
ICANN69 | Prep Week – Pre-ICANN69 Policy Webinar
Thursday, October 08, 2020 – 18:30 to 19:30 CEST

MARYAM BAKOSHI: Hello and welcome to the Pre-ICANN 69 Policy Update Webinar. My name is Maryam Bakoshi, and I'm the remote participation monitor for this session.

Please note that this session is being recorded and follows the ICANN expected standards of behavior.

During this session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if submitted in English using the proper form as I've noted in the chat. I'll read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair or moderator of this session.

If you would like to ask your question or make your comment verbally, please raise your hand. When called upon, kindly unmute your microphone and take the floor. Please state your name for the record and the language you speak if speaking a language other than English.

Please note this session includes interpretation. To hear the interpretation, you will need to download the interpretation application. More information can be found in the session details on the event schedule and the instructions are in the chat.

With that, I'll hand the floor over to Mary. Mary, please.

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.

MARY WONG:

Thank you very much, Maryam, and welcome, everybody, to this Pre-ICANN 69 Policy Update Webinar that's being presented to you by ICANN's policy support team. If we can just move to the next slide, Maryam.

Okay, we don't need that slide, but this is me. My name is Mary Wong, and I'm a member of the policy team. I have the pleasure and privilege of hosting you today where you'll be hearing from my colleagues who support the various supporting organizations and advisory committees across the ICANN community structures. Let's go to the next slide, Maryam.

This slide and the next one is something that those of you who have attended these webinars before will have seen. I am not going to go through them. I just want to let you know that they are available on the ICANN.org website. If you haven't looked at them, I encourage you to because they cover the two aspects of community policy participation at ICANN.

What you see on this first slide is the policy development work that is done by each of our supporting organizations within their remits. My colleagues will speak to you more about that as they go through their presentations.

If you look at this slide on the ICANN.org website, and we can send you the link, you'll see a brief description of the policy process that the Address Supporting Organization, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, and the Generic Names Supporting Organization each

follow when undertaking policy development within their missions. Next slide, please, Maryam.

In this slide, we focus on the four advisory committees. Again, it is a visual depiction of the processes that apply to each of these groups. That is, the At-Large Advisory Committee, the Governmental Advisory Committee, the Root Server System Advisory Committee, and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. Again, you'll be hearing from staff that support each of these groups. Next slide, please, Maryam.

Many of you have worked with us on a number of policy projects, so you'll be familiar with many of my colleagues. What's always interesting and a fact that we like to point out is that the policy development support team comprises 34 full-time employees, and we are subject matter experts in a number of different topics across the community's interests. And we also provide you with management of your meetings, your working groups, and all the other governance operations that make up the work of the community.

In order to enable global support for the community, we are spread across nine countries through six time zones. And as you see here, collectively we speak at least I think nine languages. Thank you, Maryam. Next slide, please.

Before I start with the different work from each or supporting organization (SO) or advisory committee (AC), I just want to highlight that one feature of ICANN public meetings is a number of plenary sessions which cover topics of broad community interest. The topics for

each meeting are selected by the community through your representatives in the community-based planning group. For ICANN 69, we have these three sessions planned on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday during plenary week.

I can say that each group that has been tasked or has volunteered to organize each of these sessions has been working hard to make sure that the sessions are informative, interesting, and interactive. So we look forward to seeing and participating with you on these plenary sessions. For full details, you should refer to the ICANN meeting schedule. And of course, you probably already know but just a reminder that in order to see the full ICANN meeting schedule, you will first need to register for the ICANN meeting. Next slide, please, Maryam.

Again, these are publications that the policy team produces before every ICANN public meeting. I'm pleased to note that we are seeing increasing readership and downloads for many of these reports. We hope that you find them useful in your preparation for each ICANN meeting. These slides will be posted, if they haven't already, to the ICANN prep week page of the ICANN 69 website. You'll find the links to download each of these reports which, as I mentioned, I hope you will find them helpful. Thanks, Maryam. Let's move forward.

On that note, I am going to hand over to each of my colleagues who support the seven community structures, starting with Carlos Reyes for the Address Supporting Organization. Carlos?

CARLOS REYES:

Thank you, Mary. Hello, everyone. My name is Carlos Reyes. I've been supporting the Address Supporting Organization since 2013. I'm based in Washington, DC. Next slide, please.

I think it's a good place to start just by providing an overview of the Address Supporting Organization. Of the three supporting organizations, this is probably the one that the community may be least familiar with, at least at ICANN in the names policy development space.

The ASO is defined in a memorandum of understanding between the five Regional Internet Registries, the Number Resource organization, and ICANN. The current MoU went into effect almost a year ago. That was [inaudible] to strengthen the relationship between the names and numbers communities.

