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ICANN69 | Virtual Annual General - Board/Community Focus on ICANN Meetings  
Monday, October 19, 2020 - 14:30 to 16:00 CEST

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Okay. If we can please start the recording.

**[ This meeting is being recorded ]**

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: So welcome to the ICANN69 Virtual Annual General Meeting Board and community focus on ICANN meetings session. My name is Sally Newell Cohen. I'm the senior vice president of global communications at ICANN Org, and I'll be moderating the session today.

As you're all aware, ICANN has shifted from in-person meetings to virtual gatherings for all three public meetings in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we expect that virtual meetings will continue to be our dominant format for the foreseeable future.

This year has been undeniably challenging, but it's also provided us with a unique opportunity. We can look at ICANN Public Meetings with fresh eyes, incorporate new ways of working together, and strengthening our community as we work to protect the safety, security and stability of the Internet.

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

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Now, the rapid transition from in-person to virtual allowed us to continue our work as productively as possible. After what will be a full year of virtual Public Meetings we have significant learnings and experiences to draw from. The ICANN Board is engaging with the community to assess the effectiveness of our virtual Public Meetings as well as the improvements that Org should make to support -- to make its support for the communities work at the meetings in any other aspects that should be integrated into our meeting strategy going forward.

So in this session, which was requested by the ICANN community, the Board and the Org will look forward to hearing about your views and priorities and to explore the extent that virtual meetings that have been held so far have supported your work.

It's an opportunity for you to highlight any issues and address what may need to change to maximize the efforts and outcomes of our Public Meetings going forward.

Now, recently we launched a survey which has been shared with the supporting organization and advisory committee leaders, and it's aimed at sparking a discussion on this very topic within each SO/AC. we encourage all of you to participate in that survey, so please contact your leadership to make sure that your

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view is represented in the survey, and the survey will be open until November 5th.

Now this session is meant to complement the conversations that are taking place within each community group. So even if you choose to participate today, we still encourage urge you to also submit your thoughts and feedback to your respective community surveys.

The input we receive through the surveys and through today's session will be used to develop recommendations on the future of Public Meetings for the Board's consideration. So this is a very important session for us certainly to hear your thoughts and what's worked well and what you see as being viable and something we should look at in the future.

So the session will be divided into three blocks. Each is based on a theme that's been selected through feedback we've received from community leaders.

The first block will focus on the key objectives of and the main deliverables from ICANN's community groups at ICANN Public Meetings in the areas such as decision-making, capacity building, regional outreach, policy development, and relationship building.

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Then next we'll move on to block two where we'll explore your sense of the lessons learned from going virtual. For example, is the meeting time used well, what was the effect on timelines and milestones and whether consensus-building processes were adequate.

And then finally, block three will be about your views on the effectiveness of holding three Public Meetings per year. Now, each block will take approximately 20 minutes and will be followed by five minutes for the Board members to share their observations or ask any qualifying questions before we move on to the next block. During each block, we invite you to share your comments and thoughts about the theme.

Now, there are two ways to submit a comment during the session. You can submit a written comment in the Zoom Q&A pod and the session's remote participation manager James Cole will then read your question out loud. Alternatively you can raise your hand to join the queue to voice our comments and you can find the "Raise Hand" icon at the bottom of your screen. Selecting it will automatically add you into the speakers queue. Your microphone will remain muted until it's your turn to speak. We'll then unmute you on our end which will trigger a note to be sent to your screen requesting that you also unmute your mic. This lets you know that it will soon be your turn.

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When your name is called, that's your queue to speak. And again, please make certain that your mic is unmuted.

Please don't put comments directly into the chat if you're wanting them to be read out loud because we'll only be reading those placed in the Q&A pod.

As a reminder, real-time interpretation is available for the session in Spanish, French, Chinese, Russian, and Arabic. Information on how to use this feature is available on the sessions page on the ICANN69 meeting schedule. A link to that page is also available in the chat.

If you'd like to make a comment in one of the available languages, we ask that you give participants a moment to put on their headsets.

Similar to the public forums, we ask that participants limit their comments to two minutes, and a timer will be displayed.

While there's no limit to the number of comments you can make, we do ask that you give other community members an opportunity before rejoining the queue.

And with that, I'd like to invite Göran Marby, ICANN President and CEO, to offer his opening remarks. Göran, over to you.

Göran, it looks like you're muted.

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LEON SANCHEZ: He has a tech problem, he's put in the chat.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Okay. Well, I'm going to turn to Maarten. And, Maarten, if you'd like to share your thoughts first, and then we'll go back to Göran.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Yes, thank you. Further to Göran's remarks, I'm following to say...

[ Laughter ]

Well, anyway, welcome everybody. It's good to see high interest for this session because it's so important that we find a way together. ICANN is community based, is based on making things happen together. And in this, we are very aware that all experience that we have to find new ways in this. The ways that used to be don't work anymore.

Now, it's in many ways similar for the different bodies in ICANN, for the different constituencies, also for us as a Board ourselves, how do we find each other if we have to do it online rather than in the same room.

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It's possible, as you've seen over the last year, together we've managed to come a long way. We've improvised, and we've gotten to those points that we really needed to do.

At the same time, we may be able to continue to improve on it because it all affects us as individuals, as people as well. How do we do this in a sustainable way, that's effective, within the different bodies of ICANN, but also across the bodies, because that is what general meetings normally also offered.

So with that, the Board is really following in this, your thinking, your needs, your thoughts about what we can do best, and we're very interested in hearing your opinion during this session, during the explorative sessions with SO and AC leaders that give an indication of what the thinking is that lives across the community. And of course we also look forward to the results of the survey.

So please note the Board will not jump to conclusions based on that. We welcome ideas and feed it back into the community before such steps would be made.

So with that, Göran, are you back? Handing over to you.

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GÖRAN MARBY:

Thank you very much. And with perfect timing, my dogs decided to come and see if I was awake. So really sorry about that.

So on the last couple of months, reaching out and talking to many community members, it's been very obvious that the community wants to have a discussion about how we do meetings, how we interact, how we make decisions and how we -- you know, how we get together. And after a lot of thought and a lot of discussions, we realized that we can't -- it's very hard to do this, also, you know, sort of in one place at one time, because the differences around the world because of the pandemic, it's different in different regions. And we read news and we get news everyday almost about the differences, about how the pandemic has been hitting different parts of the world.

But different parts of the world also have different needs for Internet access, different needs for time zones, how we do meetings. So, therefore, we decided to do the survey. But the survey is really meant to you as a local part of ICANN to sit down and have a discussion. It's really what it means to be -- and that's why the survey is also done with some closed questions but also to have open input.

Remember that the meetings are done for you. We are here, the Board and the Org, to help you to have the meetings, to facilitate this interaction. So the idea is that we're really going to take



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what you say and then bring that together, and after we brought that together we're also going to do a public consultation before we make any decisions.

We need to have this discussion. You need to have the discussion. I'm happy to be a part of it and I'm here to listen today. Thank you very much, and sorry again about my small technical problem.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you both so much.

With that, I think it's a great way to set up the session.

Let's go to our first theme.

I'm going to handed this over to our remote participation manager, James Cole. James, over to you.

JAMES COLE: Thanks, Sally.

