
ICANN70 | Virtual Community Forum – GNSO - BC Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 – 10:30 to 12:00 EST

BRENDA BREWER: Hello, and welcome to the Business Constituency, BC membership Session at ICANN70. My name is Brenda Brewer and I am the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and follows the ICANN expected standards of behavior. During the session, questions or comments submitted in chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form as noted in the chat. I will read questions and comments aloud during the time set by the chair 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 speak clearly at a reasonable pace. Mute your microphone when you are done speaking. This session includes automated real-time transcription. Please note this transcription is not official or authoritative. To view the real-time transcription, click on the closed-caption button in the Zoom toolbar. And with that, I'll hand the floor over to Mason Cole. Thank you.

MASON COLE: Thank you very much, Brenda. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening colleagues and welcome to the BC open meeting on 23rd of March, 2021 during ICANN70. It's good to see so many people participating and we welcome those of you who are not members of the BC to our open meeting today and encourage your participation.

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Brenda has put the agenda slide up on the screen. You'll notice that we have more an abbreviated meeting today than we normally do. We're not going to go through the policy calendar as we normally do but we'll take care of regular business in other areas like the council update, the CSG report, etc.

When we get to item six, that's the open floor session for any issue that a BC member would like to raise, I know I have a couple of issues to raise in that part of the meeting. And with that, let me just ask, are there any additions or updates to the agenda as we've presented it here? Okay. I don't see any hands and the queue looks clear. Very well, let's dive into the meeting. We may not need our entire allotted time today so I may be able to yield a bit more time back to you at the end of the meeting so let's see how it goes. All right. Item number two. May I please turn the floor over to Marie and Mark for a council update?

MARIE PATTULLO:

Absolutely. This is Marie, one of the BC counselors. So, I am not going to repeat everything that we said in the last BC meeting but I will start as you did Mason by saying thank you. If you're not a member of the BC, you're very, very welcome to join us here today. To explain how we work in the BC, Mark and I are your elected representatives and that means we go into council with your direction. We vote the way that the BC tells us to vote. So, should you ever want to know more about the BC, firstly, reach out to us but secondly, never fear that your voice will not be heard because our job, as you can see Mark is nodding away, is pretty much to do what you tell us to do and we're quite good at that, usually. Now,

there's a whole bunch of things that are going to be on the agenda on the council meeting tomorrow which are not going to be news to anybody. They include, of course, what's happening in the next steps for the EPDP.

There are a number of different parts of that. One of them is that there's an ongoing dialogue between the council members and the members of the Board about the financial sustainability of the SSAD, should it be built. There's a draft letter that's still working its way through its process in the council small team which I hope we're actually going to discuss with council itself tomorrow afternoon. There's a whole bunch of discussions, of course, about what we call EPDP Phase 2A which goes to one of my pet subjects, data accuracy. And also if it's possible to have an anonymized email that will always be the same email address for getting hold of registrant data but without actually saying who that registrant is in public domain. There's a fair amount to do with abuse. And I noticed that Graeme's here, so hi, Graeme, you're more than welcome. And I know that we're going to be talking to you I think in a couple of weeks at our next BC meeting.

We're also going to be having discussions about some things that have been paused for a while in the system such as privacy proxy—waving back Graeme—which is very, very important to all BC members. We would like it to be un-paused. I really don't want to go into too much more, Mason. I'm very happy to have a discussion but right now I'd like to hand over to Mark, if that's okay.

MASON COLE: Please do. Mark, go ahead.

MARK DATYSGELD: Thank you everyone. Thank you, Marie for the introduction. What I feel personally is that we have been building a bit of momentum towards certain discussions, certain issues and they will not necessarily be breaking during this particular meeting but they will be breaking so you have things to look out for. I think that enough interest has built around DNS abuse that this will start to become a topic for [real.] Now, I think that the [drill] was over. We are really starting to get into this and an important aspect of that is that you guys, that everyone give us some insight into how you would like us to proceed. Like how should the commercial stakeholders be doing the representation of our interests, right? So, personally, I feel that we have agreements on some aspects and maybe not full agreement and others. But one thing that I know for sure is that we all think that this is being handled in a suboptimal way. Yes, that we need to have a better procedure. So that's where I'll be starting from.