The purpose outside the ASO is actually to review global Internet protocol address policy recommendations from the Regional Internet Registries and recommend those to the ICANN Board. So it's not the ASO that actually develops the policies. That happens at the regional level. There's coordination if it's a global policy, and then that is recommended on to the ICANN Board.

The reason I highlight global policies, that is specifically the mandate of the ASO and the ASO Address Council. The Address Council manages the global policy development process, and they are there to ensure that every Regional Internet Registry follows their policy development process and that the global policy is actually in line with the definition, which is the requirement that the policy outcome requires an action by the IANA. Next slide, please.

Now that you have an understanding, at least broadly, of the Address Supporting Organization and global policy development work, there is a lot of activity happening right now within the regions. The AFRINIC community and the LACNIC community are discussing several proposals. You'll see policy proposals around transfer policies or clarification of their policy development processes. The RIPE community, currently there are no proposals. They're under discussion. And in the ARIN and APNIC community, there are also [a] few proposals.

If you would like to participate in policy development, I encourage you to join some of these mailing lists or attend some of these virtual meetings that have been happening and will continue to happen over the next few weeks. But just to confirm, there are no global policy proposals at this time. That means the Address Council is not tracking anything at the global level. Next slide, please.

One activity where we do see the ASO Address Council moving ahead is the selection of ICANN Board Seat 9. This process just got started almost a month ago. It's process currently finds itself in the nomination phase. Applicants are being accepted from all regions except the APNIC region, which is the Asia Pacific region. The reason for that is there are bylaw requirements on geographic distribution of ICANN Board seats, and the incumbent for ICANN Board Seat 10 is from the Asia Pacific (APNIC) region. So candidates can only be accepted from the other four regions. You'll see here the selection timeline. The intent of the Address council is to have an announcement by the end of April 2021.

I think that's it from my end. Thank you very much for listening. I'm happy to take any questions.

MARY WONG:

Thank you very much, Carlos, for that very brief but informative update. I'll note for participants that my colleague Chantelle has posted a link in the chat for a general policy development fundamentals course on our ICANN Learn online platform. That should go into more detail about some of the development processes and work in each of our supporting organizations and advisory committees.

Maryam, are we taking questions at this time? Because I see that Alberto has a hand raised.

MARYAM BAKOSHI:

We're taking questions at the end, Mary.

MARY WONG:

Okay. So, Alberto, if you don't mind, could you hold your question to the end, and I will be sure to come back to you. Thank you. Before we move on to the ccNSO, Carlos, I was just wondering. I believe that at every annual general meeting, there is a speaking slot or some method by which the numbers community through the ASO or the NRO can give an update. Do you know if that is being planned for ICANN 69?

CARLOS REYES: Thanks, Mary. That’s a very good question. The ASO has actually opted out of the virtual meetings largely because their activity continues at the regional level and within those virtual meetings of the Regional Internet Registries. That being said, the chair of the ASO Oscar Robles will be addressing the ICANN 69 participants during the opening ceremony, so look out for his comments about the activities of the numbers community this past year. That engagement continues, and it has become a tradition of our opening ceremony for the last few years.

MARY WONG: Thank you, Carlos. That’s what I thought, so thank you for the reminder. And thank you, Oscar, for agreeing to speak. We all look forward to your update.

As I said, we’ll have questions at the end. So now let’s move on to the Country Code Names Supporting Organization where I believe the presenter will be Joke Braeken.

JOKE BRAEKEN: Thank you very much, Mary. Hello, everyone. Indeed, my name is Joke Braeken and I’m policy advisor for the Country Code Names Supporting Organization. I’m speaking to you today from Germany and will provide you with a brief overview of some of the hot topics for the ccNSO at the moment and also the sessions that we have planned for ICANN 69.

First and foremost regarding the policy development processes, there are two ongoing at the moment for the ccNSO. The first one that I would like to speak to you today about is the ccPDP 3, as we call it, which is

split in two parts. The first part talks about the retirement of ccTLDs and the second part about the review mechanisms for decisions related to the retirement, the delegation, the transfer, the revocation, of ccTLDs.

Part one which speaks about retirement of ccTLDs recently evaluated the feedback from the broader community regarding its proposed process to retire ccTLDs. The suggestion is now to carve out part one of the ccPDP and to finalize this part and not wait until part two regarding the review mechanism is completed as well. That's in terms of ccPDP 3.

On the other hand, ccPDP 4 is dealing with policy recommendations for the selection and deselection of internationalized domain name country codes top-level domain strings. The result of this ccPDP will in the end replace the fast track process which currently guides the selection of IDN ccTLD strings.