As a reminder, the queue is now open, please submit your comments or raise your hands.

We asked the community leaders planning group which works with us to plan each ICANN public meeting to start us off with

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their comments. And Jonathan Zuck has volunteered to kick off the first theme, the key objectives of and main deliverables from ICANN's community groups at ICANN's public meetings.

So Jonathan, please go ahead.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Thanks.

Can you hear me?

JAMES COLE: Sure can. Go for it.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Great. I want to make sure that this multitiered unmuting had gone successfully.

I guess one of the interesting aspects of ICANN in particular making this move to a -- virtual meetings is the number of virtual meetings that already take place among the ICANN community. And so one of the things that I think is a challenge is for these meetings to distinguish themselves from the day-to-day work of work groups and stakeholder groups, et cetera, that are, you know, constantly going on. And so this idea of objectives for a -- for the community are going to have to change, because very

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often, what was happening is that groups that were failing to reach consensus would postpone until they could meet face to face, when consensus seemed more likely, when cooperation seemed more likely.

Do I have the ability to turn my camera on? I don't even know if I do. I just saw something that says you can't see me. But I don't see the normal camera icon.

JAMES COLE: Jonathan, let me confer with the tech team.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Did that work?

JAMES COLE: Unfortunately, you cannot share your video, just audio.

JONATHAN ZUCK: Okay. All right. So it's not my fault, Sebastien.

So the question then becomes, what is the distinction between the day-to-day work of the ICANN community and the -- and these individual meetings. What is it that distinguishes the meetings when everything is held in a virtual environment? And

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what is it that can be done to make those meetings particularly interesting or compelling from the standpoint of consensus-building?

And so I think that's the biggest challenge that we face with these virtual meetings, is the sort of monotony of the ongoing work being extended into the meeting arena and trying to find ways to make the meetings more interesting because the broader community's able to participate, et cetera.

And so the extent to which people are able to be face to face, break into smaller groups, and use technology in that way I think will help us get at some of the idea behind the consensus-building that has taken place in the face-to-face meetings previously.

So that's -- I think that's -- I think that's one of the key objectives, is that it's often the time that people put out into the horizon to say, "This is when we're really going to reach consensus." And we've lost that distinction that drove things to conclusion and has led to just sort of an extension of everyday work.

JAMES COLE:

Thanks, Jonathan.

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I'm going to move on to the next comment, which is from Jonathan Robinson of Afiliis.

He says there used to be a form of quiet period or blackout in the immediate runup to ICANN meetings. No major new papers published, surveys launched, et cetera. This provided for proper, considered preparation by participants. But the quiet period has been eroded over time to the extent that it is now gone completely. Is there any intention to return to this, say, seven- to 14-day quiet period prior to ICANN meetings?

So far, that's the only comment received.

Please, if you want to make a comment, this is your opportunity. Raise your hand or write it in the Zoom Q&A pod.

And we've got some hands raised.

Give me one moment here.

The first is Donna Austin.

Can we unmute Donna, please.

Donna, can you go ahead.

DONNA AUSTIN: Hey, James. This is Donna Austin. Can you hear me?

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JAMES COLE: Sure can. Go for it.

DONNA AUSTIN: Thanks, James.

Donna Austin. I'm the chair of the Registry Stakeholder Group. But we haven't had an opportunity to speak widely within the stakeholder group about this, so this is, I guess, my personal observations.

So the key objectives and main deliverables from, you know, an ICANN meeting. So in the past, for registries, one of the benefits of meeting face to face was an opportunity to do business with registrars. So that engagement from a business perspective was important. And given that everybody, you know, understood that people were coming to a central point or a central place three times a year, that was kind of the -- understood that there would be opportunities at that time for, you know, business discussions and that kind of interaction.

I think within -- certainly if you look at the pattern of meetings over time, you know, the -- during my time on the GNSO Council, it was also an opportunity to move projects or things forward, so have substantive discussion around topics, PDPs that were under way or others that were being thought of, move that kind of process forward.

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I'm currently chair of the Registry Stakeholder Group, as I said. It's -- that face-to-face interaction has been an opportunity for us to have substantive discussion on issues amongst ourselves, particularly something like DNS abuse or, you know, other topics that we may be dealing with at any one point in time.

So I don't know that we've actually made that -- I guess that move from what are the key objectives from a face-to-face meeting to what are our key objectives, understanding that we can't meet face to face -- you know, face to face and we're moving into a virtual format. So we haven't really had that conversation about what's the move from one format to another and how do we -- and have the objectives changed?

So maybe that's a good conversation for us to have. You know, are we talking about objectives as they were in a face-to-face setting and what they look like now that we understand we're in a virtual format for an unknown period of time.

Thanks, James.

JAMES COLE:

Sure. Thanks, Donna.

I see that Jonathan Robinson's hand is up.

Jonathan, go ahead.

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JONATHAN ROBINSON: Thank you, James. Can you hear me okay?

JAMES COLE: Sure can. Go for it.

JONATHAN ROBINSON: Great. Thank you.

My point, as it turns out is a little similar to Donna's. I picked up what Jonathan Zuck was saying and I look at this theme one, I see a question that is either deliberately or accidentally ambiguous. It asks the question about the deliverables from the public meetings. But omits to describe whether those are public meetings in person or virtual.

Jonathan Zuck answered it by dealing with virtual meetings. I think that was the correct thing to do. I think short term, we have to deal with the challenge of the fact that in the short term, our meetings are likely to be, as Göran acknowledged and others will no doubt have a similar feeling, virtual.

So for the foreseeable future, we have virtual meetings. Therefore, we need to ask a limited question for the moment of the main deliverables from ICANN's community groups at ICANN's virtual public meetings. And I think if we focus ourselves on that question, we are most likely to have a most



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productive outcome, because the other is somewhat esoteric, and, really, we have a short-term issue to deal with, and that is as I articulated.

Thank you.

JAMES COLE:

Thanks, Jonathan.

I'm going to move back to the written comments next.

This one is from Bill Jouris.

The one thing that is impossible in virtual meetings is the casual encounters with people you wouldn't have otherwise met. For those, if nothing else, we need to get back to occasional in-person meetings when we finally can.

And I'm going to do another written one, from Vanda Scartezini. Just a comment for someone to think about. I see huge difficulties for newcomers due to the lack of opportunity to learn with others during the meetings. Even for me, 20 years of ICANN volunteers from this meeting, the lack of other community, due to the need to focus on this community, is quite important.

And I believe we have Sebastien with his hand up, so I'm going to throw it to Sebastien Bachollet next.

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Sebastien, go ahead.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Thank you very much. Sebastien Bachollet speaking.

I would like to take what Vanda said about interaction, yes, and she talk about the business interaction when we are in a face-to-face meeting but also I guess we need to also to emphasize that it could be shared knowledge, corridor discussion and something who help each people, all group to go along and to find a way for any discussions they could have.

One thing that would be a key objective from my point of view, it's to have the meeting where it can't be done in another way. When I say "meeting," an ICANN virtual meeting. Therefore, I will use the word observidarity (phonetic). If it can be done in another time, don't do it during a Public Meeting.

And for a positive point of view, what must be at the core of what we do, it's how we make working the multistakeholder model. And the ICANN meeting is the place where all the stakeholder can be done together. If it's something done by one group, it can be done another time, but if it's something done together or by two groups or three groups, it's interesting.