And as everyone feeds us different points of view, I think it will help a lot in terms of building a representation. So, feel free to reach out to us like personally during the upcoming BC meetings and discussions. I think that would be really valuable and if you don't have yet a position, would be a good time to start considering that. So, that's point one. Point two is less my specialty but it's something that I have been hearing and might be of general interest which is the idea that depending on what's going on in the European Union and their

decisions, it might be worth to wait out on certain processes within ICANN. I don't know how strong that feeling is. It has been expressed by some people and just so that it doesn't catch you unaware, there is a certain feeling that this might be a thing. So, no further news to give on that yet but tomorrow, I guess, we'll see how much interest there is in that idea or not, waiting out on NIS2 and all that so we'll certainly come back with more info for you all after the meeting and we'll see where everything stands. So, thank you very much.

MASON COLE:

Thank you, Mark. Thank you, Marie. So, Mark, yes, I want to underline that point on NIS2. There's certainly a lot of discussion going on in the community and I know that'll impact in GNSOs work. So, let me open the floor to questions or comments for Mark and Marie, please. Any hands in the queue? I see no hands in the queue. Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to have a short meeting if we're not careful. All right. Very good. All right. If there are no more inputs for item number two, let's move to item three which is the CSG report. Waudo, may I turn the floor over to you, please?

WAUDO SIGANGA:

Thank you, Mason. My name is Waudo Siganga and I'm the BC liaison to the CSG. So, I think if I can just reiterate what Marie said. I am the liaison to the CSG so I don't take my own personal viewpoints. I take the viewpoints and the standpoints of the BC. Today, there's just one important thing that is happening regarding the CSG and that is that we are going to have the CSG open meeting. [Inaudible].

MASON COLE: Waudu, we're getting bad audio to you. Maybe we can do a dial out.

WAUDO SIGANGA: —meetings, 17:30 UTC. I had earlier today sent out—

BRENDA BREWER: Waudu, excuse me for the interruption. This is Brenda. We are having difficulty hearing you. Although, when you stopped talking, just before that it seemed to get better but I'm happy to dial out to you if you'd like to provide me a private message with your number. You can continue if your audio has gotten better.

MASON COLE: Waudu, can you try again quickly? Okay.

BRENDA BREWER: [His] line has disconnected.

MASON COLE: Okay. Brenda, could we do a dial out to Waudu, if you don't mind?

BRENDA BREWER: Certainly. Thank you.

MASON COLE: Thank you. All right. We'll put item number three on hold for now. And Lawrence, I don't mean to catch you unprepared but if we can, can we move to item number four for your update, please?

LAWRENCE OLAWALE-ROBERTS Sure. Thanks, Mason.

MASON COLE: Thank you.

LAWRENCE OLAWALE-ROBERTS And yes, so good day everyone. My name is Lawrence Olawale Roberts and I happen to be the vice-chair for finance and operations for the BC. First, I will start with some open ICANN community announcements of interest to the members of the business constituency and our partners and stakeholders. In six days from now, the nomination period for the ICANN Community Excellence Award will close. That's precisely on the 29th of March, 2021. And so, we still have a window of opportunity to nominate active community members. Community members cannot self-nominate so where we feel that there are deserving members of our constituency that should be nominated for this award, please let's kindly know that we have just about six days to see this happen. The email address to send your nominations to is excellenceaward2021@icann.org. You can find this announcement on the ICANN Org website.

Secondly, in the same vein, we have just about six days left to the close of a call for nominations from the Nominating Committee for open ICANN leadership positions. This year, there are three vacant positions to be filled on the ICANN Board of directors. Incidentally in today's meeting, we will be having a team for the nominating committee address us and so they will speak more to this particular issue. Besides the Board of directors, three Board of directors seats that will need to be filled by the nominating committee, three regional At-Large committee seats for Africa, the Asia region and Latin America and Caribbean region will also need to be filled. Interestingly, two members of the GNSO council will also need to be filled and one seat for the ccNSO. The GNSO are seats for the voting reps. We will be definitely hear more of this when the NomCom team are with us.