The group recently kicked off its work, has finalized its rules of engagement, is finalizing currently the appointment of a chair and vice chair. And probably there will be several sub working groups focusing either on variant management or on the confusing similarity. And there is potentially a third subgroup which will focus on the deselection of IDN ccTLDs.

This group is not meeting as part of ICANN 69, but we do have some very interesting sessions for you organized by the ccNSO at the annual virtual meeting. I will not go to the next slide because that simply contains some hyperlinks with useful links for you to bookmark. But I would like to briefly talk to you about some of the sessions as part of the ICANN 69 ccNSO schedule.

The first one being tech day. That's really a workshop which is open to everybody interested, especially to those that are interested in technical topics, in security topics, and operational aspects.

And then the ccNSO members meeting. This is, again, open to all, spread over various sessions, various days. The first one is a session that focuses on the governance of the ccNSO and mostly the relation between council and the community. And then also there are various question and answer sessions with the council candidates, candidates for Board Seat 12, and then finally with the ccTLD related ICANN Board members.

There are various ccNSO working group meetings that meet as part of ICANN 69 as well. One of them being the ccPDP 3 retirement working group talking about the carve out of the first part of their work. Also, the strategic and operational planning committee is meeting and also the Internet governance liaison committee which is speaking or addressing the topic of digital sovereignty at its meeting. Finally, we conclude with a ccNSO Council meeting. That also concludes my update. Thank you.

MARY WONG:

Thank you very much, Joke. It definitely sounds like a very busy time and a very busy meeting for the ccNSO, which is now clearly running multiple PDPs, at least one in a very early phase. And that was the IDN PDP which is clearly a topic of great interest to many in our global community. If we have time, I can pick up on that. But I was curious about the various sessions around what you said, the question and answer sessions with various candidates. That sounds to me like there

are elections happening in the ccNSO just as in the ASO. Would you mind touching a bit more on that?

JOKE BRAEKEN:

Absolutely, yeah. Thank you for the question, Mary. Indeed, we have elections coming up after ICANN 69, two separate elections actually. There are, first and foremost, the elections for the Board Seat 12 candidate. We currently have two candidates for that position, so the ccNSO members will need to select their preferred candidate for Board Seat 12.

And then secondly, we also recently concluded nominations for the ccNSO Council. For the African, European, North American, and Latin American Caribbean region there has been one candidate that's accepted their candidacy so there's no need for elections in those regions. However, for the Asia Pacific region, we have three candidates, so there will be elections for the Asia Pacific region for the ccNSO members from that region after ICANN 69.

MARY WONG:

Thanks very much, Joke. That's really good to know. Again, it shows the global diversity of our community in terms of the multiple leadership positions that have representatives from each of these different regions and also, obviously, just seeing the number of candidates from our various regions, that's very encouraging. If we have time near the end, I might come back to you on at least one of the ccNSO PDPs and perhaps some of our participants will also have questions.

In the interest of time though perhaps for now we can move on to the Generic Names Supporting Organization and to Steve Chan the team leader of that staff support team. Steve?

STEVE CHAN:

Thanks, Mary. Thanks very much for all attending. As Mary noted, my name is Steve Chan, and I'll be talking to you about the Generic Names Supporting Organization or the GNSO. Next slide, please.

These are some of the areas of focus for the GNSO and in particular the GNSO Council. I'll talk to you about the two ongoing policy development processes that are underway now and are meeting at ICANN 69.

The first is the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP. This PDP was launched in 2016 and the focus is on looking at the existing policy recommendations related to new gTLDs and the 2012 implementation of the new gTLD program and then considering what changes may be needed to either the recommendations or the implementation.

This PDP has an extensive charter. It has [inaudible] topics and as a result it has been ongoing for some time and has collected public input on several occasions, including a draft final report which was published on 20 August. That period has since closed for public comment.

At ICANN 69 there will be two sessions on Wednesday the 14th. They'll be considering new information received through that public comment on the draft final report and determining what changes might be needed to its draft recommendations.

The sessions at ICANN 69 will target a subset of topics, including things like applicant support, community-based applications, and the predictability framework. The PDP’s target for the completion of its work is before the end of 2020 where it will deliver its final report to the GNSO Council.

The next PDP underway is the All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs. This PDP also started in 2016 and is being conducted in two phases. It’s currently in phase one which covers all of the RPMs applicable to gTLDs launched under the 2012 new gTLD program.

The working group published its phase one initial report for public comment on 18 March this year and received 55 comments and subsequently spent several months considering that input and is now focusing on developing its final recommendations. Accordingly, at ICANN 69 the working group is expected to hold two open sessions on Tuesday, 13 October, and start reviewing its draft final report.