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And I want to take the example of the high-interest topic session today. I guess it was really very interesting. Now, I hope that we will have a second one where the other part of the community will talk about the same subject because I guess we will have another part of the view of the system. But once again, it was very good and well done this morning for me.

And that's it for the moment. Thank you very much.

JAMES COLE:

Thanks, Sebastien. I'm going to move back to some more written comments. The first is from Jorge Cancio who says: Face-to-face meetings enabled progress on sticky points with informal and spontaneous exchanges that allowed for bridging differences within and amongst SO/ACs. They also allowed for improving networking. Virtual meetings are still far from being able to deliver on those points.

Next is from Javier Rua-Jovet: One of the most important consensus-building things missing due to the full virtuality is the critical face-to-face that occurs after hours, perhaps over a drink or dinner. That is the relaxed scenario where many of the real agreements occur before the T's are finally crossed and the I's are dotted. I don't know if that can be replicated.

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Again, as a reminder, if you'd like to join the queue to speak your own question, that is open. Please just raise your hands.

This next comment is from Amrita Choudhury: With the ICANN meetings going online, we would have expected a significant increase in participation from across the world. I am interested to know if there has been a significant growth in the community engagement and how ICANN plans to keep the community engagement, especially at a time when there is community fatigue.

Next is from Maxim Alzoba: When do we have some certainty on the first meeting of 2021, if it is virtual or not?

And the next comment is from Taylor Bentley from ISED Canada: One objective of in-person meetings was the outreach and the local approach that could be taken to encourage newcomers to participate in PDPs. Is there a region where in-person meetings are more impactful for this than others? In the short term, that region could be the focus of outreach and capacity-building efforts until in-person meetings resume.

That is currently the end of the comments. we're going to throw to the Board now for some of their thoughts and observations, so I'm going to hand this over to Maarten.

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MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Sure. I would -- Yeah. Colleagues can come in if they have questions or remarks, but for sure very interesting points raised already. Very much appreciated. And also thoughts, things we wrestle with ourselves, too. It's like from -- going from event, then do some other work, next event, do some other work, next event. We seem to come to an ongoing stream and what works best and how we can make that happen. Very interested in your take on that. We already heard two different takes during this session.

I guess we all missed in that working part of the face to face. I think I can speak on behalf of the Board that we all do, very clearly.

When the next -- Whether the next meeting will be virtual or not is something we'll come back as soon as possible after the AGM. we would all like to go back to face to face, but at this moment, Cancun is not looking good for now.

And the focus of the Public Meetings, the suggestion from Sebastien to use the Public Meetings to focus on the cross-silos system and try to do as much as possible otherwise, that's an interesting thought as well. Noted as a thought. Very good. Appreciate it.

Any additional remarks, my dear colleagues?

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SALLY NEWELL COHEN: I think Göran may have a comment he'd like to make, Maarten.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Okay.

GÖRAN MARBY: Thank you. And thank you, Maarten.

There are some comments about engagement and what we're doing. First of all, without checking the numbers, I think we have 1800 people registered at this ICANN meeting, which is slightly than, I understand, we had at the last meeting. So on the top level, it seems we have a lot of people engaged, and they're also logging into different sessions. And that's a good one.

So there was a couple of comments about the regional emphasis. Yes, you know, we are -- we can always do more. But one of the things we've done over the last couple of months, last half year is that we are engaging more on a regional basis, both for time zone issues but also to be able to be more local. And to also have this ability for different parts of ICANN to sort of come together. So we do webinars, we do information, do more information.

Interesting enough, one of those blank spots for us has actually been -- you might not believe it, it's North America and Canada.

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So with Naela coming in, who will have a slightly different role, she will also make sure that we do more on the North America region as well when it comes to webinar informations, things for the community to come together. Because that becomes more and more important from engagement perspective.

When it comes to having new people coming into ICANN -- and several groups have said to me that on a Zoom meeting you can sort of use the trust you have but it's very hard to gain trust. But we have seen new people come into ICANN because of the sort of easiness to use Zoom and to go in and listen, which I think is positive. But I do agree it's hard for people to get to know the ICANN way of doing things without actually going to physical meetings.

With the world as of now, it's hard for us to say when we come back to full-fledged meetings, and, therefore, some of the ideas that has been done -- talked around in the community, which we're looking forward to having more comments about, is, you know, regional meetings, what some people call hybrid meetings, very -- or phased meetings. And we're really looking forward to hear more comments because we're there to serve you, so to learn more how we can do it.

One thing I just want to say when it comes to meetings is one of the hard things will be, let's say there's one part of the world

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suddenly gets -- doesn't have a problem with the pandemic, and we can actually have a meeting there, but you all know how hard it is to be a remote participant if people are actually meeting physically as well. So we have to think about it from an inclusive perspective. So we want to make sure that we can have people participate in the meetings.

I just want to mention, so we are thinking about the regional aspect of it. We are thinking about engagement. We are working, Sally and her team is working a lot to think about how to bring new people in. We are doing things with NextGen and fellows. But I do agree it's a harder thing to do when you can't actually come into an ICANN meeting and sort of smell the ICANN meeting.

Thank you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, Göran. There are two hands raised, so I think before we move to the next theme, let's have those people speak. The first one is Donna Austin.

DONNA AUSTIN: Thanks, Sally. Donna Austin. So just a bit of an observation. One of the challenges we've always had with ICANN meetings,



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regardless of whether it was virtual or in person and with remote participation was the time zone. And it seems that one of the challenges we have with organizing these ICANN meetings now is the time zone. You know, the fact that we've chosen to go with the Hamburg time zone for the last two weeks, you know, has created challenges for people that don't live and sleep in that time zone. And, you know, I'm from Australia, so I've always been cognizant of the fact that anyone participating in ICANN from the Asia PAC region is generally disadvantaged whether it's during an ICANN meeting or whether it's working groups that are conducting their work throughout the year on a regular basis because of weight of numbers. The working groups generally go for what the mass majority is, which is, you know, usually North America or Europe. So there's always been a disadvantage when it comes to time zones.

Now, we've had most of the SOs, ACs, SG/Cs have had conversations with the Board last week or coming into this week about the effectiveness of the multistakeholder model and prioritization of our work. And it seems to me that, you know, there's a little bit of a perfect opportunity here to have a look at that work so we can prioritize and see what can be done online, which isn't so reliant on that face-to-face meeting format.

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So, you know, maybe there are some other things we could be looking at. You know, look at this as an opportunity to perhaps move some work forward.

So, you know, just a few things to throw in the mix.

Thanks, Sally.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thanks, Donna. I think we have one last person that we'll go to. This is Olevie Kouami.

Olevie, can you unmute yourself?

No. Okay. I think -- James, let's go on to the next theme, then, please.

JAMES COLE: Super. Thanks, Sally.

So the second theme is going to be kicked off by Manal Ismail. This theme again is the community's sense of lessons learned from going virtual.

Manal, please go ahead.

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MANAL ISMAIL:

Thank you very much. I hope you can hear me well.