Moving forward to outreach and membership. Due to the virtual nature of our interactions due to the pandemic, we are encouraging members to engage more in one-on-one outreach efforts towards attracting at least one new member before the end of the current financial year. We note that the membership of the BC is unique because our membership revolves basically around corporates. But we also know that the breadth of our membership is wide and we would love to attract commercial business users, commercial Internet users, more commercial Internet users to our fold. To serve as an incentive aside from this being a civic responsibility for BC members, to serve as an incentive starting from April, the coming month, members who are able to refer or headhunt for additional members for the BC will receive special mention in our monthly e-newsletters. Besides from having

points allocated to them and these points can be applied to their membership dues in the coming financial year.

I would also like to draw the attention and the public community to the fact that customized BC outreach materials will be available for download on the BC website from the 20th of April next month. Right now, if you were to visit the BC website, right under communications, you will find a link outreach and that is where you would be going to download these materials. We hope to have some of these materials also translated in other languages so that we are able to appeal to the diversity that the BC represents. So, with that said, we are happy to announce that the BC is evolving its online identity and we're moving to a new home on the digital planet. So, we now have a new domain name where you will find the BC. We currently use www.bizconst.org but we are evolving this and our new identity will be icannbc.org. It's much simpler to remember and identifies a great deal with our identity. In the same vein, right now under this—our new domain name has actually gone live and it's open to our use already.

Our official BC secretariat email remains info-bc@icann.org. That goes to the secretariate for the BC, info-bc@icann.org. While the chair of the BC and our policy desk will have customized emails, chair@icannbc.org and policy@icannbc.org. For general inquiries, you can send emails to info@icannbc.org. All these emails I mentioned are already live and will be put to use right after today's meeting. I will also want members to note that, at our second meeting in the coming month of April, that's precisely April the 22nd, the BC will be revealing a new logo to the members. And this is something exciting that we should watch out for.

Over to our finance side of the report, we are currently putting together the draft budget proposal for FY22. And we hope to have it shared with members on the 8th of April which is our next BC meeting. Would like to invite members and the credentials committee to kindly send in their budget requests, proposal to the finance committee on or before the 5th of April so that this can be accommodated in our proposal.

Currently, we have a little close to \$60,000, \$59,700, precisely, as our closing balance as of today. But we also have a reserve fund that is able to cover a full year of BC operations unhindered. Work on our committees are still ongoing with regards to the terms of reference. The BC is working towards setting up four ad hoc committees, a communications committee, a website and new media committee, a recommendations working party that will make recommendations towards the studies that have been funded by the BC, and ICANN Learn and community onboarding working party. It's my presumption that by the 1st of April 2021, we will make this announcement on the private BC mailing list as the charter demands a 30-day announcement, whereafter we will start constituting membership of this committee. I will want to stop at this point and take any questions that members or anyone might have for me. Thank you.

MASON COLE:

Thank you, Lawrence. Questions or comments for Lawrence, please? I'll take a queue.

WAUDO SIGANGA: Yeah, Mason?

MASON COLE: Yes, please Waudu?

WAUDO SIGANGA: I can't quickly see where the icon for raising my hand is. I just wanted to request Lawrence, the changes in the domain name and the email addresses, if you could please email them to us on the BC list. That will help because I couldn't quite remember all of them.

LAWRENCE OLAWALE-ROBERTS Great. I will do that.

MASON COLE: Thank you. Good suggestion, Waudu. I wanted to highlight to members how much hard work Lawrence has done over the past several weeks. In addition to all the infrastructure updates that he just mentioned, Lawrence also is responsible for doing our BC newsletter which if you haven't seen, I encourage you to read. It's excellent and very well done and I just want to publicly thank Lawrence for all his hard work for the last couple of weeks so thank you Lawrence on behalf of the BC. Excellent work.

LAWRENCE OLAWALE-ROBERTS Thank you Mason. Thanks all.

MASON COLE: Thank you. All right, Yusuph. Go ahead, please.

YUSUPH KILEO: Thank you very much, Mason. First of all, I want to congratulate Lawrence for the very good work he has been doing. And I've seen recently the good job on this newsletter. But still the question still linger, if one want to contribute on that newsletter, if there are any guidelines, because I remember Lawrence promised to give me those details but I couldn't get them, so that we can make it more enticing and make it with good details. So, is there any guidelines, things that probably we have to [inaudible] and we cannot go beyond those particular guidelines? If possible, please, Lawrence share with us.