Additional context is that in September the working group submitted a revision to its timeline to the GNSO Council which was then approved. So the working group will submit its final report by the end of November 2020, which represents approximately a 40-day extension from its previous timeline.

Next what I want to talk about real quickly, actually very quickly, is about the number of bilateral sessions that the GNSO would be holding. In this case, they’ll be holding bilateral sessions with a number of SOs and ACs, including the SSAC, the GAC, and the ccNSO. They’ve actually already met with the GAC a little while ago. Actually, I believe last week.

There are some common themes. I'm not going to go into too much detail, but for all of these bilateral sessions the Expedited Policy Development Process on Registration Data Phase 2, some of the implementation elements related to the Phase 1 of the EPDP, Subsequent Procedures, and then also DNS Abuse are common themes amongst the bilateral sessions.

The next thing I want to talk about quickly is just the activities of the GNSO Council. They actually had a working session that already took place where there was an update from the RPMs working group. They also received an update from Global Domains and Strategy (GDS). That was on the status of policy implementation and then also an introduction to a draft paper from ICANN Org that is proposing something called an operational design phase. Which is something that's intended to help to prepare the ICANN Board to consider approved recommendations from the GNSO Council.

There will also be a GNSO Council meeting on the 21st in which the council will be taking a number of actions, including initiating drafting work on internationalized domain names, taking next steps on the remaining items from the EPDP Phase 2, and then considering the approval of the GNSO liaison to the GAC.

They will also discuss next steps regarding the issues that have arisen from the implementation of Recommendation 7 from the EPDP Phase 1. And then also, they'll be talking about the operation design phase proposal I mentioned just previously.

And then because this is the AGM, there will also be an administrative meeting following the council’s formal public meeting. That will be primarily to seat the new councilors and to elect a new chair.

Then lastly, as with many of the other groups, the council will have a wrap-up session which is primarily to cover things that arise over the course of the AGM. But they’ll also talk to and begin preliminary discussions about the pipeline of work for the council as well as some discussion about the strategic planning session that the council will have shortly after ICANN 69.

With that, I’ll stop there and hand it back over Mary.

MARY WONG:

Thank you, Steve. I think for anyone who has been following the work of the Generic Names Supporting Organization and, indeed, the ICANN community for the last few years if not more, I think one conspicuous omission from your slide—but you explained why—is the Expedited Policy Development Process on gTLD Registration Data, shortened for good reason to EPDP.

I think a lot of folks know also that, as you mentioned, this EPDP was conducted in two phases and that Phase 1 is now in implementation. As for Phase 2, I understand the GNSO Council recently approved recommendations from that phase, meaning that they will now go to the ICANN Board.

So I hope I’m asking questions that are interesting to the community because I’m wondering if you can address two questions. One is when

will is the Board expected to vote or take action on what the GNSO Council approved out of Phase 2? And secondly, does this now mean that the GNSO Council and the community within the GNSO will now have the capacity and intent to take on new work?

STEVE CHAN:

Thanks, Mary, for the question. Indeed, the EPDP Phase 2 final report was delivered to the council and they subsequently approved the recommendations. But as you're noting, there are additional steps needed. While I can't predict a specific time for when the ICANN Board will actually consider the recommendations, some of those additional steps include things like a consideration of the recommendations report that will be approved by the GNSO Council. And then there will also be an additional public comment period on the recommendations as approved by the council.

Those two steps are typical for any PDP, but in this particular case there was also a request from the council to engage with the Board on performing a cost-benefit analysis on the Standardized System for Access/Disclosure, or more popularly known as the SSAD. There's also an element in that there is a potential for the operational design phase I mentioned a few times which is intended to support the Board's decision-making. So while I can't give you a specific timeline, I can tell you that the report will not be [inaudible] by the Board at ICANN 69.

To your second question, this does clear up some of the capacity for the council and the GNSO and also staff, but there are also remaining Priority 2 items to resolve from the EPDP like legal versus natural and

data accuracy. So the council may initiate next steps on this work during the council meeting, actually the October one the 21st, during ICANN 69.

There are also the two ongoing PDPs I mentioned which do plan to complete before the end of the year. So with the there are a number of work efforts lined up—perhaps too many to be quite honest—and the council needs to carefully assess if there is adequate capacity in the community and also amongst Org staff to support all that work.

So there will be a capacity to initiate new work which could be maybe the RPMs Phase 2, work on IDNs, next steps for the remaining Priority 2 items, the transfer policy, among many other things. But I think it's needless to say that they will be very careful to avoid overcommitting to all these efforts. Thanks.