So when ICANN67 went virtual, we thought it was temporary and worked out on a temporary solution in a rush. And then when ICANN68 went virtual, we just had more time to plan but still thought it was temporary. Now with ICANN69 also going virtual and expectations for the year ahead, I think we need to make sure we have an ongoing setup that is sustainable for whatever time needed. And I think clarity also would be good if we can take -- if it is possible to take a decision on more than one meeting at a time. It would give some clarity.

We didn't have the chance to discuss within the GAC, so I cannot claim speaking for the GAC yet but can share some changes within the GAC and changes I'm witnessing across ICANN.

To address the time zone, we now delay the communicate to allow review by everyone in their time zones and hold daily briefs to those challenged by the time zones, and to address difficulties posed by lack of human interaction, we also provide less GAC advice through the communicate and more advice intersessional through exchange of letters.

The whole community moved towards shorter sessions and longer and more frequent breaks. I also applaud ICANN on ICANN69 Pandemic Internet Access Reimbursement Program.

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And while drawing lessons learned, I think we need to note that the workload is becoming less during the meeting but is growing significantly intersessionally. Is this better or worse? And how is this impacting community engagement?

Also on the time zone issue, I believe it was a needed gesture for the last-minute cans calculation of Cancun meeting that we follow their time zone. It was then only fair to give the same advantage to those who were disadvantaged.

Now that we have almost completed one full iteration of different time zones, is it better to rotate the time zone, be fair and share the pain or try to find a reasonably doable block of hours to make sure we don't lose continuity in active participation?

Virtual meetings could be particularly challenging for first-timers, especially at the time where we started giving away some interactive features of Zoom, though understandably, of course, to address security issues.

In all cases, I think this is a timely discussion that also relates and links well to the discussion on the evolution of ICANN's multistakeholder model, particularly with respect to how we plan effectively, work efficiently, prioritize our discussions, coordinate our priorities, streamline our activities, and

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reconsider our pace in order to make sure we not only maintain the current community volunteers but also benefit from going online to increase ICANN's active participants and secure an inclusive process with balanced representation that would ensure the meaningfulness and credibility of our work.

I'll stop here, and apologies to have exceeded the two minutes.

Thank you.

JAMES COLE: Thank you, Manal. We're going to jump to Sebastien whose hand has been raised. Sebastien, please go ahead.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET: Sebastien Bachollet, in French, please.

I'm going to speak in French. Thank you very much, Manal, for this introduction.

I'd like to raise a few points. The first point has to do with the discussion on regional issues before. I think it is important for a certain number of us to make sure that we know what we're doing if we're dealing with the five regions. We can assume that it is easier to travel in the same region. It was the case in Europe

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for a few weeks, but it's not any longer. But it could be the case in other regions.

So it could be a solution to start up again with face-to-face meetings, although it won't solve all of the issues.

One of the lessons that I get from all of these meetings is that you need 30 minutes to get set up. When you have a meeting that lasts only an hour, you actually waste ten minutes, and so that's an issue in terms of content, because you waste time getting set up.

The fact that we don't travel means that the way that we organize our work is different. Our employers are not necessarily understanding. You have your home, you have your kids perhaps, and that's quite challenging in terms of organization.

And the third time -- the third thing is that we use webinars very often and not necessarily virtual meetings. We don't know who participates as far as we're concerned, and so we can't exchange with these people.

The fact that we are not able to interact in the hallways, you can't even in the Zoom hallways interact, and I think that's a pity.

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Thank you very much.

JAMES COLE: Thanks, Sebastien. I believe Jonathan Robinson also has his hand up. So, Jonathan, please go ahead.

JONATHAN ROBINSON: Thanks, James.

I think a couple of things, really, I'd like to make some points on, please. One is I think we should -- because your question is the community's sense of lessons going virtual. And we should recognize and acknowledge the adaptability of the ICANN organization and the groups that participate; so, therefore, the ICANN community broadly.

ICANN responded quickly, certainly, to Mexico, and technically, apart from the obvious issues in and around concerns about meetings being gate crashed, have done a very good job. So I think we should recognize and acknowledge that the Org and all of us have adapted well and managed.

We also see very positive attendance, and I think that's something which is attractive and something which we should be pleased about and try and continue to encourage.

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I'll make one critical point, and I think we have to deal with the time zone issue. I pick up on what Manal said. There was a good reason, certainly, in Mexico in ICANN67, but we've gone beyond that. And in particular, in this meeting, we have run a local time zone, for many a very foreign time zone, for three weeks. That doesn't make sense to me. I can see some argument for having a single time zone for a core of the meeting -- over, let's say, three days -- but having a sustained, in quotes, "wrong" time zone, because it's going to be wrong for someone somewhere, over three weeks is unsustainable and problematic for all sorts of reasons.

So I think we have to commit ourselves to working hard on the time zone issue. There will always be complaints. There will always be dissatisfaction. But I happen to believe there are some middle roads and middle grounds to be struck here. Thank you.

>>JAMES COLE:

Thanks, Jonathan.

We have a few written comments I'm going to read next. The first is from Susan Payne. She says, so in-person meetings are meant to be getting the work done. Jeff has commented in the chat about the reason PDPs continuing with their independent



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meeting schedule in parallel to the virtual meeting is because they cannot get adequate slots within the meeting schedule.

That is really unsatisfactory. So we need to sit down with a blank sheet and identify what needs to be advanced during the meeting week and then allocate time to those things. I would say that needs to include progressing the PDP work and getting the wider engagement that a face-to-face meeting used to bring. If that means other things do not get allocated time, that is the tradeoff.

We need to recognize that moving the old face-to-face format onto a virtual format needs a fundamental rethink. And if someone does not get allocated time during the meeting schedule, then are we being fair to people to expect them to still join those meetings outside of the schedule? How can we ensure that this rethink genuinely happens?

Next comment is from Nadira. ICANN69, a three-week meeting is too long and time-consuming.

Next comment is from Denesh Bhabuta. If you track first-time attendees, has the proportion of those attendees increased since going virtual?

And I see Edmon Chung has his hand raised, so, Edmon, please go ahead. You're next.

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EDMON CHUNG:

I guess I've got a couple of comments.

Many people have talked about the experience is that we can accomplish a number of things with virtual meetings. But I think as soon as we are able to get back to face-to-face meeting, that allows us to do a lot more.

I agree with what Jonathan said in terms of this particular iteration, trying to -- starting from last time, trying to make the event a little bit longer is actually creating more -- I guess creating more stress than less. So I'd rather have less number of days and to go into more intense than the longer format that we have right now. So that's part of the learning.

And then three observations: One, there's a lot of concern about what is so-called security. And if that's only a security about some Zoom bombers or someone coming in to disrupt the discussion, I would really err towards interactivity over so-called security. If it's security that's technical and compromises people's system, that's very different than someone coming in to disrupt the meeting. I think most people would be -- would be fine with that kind of interruption.

Another observation is that in this type of format, and I count myself in that, is that we end up having less people talking. So

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we need to think about how we engage and create a little bit more interaction for more people.

And then the third aspect -- and I leave it to people to really think through -- is that I have been pretty fortunate in that over the 20 years that I've participated at ICANN, I've only missed a few in-person meetings. But virtual meetings are important. And there are people who won't be able to get to the venue. So in the future, when we do go back to face to face, how do we learn from this experience to create a hybrid process that allows people to participate remotely without losing out, without compromising the experience? That's something that we also need to think about.