LAWRENCE OLAWALE-ROBERTS Thank you, Yusuph. So, sorry. I must first of all apologize about the delay that this segment of the work had experienced. My thinking was that, we'll just set the committees rolling, make a call for volunteers and all that. But, well, on carefully studying the charter, it gave some particular directions as to how committees should be set up, which included drafting a terms of reference. The terms of reference have to be similar to what we have for the credentials and the finance committee is really quite detailed. And so, it's required some more time and care in—so the process requires some more timeline care such that we have to be able to fulfill all the requirements in the BC charter. That's what's actually causing the delay for the call for volunteers.

So, the BC charter also clearly states that the terms of reference and all those requirements, the reasons why we are setting up the committees and all have to be posted and shared with membership for 30 days. So, that is why when looking at sharing these on the 1st of April, so that by the end of April, we know that what the requirements that are needed to be fulfilled in the charter are taken care of and then we can go ahead with constituting each of the committees. So, right now, the committees—we've not started the process proper for filling each committee with members. When we get to that phase, like I noted in the last call, I have noted your interests for the communications committee because that's the committee that has the remit around producing monthly newsletters and all that. And definitely I'm very happy to see that there's already some interest amongst membership to help pick a lot of these assignments because we understand that they are voluntary.

So, once we are through with the phase, please, just kindly exercise a little more patience. Once we are through with this phase, we'll definitely have all the volunteers that need to come on board join each of the committees. But in the meanwhile, that doesn't stop us to a large extent. I'm interested in seeing that we are at least able to put out a newsletter in the coming months and I might have to work with you and others who might signify their interest directly to do this under the desk of the vice chair, finance and operations. And then when we have properly constituted the communications committee, now move that task to the committee to handle. So, I definitely will reach out to you

with regards [any] newsletter for the coming months. Thank you, Yusuph.

MASON COLE: Thank you, Yusuph. Other questions or comments for Lawrence, please. All right. I see no additional hands and the queue is clear. All right, Lawrence, thank you very much for that report and for the update. Waudu, is your connection back now? Could we return to item number three for your report? Waudu, are you with us? You're muted.

WAUDO SIGANGA: Unmute. Hello?

MASON COLE: There you go.

WAUDO SIGANGA: Okay. I apologize. I think I got cut off midstream as I was giving the report from the CSG. So, perhaps I just start somewhere near the beginning. I wanted to mention about today's CSG meeting. That's the most important item that is going on at the CSG at the moment. It's an open meeting related to the ICANN70 and it's going to start at 17:30 UTC. That's just after this meeting, one and a half hours from now. And I had earlier sent out a notification for this meeting to the BC members list. So, everybody who is on the BC is invited to attend and participate in this meeting. Just to recap what's happening at that meeting, we shall first have the ICANN CEO, Göran Marby. He has two substantive

issues that he's going to talk about. The first one would be discussion on the differences between technical Internet governance and policy-oriented Internet governance.

And then after that, he'll also have a quick talk about the effects and the impact of planning ICANN meetings considering the issue of the COVID-19 pandemic. After he has done those two presentations, there'll be a short opportunity for us to field any other questions related to icann.org for him to answer. Then we shall have a second session on the topic of universal acceptance. This session will be given by Mr. Ajay Data. I'm not quite sure about the pronunciation of the name. I hope I got it correct. Mr. Mr. Ajay Data is the chair of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group and we have previously sent out some links or background reading on this topic so we hope that you've had a chance to look at those links and read through so that we can have some questions ready for Mr. Ajay Data after his presentation. So, basically that's what will be happening in the CSG meeting today, 17:30 UTC. We invite you and we look forward to your participation. Thank you. Back to you, Mason.

MASON COLE:

Thank you, Waudu. Yes, the CSG meeting is approaching shortly and everyone is welcome so let's have a good turnout for that session. Any questions or comments for Waudu, please? All right. We are half an hour in and we're doing very well on time so let's move on through the agenda. We are now on item number five, which is an update from ICANN's Nominating Committee, the NomCom. We had Tola scheduled

to do this but I understand he has a weak connection so Paul Diaz is going to do the update for us and he's a guest in our meeting today. So, Paul, may I turn the floor over to you, please?

ADETOLA SOGBESAN: Okay. Good afternoon, good morning, good evening, everyone. I think my network is a bit better now. Can I confirm if I'm heard, please?