MARY WONG:

Thank you, Steve. It certainly does sound like there's still a lot of potential policy work that the GNSO could undertake. So we'll look forward to the council and the community's discussions over what next for the GNSO. And of course, all this ties into what are now the communitywide discussions over resourcing and prioritization of the multiple projects and activities that could be undertaken. The question is which ought to be in terms of priority.

I thank you also for confirming that we will not be seeing the ICANN Board vote on the EPDP Phase 2 recommendations at ICANN 69. To the point you made about the steps that need to be taken before the Board

actually takes action, what you mentioned are indeed specified in the ICANN bylaws. So for those who are interested in refreshing their memories about what steps need to be taken that are mandatory between a GNSO Council and the Board taking action, I'll refer you to Annex A of the ICANN bylaws. And of course in this case, as Steve mentioned, there may be other dependencies and discussions as well. So thank you, Steve. And thank you, Carlos, and thank you, Joke, for taking us through the work of the other two supporting organizations, albeit given time constraints, somewhat briefly.

I think we can now move on to look at the work of our four advisory committees and their respective communities, and so I will hand it off to my colleague Heidi.

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Thank you, Mary. Hello, everyone. My name is Heidi Ullrich, and I have the privilege to lead the team that supports the ALAC, the At-Large Advisory Committee, and the At-Large community. Just for those of you who may not know the difference between the ALAC and the At-Large Advisory Committee, the ALAC are the 15 members of the committee that act in the best interests of the Internet users at ICANN while the At-Large community consists of the ALAC in addition to the five regional At-Large organizations, the nearly 250 At-Large Structures (ALSes), the 140 individuals making up, again, the complete At-Large community. We can move on to the next slide, and we'll go over what the At-Large community and the ALAC have in mind.

As an overview, there will be a total of 16 sessions organized in three tracks of policy, outreach including capacity building, as well as operations.

Given that it is the annual general meeting, the At-Large community will be welcoming their incoming as well as ongoing members. They'll also be recognizing the departing members for their valuable contribution to this past year or their term. Also, they'll be welcoming and congratulating Leon Sanchez who is on Seat 15. He is the Board director selected by At-Large who will be starting his second three-year term.

In terms of the first track of policy, they will be holding three sessions. The first is entitled Beyond Budapest: The UN Cybercrime Treaty and DNS Abuse. This session looks to the progress and perspectives of the proposed United Nations cybercrime treaty and explores how it might impact ICANN's mission.

The second is Coordinating the Internet Unique Identifiers and the Interests of the Internet Users. This session will discuss how coordination and collaboration between different stakeholders can ensure that policy development and technical functions are carried out in the public interest. One of the speakers, a special speaker, is former Board director, now part of the SSAC, Steve Crocker.

The third under this track is the joint ALAC and Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group meeting looking at human rights. This session will be a dialogue between the two groups on the topic of the framework of implementation for human rights.

Moving to the operations track, they have seven activities going underneath this track. The first are two sessions successive. It's hosted by EURALO. It's the European stakeholder roundtables. They'll be looking at particular interests of the European area and having a wide variety of stakeholders and presenters there.

On the regional leadership team, this is a traditional meeting of all the RALO regional leaders. They're looking at cross-regional areas of interest.

Then following, there's a noon session for the first time. It's the At-Large structure community engagement. This session is looking at how At-Large structures will be able to follow and engage productively during the current pandemic.

The next one is the At-Large community and DNS abuse. This is an individual user education campaign. This is going to be looking at bringing in regional leaders and how they can use their knowledge of individual or DNS abuse down into the regional level. So it's educational and a knowledge building in the regional level.

The outreach and engagement subcommittee. They're going to be including a new twist to engagement and outreach within ICANN, and they're going to look at how using their natural partners—so that includes the At-Large capacity building working group, the At-Large social media working group, and the global stakeholder engagement team—how they can all work together to ensure strong and efficient outreach and engagement activities.

Then finally, there's the traditional AFRALO-AfriCANN meeting. The topic will be on the status impact and recommendations for universal acceptance in Africa.

Moving on to the operations track, as other groups, they'll be holding a welcome and a wrap-up session. The wrap-up session will be looking not only at the highlights for ICANN 69 but also looking ahead to 2021 as well.

Then also, there is a session, another new one, called Recommendation Thresher: Where Do We Begin? That's going to be looking at the ATRT3 recommendation on how all of the recommendations coming out of the various reviews can be highlighted, identified where the end user interests are, and prioritized. This is going to be the first of a series of sessions on this topic for At-Large.

Finally, there will be some ALAC achievements where all the At-Large leaders will be updating and highlighting on some of their achievements during this past year. We can go to the next slide.

This just highlights some of the activities. This is, again, how you can prepare for the ICANN 69 sessions for At-Large. There were two prep sessions. The recording is available. The At-Large at ICANN 69 wiki space shown here has all the information, all of the sessions in three languages for At-Large, also all other information that might be useful as you go into ICANN 69.