Thank you.

JAMES COLE:

Thanks, Edmon.

Right now, there are no additional comments or hands raised, so I'm going to encourage everyone in the room to please raise your hand or submit a comment.

I'll give you a moment to do so.

And we have Donna Austin's hand up. So, Donna, please go ahead.

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DONNA AUSTIN:

Thanks, James.

Just a couple of things.

So we seem -- "we." You know, there seems to be an assumption that we talk about this in terms of when we get back to a face-to-face meeting. The challenge for us, and I -- and it's not just for us, it's for the -- across the globe, is that we hear that some places are going into their second phase of COVID, so many are going into final phase -- the third phase of COVID.

We don't know at what point we'll be able to get back to a face-to-face meeting. And, you know, personally, I think it's -- it's a long way off. I think at least six months, if not longer.

But I want to go back to something that Susan said, and that is that I think it's a good time now to actually rethink the whole way that we interact and we do meetings.

You know, there are probably some efficiencies that we can get within the meetings if we're -- when we kicked off this, Jonathan said, you know, there used to be blackouts for, you know, the -- you know, no substantive document could be put on the -- could be released or published by ICANN within a certain -- I think it was 21 days before a meeting. And Jeff was saying that that inhibits and slows down some of the policy process. And I think Jeff's -- I think Jeff's right. But, you know, there's nothing to say

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that the policy efforts couldn't continue, you know, unabated and shouldn't really be impacted by the fact that there's an ICANN meeting. You know, they should be able to continue to meet as they do on a regular basis.

So I think, you know, Susan's right, there's an opportunity here for us to rethink, you know, whether it be face to face or whether it be virtual. And I think it goes back to we have a lot of work on our plate at the moment. So what's the best way for us to manage that?

Thanks, James.

JAMES COLE:

Thanks, Donna.

I see the next hand up is from Stephanie Perrin. So, Stephanie, please go ahead.

STEPHANIE PERRIN:

Thank you very much. Stephanie Perrin, for the record.

I'm the outgoing chair of the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group. And I'm struck by the fact that, you know, how we perceive the different formats certainly depends on what our role is and how intense the meeting is and what time zone you're

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in. So personally, I was not so happy about the intense, jammed schedule, and I actually rather like this extended over the three weeks. But I can well -- I'm not working anymore from an office; I'm doing my consulting from home. It's a lot easier than if you were having to go to an office or do a regular day job 9:00 to 5:00. That would be difficult, I would think.

However, I notice that the participation of our NCSG members is decidedly down. And I do not know at this point -- and you won't be gathering that data, I don't think, in the survey, but I'm going to try and gather it myself -- as to the question is how many people are actually finding it more convenient to just -- if they weren't planning to participate in the session vocally, are they just tuning in later at a suitable time and downloading the files. If there's any way we could get some data on that, that might be helpful to us.

Thank you.

And maybe it exists already and I just don't know where.

But I totally agree with Donna, there are ways to reinvent some of the things we're doing. In a face-to-face meeting, when we would have working groups having sessions, we would make an effort to make sure there was explanatory stuff so that, you

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know, casual people could drop in and see. I'm not sure we need to do that in this format.

So things like that that need to be rethought. I'm out of time. That's it for me. Thank you.

JAMES COLE: Thank you, Stephanie.

I believe Göran has a comment, so I'm going to throw to Göran.

GÖRAN MARBY: It's been a little bit of a why haven't we gone out and said if we're going to do the next Cancun meeting or the meetings afterwards. And the -- really, it's because, as Maarten said, with a higher probability, we will not do the Cancun meeting physically.

But what we really want to do before we do the next planning cycles is sort of get those on to the community how we would like to have it so we can do a longer process and a longer preparations for this. Because I agree with you, we can't be shortsighted. I mean, when we canceled the first meeting, it was very fast. The second one was also in a place where we -- a couple of months ahead, but still, it was fairly fast.

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And this time, we went out a little bit earlier to close down the Hamburg meeting. And it's always hard to do it.

But, hopefully, by having the survey or the discussion within the community -- because, remember, the survey is really to lead to a discussion within the different parts of the ICANN community. Based on that, the idea is to do a longer planning cycle so everybody knows how to do it. And also engaging in such a way to look over how do we do the planning of the actual meetings.

As you know, a lot of the planning logistics are done by the community for the planning group. And I think that it's good to continue the discussion how to make -- how to make that more effective during a virtual meeting as well.

Thank you.

JAMES COLE:

Thanks, Göran.

I'm going to go back to the queue.

We have Gangesh Varma name, hand up.

Please, Gangesh, go ahead.



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GANGESH VARMA: Hi, this is Gangesh Varma. Am I audible?

JAMES COLE: You sure are. Go for it.

GANGESH VARMA: So, I think, contrary to some of the opinions we've had, I kind of agree that the -- the spreading of the meeting over more days is actually more comfortable. And I think I'd echo Stephanie on that.

I think shorter days and that reduces the number of hours, because of reducing the total number of days of the meeting, it increases the number of hours you're spending, and that might be more difficult for some of us.

But having said that, I think I also want to echo the fact that we really need to rethink how we're looking at the purpose of the meeting itself. And it might sort of blur the line between what happens at a public meeting versus a lot of the intersessional work that happens.

My sentiment is that it might be beneficial to have, you know, shorter duration of the meetings, in terms of the number of hours per day, and increase the number of meetings, so focus on increasing frequency and reducing number of hours per

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meeting. This will provide an opportunity for more stakeholders to interact more often, but it may not be as taxing on a regular basis in terms of hours that they happen.

That's just my two cents on it. Thank you.

JAMES COLE:

Thank you.

The next is going to be a written comment, this one from Michael Palage.

Historical footnote, the first couple of years of ICANN's existence, there were four meetings a year. It was brutal. During those formative years of ICANN, face-to-face meetings had the effect of forcing the community to make a decision. Unfortunately, ICANN regional meetings, either virtual or in-person, have lost the decision-making impact. To illustrate my point, what concrete actions/deliverables have taken place in 2020?

The next in the queue is Olivier Crepin-Leblond.

Please go ahead.

OLIVIER CREPIN-LEBLOND: Yeah, hi, everyone Olivier Crepin-Leblond speaking. I hope I'm understandable here.

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Thanks for giving me the floor.

Just a comment from some people that I've heard this week in my immediate surroundings. It's to do with the openness of the meeting.

Prior to being online, a fully virtual meeting, you used to be able to register for an ICANN meeting and go to the ICANN meeting, but remote participation was actually absolutely open. And right now, you can't even look at the agenda of the meeting without registration. I wonder why this is the case. It's effectively turning what used to be an open meeting into some kind of a more closed meeting. And I think it's the wrong trend to go forward with.

Thank you.

JAMES COLE:

Thanks, Olivier.

I believe Susan Anthony is next.

Susan, please go ahead.

SUSAN ANTHONY:

What I'm about to say is probably pretty unpopular, so I'm sorry to be the one to say it. But I myself have been divining the tea

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leaves about travel post-pandemic. And I anticipate that the airlines' fares will be very, very high and probably very, very discouraging for an individual, a small business, or even a larger organization or government to underwrite.