MASON COLE: We do hear you, Tola. Are you doing the update today?

ADETOLA SOGBESAN: Am I heard, please? Can you hear me?

MASON COLE: Yes, we hear you.

ADETOLA SOGBESAN: Thank you so much, Steve. I greet everyone, chairman Cole and Steve and vice president Lawrence and everyone. Good to speak to my colleagues at the BC. We just want to make outreach about what we have ongoing at the NomCom. Of course, we are familiar with what is required. We have them in abundance at the BC, the critical thinking, cultural awareness, knowledge of the Internet ecosystem, both executive experience and background in legal technical of government or business or not-for-profit. We would appreciate if the BC can speak with colleagues from member organizations to [inaudible]—

MASON COLE: Tola, are you still with us? All right. It seems like we're having some connection difficulties for pretty much everyone today so apologies for all this. Tola, are you with us or should we turn the floor over to Paul? All right. Paul, I don't mean to put you on the spot but can you pick up where Tola left off?

PAUL DIAZ: Certainly, Mason. No problem. Welcome all.

MASON COLE: Thank you.

PAUL DIAZ: Tola was prepared to do this so I'm sort of jumping in and I'm not certain what slides were prepared and whatnot so let me just share with the BC the sort of—jump to the bottom line. This year's NomCom is looking to fill nine leadership positions across [inaudible]. We're getting him back perhaps? Tola?

MASON COLE: Go ahead, Paul.

PAUL DIAZ: Okay. So, we're looking to fill nine leadership positions, applications are now open. And please remember the window for applications

closes this coming Monday, the 29th, at 23:59 UTC. So, if any of these positions I'm about to mention interest you, please feel free to reach out. There's information at nomcom.icann.org but the clock is ticking so we will need your applications. Again, there are three positions at the ICANN board level that that are open this time around. There are incumbents in those positions who are eligible but the NomCom is always looking for strong candidates. There will also be three positions for ALAC looking to fill. One for the ccNSO and then perhaps most importantly, for this group, there are two positions, the NomCom appointees to the GNSO Council. One each for the Non-Contracted Party House and for the Contracted Party House. And we should also note that these are the voting positions. Both of them are the voting positions that are up this year.

So, the information, again, there is more detail available on NomCom site and as we have—you can see in the slides there, the deadline has already been extended that's until 29 March at 23:59 UTC. So, if there are questions, we'd be very happy to address them, to answer them. If something comes up afterwards, feel free to reach out and you can either contact staff at the site or reach out directly to me. pdiaz@pir.org. I'd be happy to take you through it. Just again, please remember, the deadline is coming up fast. Don't delay. If you have any questions or any interests, we'd very much appreciate your application. Mason, I don't know, are you managing the queue? Do you see any questions? Anything?

MASON COLE: Not yet. There's one question from, Waudu. Waudu, go ahead for Paul, please?

WAUDO SIGANGA: Yeah. Thank you, Paul, for the good presentation. I'd like to know, the openings for the GNSO, you said they are two. One is for Contracted Party House and the other one for the non-contracted. So, my question is, if one is applying, should they indicate which particular house they're interested in?

PAUL DIAZ: Excellent question, Waudu. The application will ask you if you have a preference. I would suggest that members could likely serve in either slot. If you are a BC member, it would make sense that you should probably show a little preference toward the Non-Contracted Party House. But the truth is, the NomCom is seeking applicants who will have broader interests in their representation. Basically, their first priority should be to the council as a whole and not any particular constituent group that they hail from. So, if you are interested and you will be asked in the application to indicate a preference, it is okay to select both and be considered for both slots because you won't know who you're competing against for those positions. And if you want to stay closer to the people you know and feel that your application might benefit from demonstrating your experiences from the Non-Contracted Party House, it's fine as well if you just click that one.

MASON COLE: All right. Thank you, Waudu for the question and Paul for the response. Other questions or comments for Paul? All right. I don't see anyone else in the queue. Any hands? All right. Paul and Tola thank you both very much for the update. Look forward to having participation in the NomCom's activities and let us know if there's any follow-up you might need from the BC.

PAUL DIAZ: Thank you.