And finally, for those of you who would like to have more information on the ALAC policy advice development, there's the wiki page here that

has all of the past information, past statements, and those that are under development. So that wraps up the highlights for At-Large and ALAC for ICANN 69. Mary?

MARY WONG:

Thanks very much, Heidi. Again, as always, a busy meeting for the At-Large community. I did want to pick up on something, a recent development. I believe that the Board adopted the final report from the At-Large review implementation team quite recently. Maybe I missed it when you were presenting, but is the At-Large community planning to incorporate or address any of the issues that were raised during the At-Large review at ICANN 69?

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Yeah, thank you, Mary. Great question. Yeah, again on 10 September, the Board approved or accepted the At-Large final review paper/report. Again, one of the key issues coming from the review was how to increase engagement of At-Large structure members and individuals.

Two of these new sessions that I've highlighted, that is one on the ALS community engagement as well as the DNS abuse campaign, those really are intended and really the spirit of the review on how to increase the effectiveness, how to increase the use of those groups, very valuable groups within At-Large. And how they can use their networks and through gaining knowledge can pass on that knowledge to people in their regions and their localities.

So really a key area for At-Large to continue that engagement. Thank you, Mary.

MARY WONG:

Thank you, Heidi. We definitely will look forward to that continued engagement.

The next advisory committee update that's up is the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). For that, I'm going to turn to Rob Hoggarth.

ROB HOGGARTH:

Thanks very much, Mary. Hi, everybody. This is Rob Hoggarth from GAC support staff. I'm joining from the East Coast of the United States today. I want to acknowledge a couple of my colleagues on the call: Gulden Tepe, Julia Charvolen, Fabien Betremieux, as well as Benedetta Rossi. Thank you all for participating. It's also neat to see a number of familiar names if not faces of a number of you on this webinar.

I only have four slides, but I also only have four minutes. So I'm going to be very brief. I'm not going to read individual slides, but what I've done is I've identified four rather simple but straightforward message points to give you some perspective of the GAC's recent work and what we're doing to help them prepare for ICANN 69.

The first message here on the first slide is a simple one. During the COVID-19 pandemic, GAC leadership and GAC membership have done a great job of not only maintaining their workload but actually being

heavily engaged on a number of issues of great importance to the committee.

On the next slide, you'll see that a number of those issues are still consistently being observed, participated in, and acted on by the GAC. Basically, they've been GAC priorities throughout 2020 and they're likely to continue to be priorities in 2021. In particular, new gTLDs, subsequent procedures, the GDPR implementation matters including Phase 1 that is currently under implementation, Phase 2 that just finished being discussed, and as many folks expect or hope for upcoming Phase 3 to address some other items of great importance to governments.

The third high priority for the GAC continues to be DNS abuse mitigation. There hasn't been as much activity directly on that issue over the last several months, but that's because the issue is really interwoven with subsequent procedure activities and a lot of those issues as well as implications under the GDPR implementation as well. So this remains a very high priority for governments, not only for their own operations but for their citizens as well.

Finally, in terms of the top four, IGO protections remain a very important issue to a number of GAC members. The GAC was just briefed last week by the GNSO that that work will be picking up over the next several months. And so expect to see a good bit of GAC participation in that area as well.

Moving to the next slide and then we can just skip to the last one, the third message to share with you is that the road to ICANN 69 has been

very busy for the GAC. Connected with the high-priority topics of the GAC, many of you will have seen the very substantive GAC comments on the subsequent procedures final report draft in which many, many members of the GAC participated. We had tremendous participation and interest on the part of GAC members.

There was quite a lot of attention I think give to the recent GAC minority statement regarding the closing of the EPDP Phase 2 work. Many of you will have seen by now—and if you haven't, please check it out on the GAC website—follow-up prompting from ICANN Org asking for some clarification about GAC's positions on that. And then some additional dialogue that's taking place [inaudible] ICANN Board members as well.

The last area that I think is important in terms of the road of ICANN 69, but turning to the last slide, is the area of GAC operations. The GAC has seen over the course of the last year, basically, a real perfect storm of recommendations, suggestions, and input about how the GAC can continue to evolve in this new ICANN 3.0 or 4.0, wherever we are right now.

This perfect storm includes Work Stream 2 accountability, recommendations which are now being implemented, ATRT3 recommendations and suggestions in the recently produced final report, as well as all of the discussions surrounding the evolution of the multistakeholder model. These are going to continue to be areas of great interest to the GAC because they have implications for the GAC operating principles, how the GAC conducts its work within the

Empowered Community administration, and has broader implications for the community as a whole.