So we have been talking within my own office about how do we ensure that virtual meetings become more valuable for everybody. And so I'm very appreciative of the exercise we're undertaking. But I also think that we need to think that this could be our indefinite future or at least some combination of in-person and virtual post-pandemic.

Thank you.

JAMES COLE: Thank you so much.

I believe Jonathan Robinson was in the queue. So, Jonathan, go ahead.

JONATHAN ROBINSON: Thank you, James.

I'll take a moment to just respond to Susan Anthony's point. And as Donna said at the outset, we have not had the opportunity to consult substantially. So this is my personal view. But I happen

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to agree with Susan and others who have expressed the thought that the world may have changed immeasurably and somewhat permanently, and therefore we have to rethink at a bigger-picture level it also.

However, in the short term, the question clearly is about lessons learned from going virtual, rethink and replanning.

One of the characteristics of our community is that we tend to be somewhat long-winded and bureaucratic in some ways. Many argue that's a very valuable quality, and I'm -- I don't disagree.

But what the pandemic has done on many levels is allowed and necessitated, in fact, rapid and urgent change. And we've done that here. And so I think we have the opportunity here to experiment in a sort of more agile and iterative way. And I would encourage us all to think that way.

So when I hear Donna, Stephanie, and Susan Payne, who were talking earlier, I feel that there are opportunities with all of those suggestions to continue to experiment in the short term while we broadly and generally acknowledge and recognize that we're in a rather short-term, rapid-change environment.

But none of that sets aside my opening point, which is the response to Susan Anthony, which is, when we get to looking at

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the longer-term, we may well find that the world has changed more completely than we imagined.

Thank you.

JAMES COLE:

Thanks, Jonathan.

I'm going to do a written comment now before we move on to the hand queue.

This one is from Shreedeeep Rayamajhi.

The virtual meeting is good in terms of how the community can engage, but it has to be redesigned considering various aspects of communication tools and available resources. We cannot be following the past trend of face to face with virtual meetings.

I believe Jeffrey Neuman is next in the queue. So, Jeffrey, go ahead, please.

JEFF NEUMAN:

Yeah, thanks. This is Jeff Neuman. So I've been listening, obviously. And I just want to make one comment. And this is because I've -- we, the Sub-Pro Working Group have a call in a few hours outside of ICANN time. And, obviously, as you probably know, we've been getting a lot of people complaining

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that it's outside of ICANN hours and why are we doing this and whatnot.

And then it got me thinking. The real question is, what is the purpose of having the ICANN meetings? I mean, everyone needs to ask that question. And then we as an organization need to decide, what is the purpose; right?

If you believe like I believe, which is to advance the actual work that ICANN is doing, then, you know, the fact that we've set this meeting outside of ICANN hours was because we couldn't find a time during ICANN hours to actually do the work that we're trying to do and trying to advance the work that ICANN is doing. And that's a shame, because that's what I think the purpose of an ICANN meeting is.

But others may think that the ICANN meeting is for networking or may think it's for outreach or may think it's for, you know, the cross-silo works and just informing others of what we're doing.

I really think we need to take a step back, like Susan and others said, and ask ourselves, what is the purpose of having these ICANN meetings? And then design the agenda around that purpose and make sure that every meeting is to advance those -- that purpose. And I think it was Michael Palage said, and come up with deliverables and action items after every meeting so we

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can always feel like we are advancing ICANN's work as opposed to just engaging in, you know, academic or philosophical discussions.

Thanks.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Okay, James. I'm going to break in.

Thank you, Jeffrey, by the way. And this is a great discussion. I just want to make sure that we have time for the last theme. And before we go there, I'd like to go to the Board for any observations or clarifying questions.

And I think, Sarah, you may have a question that you'd like to ask?

SARAH DEUTSCH: Yes. Thank you so much, Sally.

So currently, the meetings are planned by the community planning group. And I was hearing from some of the comments that what may have sounded reasonable in the planning phase may not have worked out so well in practice.

So my question -- and this would be directed to those on the planning group -- is, are there better ways to organize the



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meetings going forward, taking kind of lessons learned from, you know, what actually has played out in practice? But I would love to hear people's thoughts on this. Thanks.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thanks very much, Sarah. Before we ask if anyone has a response for that, I wonder if anyone else from the Board would like to share any thoughts or observations.

Okay. All right. Then James --

GÖRAN MARBY: Sorry, can I make a comment?

I have to say there has been many, many good comments and suggestions so far, and I'm really looking forward to (indiscernible) looking (indiscernible). And the interesting thing is I hear a lot of commonalities in them. People -- I mean, first of all, I think the world has changed, and the world has moved on. It will take a long time before we see the end of, you know, the economy in many parts of the world is not doing that well. We see unemployment. We see less -- less abilities to fly. So it will be -- I don't like to use the word "new normal," but it is something completely different. And that is something that --

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and that's why this discussion is so important to have, to really understand what's the needs are of the community.

And for us and the Board, we are there to facilitate your ability to meet. And there is not a single purpose for an ICANN meeting; there are many of them, but it is an important part of what we do.

So to -- And so I just want to reflect on the fact that independent on where you are in the world, you seem to have a lot of commonalities in your opinions, and I appreciate that.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, Göran.

James, there are four more people in the queue, and I would say because this is such an important conversation, let's go through those four people and then we'll go to the next theme.

JAMES COLE: Sure. Will do. I believe the next person in the queue was Bruna Martins dos Santos. Bruna, go ahead.

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BRUNA MARTINS DOS SANTOS:

Hello, everyone. This is Bruna for the record, the incoming chair of the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group.

Just to add, just to reinforce the comments on the length of the meeting. I do think that for this one we avoided the weekend in order to not overburden some of our community participants, but that resulted on a meeting that was rather too long and dragged itself for three weeks if we consider the prep week.

And while the efforts of weigh up at 4:00 a.m. and -- or whatever time zones we can find ourselves in might be feasible for a one-week meeting, I don't see this really being sustainable for a two-to three weeks' meeting.

And an additional comment on the format itself. I do think we have been trying out some aspects and formats and so on, but there's a lot of things to integrate as well. I no longer see fellows being integrated into the meetings agenda. I no longer see community leaders being invited to talk with fellows. And I see this is a down side to this model as well.

And additional comment on the registration. I do think that the security concern is really relevant in this scenario but as some have been commenting in the chat, maybe to find a way to point out these discussions and to set these discussions on YouTube at

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the same time they are going on Zoom might be a way to strengthen the accessibility of our meetings and openness. And that will be it.

I do think that's a lot of things for us to move on, but insofar, congratulations on the efforts of the meetings team, but there's still a lot to improve. And I thank you very much for the time.

JAMES COLE: Thank you, Bruna.

I believe the next in the queue is Eduardo Diaz. Please go ahead.

EDUARDO DIAZ: Thank you. Can you hear me, I guess?

JAMES COLE: Sure can.

EDUARDO DIAZ: Thank you. This is Eduardo Diaz from the (indiscernible) and At-Large organization.

I just wanted to give you some sense of the lessons I have learned. You know, this is the third meeting, and one of the things I have seen happening in this meeting is that I have seen a

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lot of repetitions. I mean, I saw myself repeating the same thing in three different sessions. And I think what happened is we are doing -- we are working. Between meetings we are still meeting. We have working groups and we have meetings, and then we come to these meetings and we say the same thing or we summarize it to the same people.