MASON COLE: So, thank you, Paul for the presentation very much. All right. Back to the agenda. We're almost finished. We're on item number six now which is an open floor for any issue that a BC member would like to raise. Is there anyone that would like the floor? Mark, please go ahead. Not hearing you, Mark. Well, we're having all kinds of connectivity problems today, folks. Sorry about this. Let's give Mark a minute to settle down and see if he can get connected.

MARK DATYSGELD: Does this mic work?

MASON COLE: Yes, it does. Thank you, Mark.

MARK DATYSGELD:

So, I would like to commend the BC on something that I think is incredibly important that we just did. So, just in January, in the end of January, Mozilla had the comment open for the DNS over HTTPS and trusted recursive resolvers. And I feel that as the Internet governance landscape evolves, it is important that we really look beyond just our immediate ICANN bubble and start to look at the DNS issues as part of a broader system. There are other actors picking up momentum in this space. We have to be realistic about it, and I think that it was a great move by everyone to have this conscience. And we submitted our comments through their process. It's a clean, concise comment on a few points that we agree upon but like more than that, to me what's important is that we are building these functions of looking on the periphery of ICANN into matters that deal with the DNS, different actors that are looking at DNS related questions, I feel that this is a strong trend and in the coming years, we will see a lot more of that. And it's good that as a constituency, we are placed to deal with that. We are developing enough backbone to be able to handle this kind of question.

So, in case anybody didn't have contact with our draft and any of our members would like to have a look, I posted the link to it in the chat and, yeah, hopefully, we will, moving forward, be able to do this when other situations arise keeping our mandate, keeping our scope but also being aware that we are having to pay attention to different fronts. And, yeah, as your counselor, I can assure you that Margie and I are very much interested [inaudible] the EU questions and I'm trying to look at certain different forums and institutions and hopefully we'll be able to do this with a certain amount of grace. So, thank you all very much.

MASON COLE: Thank you, Mark for pointing that out. It is important, there are alternate forums that are interested in Internet governance and we do need to pay attention to those. So, thank you for raising that issue. All right. Any other items under agenda item number six? I'm looking for hands. I'm not seeing any hands. Okay. Very good. We may finish early today, folks. All right. Item number seven. Other business for the BC? All right. Ladies and gentlemen, I see no hands in the queue. Margie? Margie saved the day. Margie, the floor is yours.

MARGIE MILAM: Hi, Mason and hello everyone. It's Margie Milam. I just thought it'd be useful to talk about reactions to some of the sessions that we've been attending over the last few days related to DNS abuse and get input from BC members. Specifically, I thought the discussions about DNS abuse with the contracted parties was very insightful and I think it would be useful for the BC to be more active in sharing our experiences with, for example, the signatories of the DNS abuse framework, how effective or ineffective it is and what we as the requesters of either data for WHOIS or a takedown request under the DNS abuse from like what we're seeing and some of the obstacles we have. So, I don't know, Mason, if that's something you guys on the executive committee have been thinking about but I do think that that's an area where we might give some thought to as to what are the kinds of things that we see and how we can work with contracted parties to resolve some of those issues.

MASON COLE:

Thanks for bringing that up, Margie. That's actually an excellent intervention. And if you weren't aware, the GAC had a session just before our BC meeting on DNS abuse as well and there was a pretty robust discussion there. So, as Lawrence is correctly pointing out in the chat. So, DNS abuse, I think as members know, has been an issue for the BC for a couple of years now. And we've communicated to the Board a couple of times on DNS abuse. We were sort of a lone wolf on the issue until about the last few months when abuse has come back up and it's been a subject of interest in the GAC. The contracted parties have taken some proactive steps that are very welcome, I might add to address DNS abuse.

There's the new DNS Abuse Institute that PIR is instituted. And just as a side note, I know that Graeme is on the call, Graeme Bunton from PIR and he will be our guest in our 8 April BC meeting for an update on what that group is doing. So, there's a tremendous amount going on DNS abuse right now and, yes, Margie, it is something that the BC ExCOM has talked about and it's time to take, again, take up the pan on a proactive stance on DNS abuse. So, I'm glad you raised that and I see a queue developing. So, Brian, go ahead please.