So expect to sessions for all of these topics in a couple of weeks during the core Week 2 meeting week of ICANN 69. We expect that many of you will pay close attention to the GAC ICANN Board meeting. That's a public meeting tradition. As usual, all GAC plenary sessions are open to observers. The meetings are transcribed. Recordings are provided as well. So if you can't make any of the GAC sessions, please know you'll have the opportunity to catch up through some successful time shifting.

I'll conclude there, answer any other questions in the chat or if you want, please email me. And I'll turn things back to you, Mary. Thanks.

MARY WONG:

Thank you very much, Rob. No offense to you, the GAC team or the GAC indeed, but I'm told that my time management skills are not up to speed. So I will encourage people as you just mentioned to type any questions you might have for Rob and the GAC team in the chat. And again, maybe we can loop back to you, Rob. But in the interest of time—and I will stop talking—I think we should go to the Root Server System Advisory Committee which is the next slide and my colleague Andrew. Please, Andrew.

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Thank you, Mary. My name is Andrew McConachie. I'm going to be giving an update on the Root Server System Advisory Committee. I'm coming from the Netherlands. Perfect.

Since ICANN 68, the RSSAC has published one document. That's RSSAC000v5. These are the RSSAC Operational Procedures. These get updated every year as part of their normal workplan. This is kind of a regular administrative function of the RSSAC.

In addition to the RSSAC, there is the RSSAC Caucus. The RSSAC Caucus is a body of about 100 experts in DNS technologies. It also includes all members of the RSSAC. It's where most of the work happens in the RSSAC. It happens in the RSSAC Caucus.

There are currently two work parties in the RSSAC Caucus. The first work party is a work party to design a tool to gather a local perspective of the root server system. This work party is working on some requirements for a piece of software that will be able to take a local perspective look at the root server system from different vantage points on the Internet.

There are over 1,000 instances of root servers deployed around the world. The idea with this tool, because there are a lot of other tools that do similar things such as RIPE ATLAS or the RSSAC002 data, but the idea with this tool is to get a very localized perspective from different vantage points.

In addition to this work party, there is a work party investigating the effects and mitigations of a rogue root server operator. This work party

really has two goals. The first is to define what precisely is a rogue operator. By RSO we mean root server operator. There are 12 root server operators. What would make one of these root server operators behave in a rogue manner? So describe different types of potentially rogue behavior. And then also discuss potential detections, how to detect this rogue behavior, and also mitigation strategies.

Primarily because the root zone is signed with DNSSEC, the kind of things that a bad actor could do are very limited. But there are still things around the edges that a bad actor could potentially do. So this work party is investigating those things and how best to detect them. Next slide.

At ICANN 69 the RSSAC Caucus will hold a meeting. That's a general meeting of the RSSAC Caucus. Both work parties that I just mentioned will also hold a meeting. The RSSAC will also be meeting with the governance working group and the ICANN Board. The governance working group is the group that's working on the root server system governance evolution and the new models there.

If you're interested in this, there are a couple of links to better understand the root server system and the work of RSSAC. I believe that is the last slide. Mary, back over to you.

MARY WONG:

Thank you so much, Andrew. A lot of really interesting work that's going on or starting up in the RSSAC and, of course, the governance working group that you just mentioned.

We are going to go ahead to the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. Again, I encourage folks to think of questions. Tag them in the chat so that Andrew and others can address them if you have them.

On that note, I would like to welcome my colleague. Kathy Schnitt will take us through the SSAC update. Kathy?

KATHY SCHNITT:

Thank you, Mary. Next slide, please. My name is Kathy Schnitt, and I support the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. I'm going to talk about what the SSAC has recently been working on.

The first publication that we've had since the last ICANN meeting was SAC112 which is a Minority Statement on the Final Report of the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Phase 2 Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP). Do you think that's long enough?

The SSAC stated in this minority statement that they cannot endorse the final report as it currently stands. The SSAC believes a much better system is possible within the limitations imposed by the GDPR and that the EPDP has not provided outcomes that are reasonably suitable for security and stability. And lastly, the SSAC expresses concern that several Phase 1 issues were not examined and remain unaddressed without a commitment to finish unaddressed charter items. Next slide, please.

The second publication the SSAC has issued is the Advisory on Private-Use TLDs. In this report, the SSAC recommends that the ICANN Board ensure a string is reserved at the top level for private use that must

never be delegated. Some highlights from this report are currently many vendors and operators make ad hoc use of strings not present in the root zone for private use. This usage is uncoordinated and can cause harm to Internet users. Reservation of a specific string for private use can help to alleviate this ad hoc use and facilitate greater coordination. The SSAC does not recommend a specific string. Instead, it specifies criteria to help in choosing that string. Next slide, please.