So my suggestion is that we just keep the meetings for the ICANN meetings. Just I will have only plenaries for special hot topics for everyone to hear and to interact with the Board and maybe some special meeting that has to happen and that's it.

We meet all the time, so when we're talking about meeting and meeting and meeting, because we're meeting between meetings and we're meeting now.

So that is my suggestion.

And then the question about Sarah, about the planning of the meeting, I participate in that planning from time to time, and, you know, we're thinking the planning is being done as for information and the things, you know, that we think is going to work and presently evidently is not working. Now we are in the third meeting. We will have information from the survey, and I'm pretty sure that information will help in the next planning session, how this is done.

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Thank you very much.

JAMES COLE:

Thank you very much, Eduardo.

I believe the next is Susan Payne. Susan, please go ahead.

SUSAN PAYNE:

Thank you. Hi, it's Susan Payne here.

So I wanted to respond specifically to Sarah's question about how -- was the meeting planning process not working for participants. And I think a number of us who have been speaking in this session have -- are members of that SO/AC leaders meeting planning group. I've participated in it on behalf of the IPC, for example, and a number of others have. And I want to say first off that, you know, the meeting planning team, the staff team that works on meeting planning has been doing a tremendous job, particularly for this last year, in trying to organize these meetings remotely. They've had -- you know, there have been all sorts of challenges in terms of the -- you know, the use of facilities, services, access to translation, and so on, that they've had to navigate round and sort of fit a meeting into the context of.

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But I feel that what we've been doing for the last year has been sort of retrofitting the face-to-face meeting into a virtual format insofar as we can. And we'll go into those meetings, and there's an expectation from everyone that we'll have a certain number of plenaries and we'll have, you know, a constituency day or whatever, and we'll -- you know, each group will be able to have their meetings.

And so we've -- you know, insofar as we can, we've achieved that. And as I say, the meeting planning team has had a really challenging job in trying to deliver what everyone has been asking for, and there are lots of competing asks. And, you know, they'll ask a question about, you know, do we want it to be over three weeks. A number of us said we were very unhappy about the spreading the meeting out, but as you can see from this session, there are other people commenting who are happy with it being spread out. So they're trying to balance sort of these different opinions, I guess. But that's where my comment about coming to this from a clean sheet of paper and basically deciding what it is that we expect a meeting, a particular meeting to deliver, and then we build it from that.

And I just don't think we can keep going forward retrofitting the face to face in the way that we've been doing.

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JAMES COLE: Great. Thanks, Susan.

I believe Donna Austin is next in the queue. So, Donna, please go ahead.

DONNA AUSTIN: Thanks, James. Donna Austin.

So just to -- I support or agree with a lot of what Susan has said. You know, we -- and it's no criticism of anybody, because this has been moving a little bit fast, or slow, whichever way you want to look at it. But we are, essentially, within the planning committee, kind of retrofitting in some way.

And the other way that we've put the meetings together as well is not very transparent. In this -- And what I mean by that is that the GNSO will put the Council and/or the Council sessions on the agenda, and then the SO -- the SGs and Cs will provide these are the sessions we want, and somebody will go away and put that on the agenda. And then ALAC is working on their agenda. The ccNSO have their own agenda. The ALAC has theirs, and the other -- SSAC RSSAC, the others. So we don't do the schedule in a transparent way, so we don't ever see at the end of it, well -- and this happened in ICANN68, there are actually six sessions on DNS abuse. Do we actually need that? Can we consolidate in some way?



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So that's, you know, part of the -- the conversation that we don't really have. So it just -- you know, at the end of the day, we just see the schedule and say, oh, gosh, didn't know that was conflicting with that or didn't know that they're talking about that topic. That looks similar to what we're doing. So we don't have those conversations.

But I also want to pick up on something that Eduardo said. And I actually agree with it. We do the work throughout the year. We are working. What do we really need for the meetings? Is it just an opportunity to have some -- you know, here's some substantive topics that we want to have community engagement about? Let's put those together in some reasonable format that, you know, is inclusive. We probably need some interaction with the Board and maybe the GAC. How do we fit those into the -- you know, not so much how do we fit that into a dedicated week, but, you know, we've heard that it's unlikely we'll have a meeting in Cancun, so that means the earliest we'd have a face-to-face is probably mid next year. So we've got eight months, people. How do we want to -- how do we want to conduct our business over that period of time? So can we have separate meetings with the Board once a month or something like that? Do we have to have squeeze everything into a week?

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So back to Susan's point about let's start with a clean plate.

JAMES COLE:

Thanks, Donna.

Before we move on to the next theme, I'm going to read two written comments that have been submitted and then we'll move on.

The first is from Lawrence Olawale-Roberts: It is important that we are able to interact during virtual meetings in a way to encourage and build consensus; however, different participation models are for virtual sessions from webinars to traditional Zoom meeting styles. Can ICANN shed some light on how virtual participation models are selected for each session?

And the next question is from -- apologies on the name, Sivasubramanian Muthusamy: Could ICANN think as far as five or six chartered small planes, one or two from every region, for the next meeting? Not for a meeting with 1,000+ participants but for a smaller group of key participants, about 4- or 500 community participants in a relatively healthy destination? Still leaves the question of traveling to a departure points. It might be surprisingly inexpensive this is a subsequent.

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And we're going to move on to theme three. You can move the slides ahead, please.

So theme three: The community's view of the effectiveness of holding three Public Meetings per year.

Stephanie, I believe your hand has been up, so I'm going to go to you first. Please go ahead.

STEPHANIE PERRIN:

Thank you very much. Stephanie Perrin for the record.

I would just like to say that I think in the context of setting our goals as to why we're having the meetings, it seems to me very important that one of ICANN's goals is global outreach, fairness in competition. And I agree with those who have been saying that air travel is going to go up, and we've got airports closing. It's going to be increasingly difficult to get -- certainly some of our globally distributed members are going to have one heck of a hard time traveling in the future and getting visas. We have complained for years about visa problems so it's going to be much more difficult now because we might not even have airports in some of the countries that we need to fly people from.

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So I would rather have one meeting a year that was fair that would spend the money and make sure that small players, small business, and the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group, obviously, is funded and gets to go. My real worry is that this becomes a club of the rich again. And ICANN has worked very hard to make competition real and fairness in outreach happen. So please, let's keep that as a top priority, whatever we have to do to make sure that it remains equitable.

Thank you.

JAMES COLE:

Thank you, Stephanie.

I believe Ken Stubbs is next. So, Ken, go ahead.

Ken, if you have a comment, please, this is your opportunity.

Looks like Ken's mic is not working at this moment, so we're going to move to a -- written comments.

This one comes from (saying name).

Will the two weeks be the standard for virtual meetings now or is it just a test run? For someone like me, who has a day job, a week long is a challenge, combining with my job and family responsibilities. How will we be able to sustain two weeks?

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Second, the Zoom links in the meeting app does not work anytime I use it on Android. I wish staff would look into it for future meetings, though I am aware it works fine on for other phones.

KEN STUBBS: My mic's working now, James.

JAMES COLE: Great. Thanks, Ken. Go ahead.