BRIAN KING:

Thanks, Mason. I'd like to encourage BC colleagues when we think about DNS abuse and as we talk about it going forward not to get bogged down in the data wars as some folks call them about how bad the problem is or if there is a problem. And I think most folks at this

point agree that there is DNS abuse happening, right? I think a good productive path forward with this conversation is to start talking about options and things that contracted parties can do, things that ICANN can do that might address the issue. And I've floated a couple of those around to some folks. Let's think about what are reasonable requests that we would make or options that we would ask contracted parties to consider.

So, a couple of the ideas in that camp include things like registry policies that would not allow homoglyph variants of domain names that are registered using ASCII characters, right? Those can be very powerful phishing domains and so that's an option. We can talk about potentially incentivization programs. As you mentioned, Graeme is here and PIR has done great work with incentivization of good behavior for registrars and having good hygiene on the platform. So, things like that, I would encourage folks in the BC to be creative and collaborative and engage in discussion with contracted parties as a good path forward on DNS abuse. Thanks.

MASON COLE: Thanks, Brian. Margie, is that a new hand?

MARGIE MILAM: Yeah, I think that's right. I think if perhaps a group of us would get together and share things that we think from a best practices point of view, could be helpful, it might advance the discussion. For example, I mean, obviously we deal with a lot of abuse requests and it strikes me

that some of our experience might help frame the issue. Like, for example, if a registrar has a customer that gets repeated take down requests over and over again, that had been confirmed, a scenario like that is one where then when the next DNS abuse request comes in, it should perhaps be almost a no-brainer that at that point there's already been a track of abusive requests.

That's the kind of thing that I think folks don't really think about but it happens a lot. Or, for example, in a scenario where you have a domain name, that's perhaps a domain name, a brand name plus a really, a concerning word like login or password or security center. Okay. So, any major brand with a combination of that plus security center and then there's a request that gets submitted but the registrar knows our customer is not the brand holder just by looking at the account information. Again, that's the scenario where it should be a no-brainer that that would be a DNS abuse request takedown and there's no need for further, additional evidence when something like that happens. So, I'm just giving a couple examples of the kind of thing that I think if BC members started to put together their experience and give examples of the kind of thing that where I think we could make a lot of headway, I think it would help contribute to the conversation that is being had both at the DNS Abuse Institute and here at ICANN.

MASON COLE:

Thanks, Margie. Excellent point. Mark, over to you.

MARK DATYSGELD:

Thank you, everyone. Great points. What I felt was that after I was stuck in a bit of a loop. I was having like a very strange experience because I remember distinctively like a year ago, we had many conversations with Compliance and they said we should take our grievances to [our RIR.] And then, now that they are talking with us, the contracted parties are talking with us, they're saying, "You should take your grievances to Compliance." So, at some point, I guess they need to decide, right? Like who do we talk to, right? Like I'm guessing that the answer is both. I have to reach the conclusion that the answer is both. I have to reach a conclusion that both the contracted parties and ICANN Compliance need to be engaged for this to work in the way we would like it to.

So, I have seen a certain absence of Compliance in this online period. We used to have them around more. It would be good if we could start getting them back into the conversation. I don't know how interested they would be at this point but it would be good to start talking directly with them again. That's the feeling that I have. Because, yeah, back then we were asking them very specific questions that turned out to maybe not have they themselves for maybe those questions, while they had merit, they didn't have exactly the best answers possible. And what I'm looking towards now is, we should probably start looking into how to advance studies and compiling some information on how to approach this from a commercial perspective, right? Like we should start to formalize and really start to think about questions that we have and ideas and we should start to really bring together this in a more systematic way. Because otherwise, I feel that we will just keep being

bounced around between, you know, you should talk to this person, you should talk to that person, back and forth.

So, studying and really researching should be priorities in my opinion. Generating opinion paper, position papers, articles from CircleID, whatever it is that we can start pushing the needle and building a consensus. And we are lucky enough that we have a very broad membership and we are not overly focused on this and that question. So, I'm pretty sure we can get some middle ground on the things that our constituencies feel or constituency feel, right? Like as a member, as a representative of LAC, I know for sure that in my region, there's a lot of issues with people being able to engage with this kind of defensive mechanism. I'm aware that it might be a little easier to deal with this in the global north but the global south, most people don't even know how to handle DNS abuse when it started at their companies. Like they don't even know where to start, right? Like we need to look at this more holistically because sometimes the conversation becomes, I'm a good actor. I'm doing good things. Yeah. We get it. But what about the bad actors? How do we approach that particular angle? So, I will yield the floor. I see Graeme has his hand up so I come back to Mason.