The SSAC is currently working on a DNS abuse work party. This current work is working on a document that outlines potential efforts to standardize community strategies and processes around abuse identification and mitigation.

Also, recently we have chartered a new work party on routing security to examine the security and stability implications on route hijacking on the Internet's routing system and domain name system. Next slide, please.

Here are our future sessions for ICANN 69. As you can see, we have our fabulous DNSSEC and Security workshop. We have three sessions for that on Wednesday the 21st. We, of course, will meet with the ICANN Board, and we have our SSAC public meeting.

That's all for today on the SSAC. My colleagues and I are happy to answer any questions that you may have.

MARY WONG:

Thank you very much, Kathy. A lot of very recent and timely work on topics of broad interest to the community. I do want to highlight that

you mentioned the most recent SSAC Advisory on Private-Use TLDs. That may not be known to everyone, so I do want to highlight that and encourage everyone to read it and to perhaps ask themselves what the SSAC has defined or described as a private-use TLD. I believe that could be the subject of discussions in some of the bilateral meetings that the SSAC is having. Thank you, Paul, for posting the link to the SSAC advisories.

I know that we are wanting to take some questions. So Kathy, Andrew, Rob, I might come back to you if we don't have too many questions. But I did say that, Alberto, we will get to you at the Q&A session, and here we are now during the question and answer session. So for those not speaking, please mute your microphone, and let's take Alberto's question. You may still be on mute. Alberto, is that you?

ALBERTO SOTO: Yes.

MARY WONG: You may have gone back on mute again. Could I trouble you to type your question in the chat if you don't mind? While you do so, let me just ask if anyone else would like to ask a question. I'm not seeing any hands raised. Although I apologize. I haven't been following the chat too closely. I don't know that there were any specific questions for any of my colleagues in the chat. Again, Alberto, if you don't mind, please type your question in the chat and we'll answer it if we have time. If not, we'll certainly get back to you after this webinar.

In the few minutes that remain, I wonder if I could go back to Andrew and to Kathy. This is perhaps a definitional question for both of you. I already mentioned the private-use TLD from the SSAC advisory. And, Andrew, you had spoken briefly about RSSAC's new work party on rogue root server operators. I'm just wondering if you and Kathy could take a minute to briefly explain to us what the RSSAC and the SSAC respectively mean by those terms.

ANDREW MCCONACHIE:

Okay. I'm going to take the SSAC one first, and hopefully we'll have time for the RSSAC one. SAC113 which the SSAC recently published, the SSAC Advisory on Private-Use TLDs, I believe the question is really, what is a private-use TLD and how is it different than say a normal TLD that's delegated in the root zone?

The advisory defines a private-use TLD as a domain name label that is used or intended to be used ad hoc as the top-level domain name of a privately resolvable namespace that is separate from the global namespace resolved from the public DNS root. Now what does that mean? I mean, that's a lot of words.

Basically, what a private-use TLDs means in this context is it is a string that is not present in the root zone and that may be used in a private manner by a vendor or in an enterprise network for some purpose that they need. So there's an issue here with name collisions where it could potentially collide with something with another string that will eventually get delegated into the root zone.

So the single recommendation from SAC113 is the SSAC recommending to the ICANN Board that a string be chosen to never be delegated into the root zone, and this string can then serve as a reserved private-use TLD for this purpose. That was a lot. That's really complicated, but I'm trying to squeeze it in in the limited amount of time I have.

Now to the other question on RSSAC, I believe the question was, what is the rogue work party up to or what are some things that a rogue root server operator could potentially do?

One of the things that a rogue root server operator could potentially do, and one of the things that the work party is investigating, is serving parts of the DNS root zone that aren't necessarily signed by DNSSEC and what would the implications of that be. Now I did mention because DNSSEC does sign the root zone, these implications would be very narrow. But there are a lot of details to tease out there, and those are the kind of things that the work party is working on.

Hopefully, those two answers are good enough in the time we have allotted. But thank you very much for the questions.

MARY WONG:

Thank you very much, Andrew. I apologize for putting you on the spot. Thank you to my colleagues for putting links in the chat for the various sessions and, of course, for the policy outlook briefing that will highlight all of these topics that my colleagues have covered today.

I think we're at the end of our time. Please reach out to any of us on the policy team if you have any particular questions that we were not able

to get to today. I don't know if we have a final slide. If we do, let's go now to that. In the meantime, let me thank you all for attending this webinar. I hope that you found it interesting, informative, and helpful for your preparation for ICANN 69. We will see you all online starting next week for community week and then the plenary week to follow. Thank you to my colleagues. Thank you to everybody, and take care all.

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