need to be shared. So maybe a smaller team to at least put together some draft options, ideas when we're answering some of the questions. But I do think the Council ought to be a leader on some of these issues—thought leader at the very least. Anyways, just echoing that. Thanks.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART: Thank you. I don't want to put you on the spot but would you be willing to lead that small editing team, John?

JOHN MCELWAINE: Sure. I guess that's what I get.

PHILIPPE FOUQUART: Thank you. Thanks, John. And for all the councilors, just an expression of interest in the chat for joining the team would be good to form that team. Thanks, John.

Moving on to Olga now.

OLGA CAVALLI Good morning. I think Jeff was before me but that's okay. Thank you for giving me the floor. My ideas have already been said by colleagues, by Stephanie and Kurt and John. I can join John in the small team

effort. So I won't repeat the one-day approach, presenting one issue. I think it's very good.

For me, the experience of the time zone is very impacting. My participation and involvement in meetings when the time zone is really very far away from the normal time zone of myself is totally different.

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