KEN STUBBS: I think there's a very, very high probability that ICANN can have a face-to-face meeting and a final meeting next year -- at the final meeting next year.

I'm from Southern California, San Diego, and I went to school with people who work for the Salk Institute of Biological Studies. Anyone who's a scientist knows that it's one of the leading institutions in the world, founded by JONAS Salk, the gentleman who invented the polio vaccine.

I'm going to lay out a scenario for the third meeting next year.

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The third meeting would be held in October of next year. There will be vaccines available pretty much worldwide by the end of the first quarter of the upcoming year.

And according to my friends, it will take two vaccines.

What you would do, very simply, is ICANN would be coordinating with people who had the desire to go to that meeting and arranging for vaccinations. There would be two vaccinations prior to the meeting, and a person would be able to attend the meeting, providing they were certified. And it's kind of like those who have been to Club Meds, you're going to be wearing a wristband. And we would be doing the work with the various countries to allow entry into the country of these people who would have been certified as having the full course of the vaccines.

Also talking to my friends at Salk, they indicated by then, other countries would have no trouble allowing people to exit and re-entry the country, providing they had had all the vaccines.

If you think about it here, number one, everyone that you would be attending that meeting with would have been fully vaccinated and certified.

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Number two, anyone who's working at the meeting, the staff -- this would be part of the requirements for the hotel and so forth -- would, again, have the vaccinations.

So you'd be back into an environment that would be about as safe as you could get. It would involve ICANN putting together a task force to develop the third meeting. But it is not an insurmountable option.

All major -- and the people I've been working with -- also the people at Oxford University and AstraZeneca, and they honestly feel that in the overwhelming majority of cases, people would have the ability to get those vaccines. And I think that's something that we really need to be a little creative, look outside the box. But the people I've talked to who are leading experts worldwide feel that it's a very practical approach if you take October of next year. That gives us literally a full year to put the whole thing together.

So I hope you'll think about it, at least. It's not a pie in the sky approach.

Thank you for hearing me out.

JAMES COLE:

Thank you, Ken.

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We have one more written comment, this one from Jorge Cancio.

On three meetings probably this is a chance to rethink three face-to-face meetings a year. Probably one face-to-face would be fine, and one or two virtual ones. It would also improve our carbon footprint.

I am not seeing any other comments in the chat or the pod or in the queue.

So I'm going to toss this back to Sally Newell Cohen.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: All right. Thanks very much, James.

And thanks to all of you for the comments.

What I'd like to do in our closing few minutes is turn to Maarten and the Board of directors and ask if they have any comments they'd like to make, any clarifying questions, or any observations.

Maarten, to you.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you very much, Sally.



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And dear colleagues, I saw some thoughts floating by in the chat. Do any of you want to share at this moment, thoughts, questions?

Yes, Matthew, please.

MATTHEW SHEARS:

Yes, Maarten, Sally, this has been an excellent session. And thank you so much for all the suggestions that have been made, either in person, on the Zoom, or in the chat.

What I think is so interesting about this is, I agree with many of you who have said we no longer need to be constrained by our traditional approaches. And I very much appreciate the -- people have mentioned, let's be agile, let's be creative. And these are things we have to take to heart.

I think it was Donna who said we may be like this for another eight months. We may be like this for another 16 months. So let's think a little bit outside of the box. But let's also think a little bit outside of the box in terms of what these virtual tool providers are doing in terms of increasing our interaction. Something that I've certainly noted, and I'm sure my fellow Board members have as well, is a desire to interact more, to talk more. And I think we should be using these tools to do just that and to have a greater frequency of discussion.

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Thanks very much.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, Matthew.

And, Tripti, I see your hand is up. Please go ahead.

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you, Sally. This has been an extremely good conversation. And lots of good ideas.

COVID has proven to be a forcing function and has forced us into this new modality of virtual engagement. But I believe it is forcing us into looking at the way we engage and meet from a completely different light. And we should take advantage of this crisis and see exactly how we can evolve.

And as I think was mentioned by several of you, Jonathan Robinson, Susan Anthony, and Donna Austin, let's take a step back and see how we could actually change our modality of engagement to be more effective.

And Michael Palage made a very good point about in the early days of ICANN, you actually had deliverables and action times. And I see we look at today's ICANN and look at today's context, and how can we capture that. That would speak directly to what

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Jonathan Zuck has been saying, which is, how do we measure effectiveness.

Perhaps we look at all these things, capture the metrics, see how we can engage. Because the world that we are going to go back to once a vaccine is in place will be different. It's going to be much what it's like post-9/11, where, frankly, air travel changed, the way we go to airports, go through security, changed. Similarly, I believe there will be a permanent change here. So we have to evolve with the times.

This was an excellent session, and some very good comments were made by many. So thank you very much.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, Tripti.

Maarten, any closing comments from you?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Yeah. No, just I think my colleagues were very right. We've been enjoying this session and hearing you talk and sharing from your experience. And we very much realize that what we experience ourselves, the time zone issue between L.A. and Tokyo are two extremes, 17 hours. And we need to plan all our meetings in

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between that. This is almost a reflection of the community as well.

So we understand these issues and we see that.

I think the point that was made about that we should have three-week light meeting or a three-day intensive meeting in one time zone is a good question and also something to follow up.

So many good ideas came up that I think are worth reflecting on.

It's clear that how the world exactly will look like after COVID, we don't know yet. Uncertainty is there. But it's also clear it may not be as it's used to be. It's unlikely to be as it used to be. So very much agree with all those that highlighted that point. Let's keep our eyes open.

And, yeah, one thing with ICANN, whereas for you it may not be important, the networking part. For others, that may be the key reason why they joined. So let's be cognizant of that. We are one community with very many different people that participate for different reasons for the right thing. And we need to be able to welcome an environment for all, as this is something we need to do together.

So I think this was an excellent seminar. I really enjoyed hearing from you. And I look forward to hearing more through the

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survey, but also after that. This is not something the Board will decide in an ivory tower or organize in an ivory tower. This is something we are to do together to find a way together. And we are committed to progressing that with you.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Thank you, Maarten.

Göran, is there any -- would you like to share any thoughts?

GÖRAN MARBY: I think Tripti and Maarten did a good summary of the discussion.

Just to -- So the process right now. So we had this conversation. And as we noted, we take all of those things that have been said, we have written them down. And after the survey is done, we are going to, based on this conversation and the survey, going to make a proposal. We are going to go back to the community through the SOs and ACs to have a quick check on the proposal, and then we're going to go out on a public consultation on that. And hopefully, by that, we will have a discussion or a proposal that really comes out from a bottom-up process, and multistakeholderism before the Board actually makes a decision.

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The time line for this is not endless, because we have on -- we have to make a decision, I can't remember the date right now, about the Cancun meeting. Which, also, at the time we do that, we do have a little bit of a longer time line where we look a little bit more into the future based on these discussions.

Thank you very much.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Okay.

Thank you. Thank you, all.

This was an incredibly valuable discussion. And I know we're all appreciative of you opening your thoughts and your opinions. And this -- the dialogue continues. So please do complete the survey. Work with your community leaders to make sure that your thoughts are captured.

And I think we'll close this session.

Thank you, all, and have a great meeting.

**[ END OF TRANSCRIPT ]**