MASON COLE:

Thanks, Mark. Before I get to Graeme, so the thought occurs to me that maybe we should put together a working group within the BC specifically for the issue of DNS abuse so that we have a cohesive approach. So, I'll put out a call for volunteers for that and I think that

may be a good way to organize our efforts. Okay. Graeme, to you, thank you for taking the floor.

GRAEME BUNTON:

Thanks for lending it to me. Hi everyone. Many of you may know me from my previous job at a registrar but I'm now the director of the DNS Abuse Institute which I'm very pleased has been getting lots of references over the meeting. It's a new institute dedicated to DNS abuse and I'm not going to talk too long because as Mason said, I'm joining you guys on the—I think it's the 8th and hopefully there, we have some time for some real back and forth. And to Mason's point on a working group, I think that's great. Part of my job is really to listen and understand pain points within the community and then see if I can bring those together to find solutions. And so, where you guys have collected that, your specific issues, that makes it much easier for me to hear those and so I look forward to that.

To Mark's point about education and people just not knowing what DNS abuse is and how to deal with it, that's going to fall within the purview of the DNS Abuse Institute as well. I guess the point I would like to leave you with though is that, the institute is absolutely funded by a registry and is a part of PIR. But really the goal is to have a bit more of a broader focus than just gTLD registries and registrars. We want to address as broadly the DNS ecosystem as we can to see where we interact with hosting ccTLDs, etc. And so, I want to make sure that people see me and the institute not as just a piece of the contracted parties but as a mechanism that's going to try and reduce DNS abuse across the

ecosystem and that is a tool or a mechanism that people can provide input into and we can use that collectively to try and make the Internet better. Yeah, I'll stop there. And if people have questions they would like to ask me, feel free to reach out directly, graeme@dnsabuseinstitute.org. Find me on Twitter or what have you and I look forward to talking with you guys more on the 8th. Hopefully, by then, I can share a bit more of our roadmap and strategy and what we're really going to be concentrating on in the short to medium term and I can learn more about the issues as you guys see them. Thank you.

MASON COLE:

Thanks, Graeme, for that intervention. I know we're all looking forward to the discussion on the 8th. And while we have Graeme on the call, is there anyone who would like to take the floor for a question for Graeme before we adjourn?

MARK DATYSGELD:

Very briefly, if I may, Mason? Graeme, I would just like to understand what is the general current position on trusted notifiers because it's something that I have been researching as a potential option and I don't know what the room temperature is on that subject or if people even consider it to be something worth looking into. Can you give me just a general idea?

GRAEME BUNTON:

Sure. Thanks, Mark. Trusted notifiers ended up being slightly contentious for contracted parties and I think the experience that is

maybe not seen by a lot of the rest of the community is that those contracted parties are receiving abuse reports constantly and they vary in quality wildly. And there are no regulatory or authoritative bodies saying that, whatever Internet security expert is part of an authoritative thing and they have been accredited in some fashion. And so, there are a lot of people who believe they should be a trusted notifier when contracted parties, for example, have lots of evidence that that should not be the case. And so we have this real disconnect between what's being reported and the people who think they should be authoritative.

So, it's a thorny problem and I think it's always going to be that it's up to the parties going to be incurring the liability unless a trusted party wants to accept liability which is probably a whole separate discussion, that those parties are going to have to choose who they trusted or not. I don't see there's any way to have it centralized. One of the things I will say that I'm thinking about as part of the institute is, as we build functionality, we're looking at building functionality to accept and submit reports in a centralized fashion that that enables the building up of reputation for abuse reporters and where that reputation gets built on, you've submitted hundreds or thousands of abuse reports. They're well evidenced. They're a great quality. They're actionable. Having that be a metric or a measure that's available to registries and registrars helps build trust. Also maybe enables things like API based reporting rather than just email. So, I think there's a lot that we can do here but there's going to be no magic bullet for getting registrars or registries to accept trusted notifiers without building those reputational pieces. Thanks.

MARK DATYSGELD: Really glad I asked. Thank you very much. That's a great answer and definitely we'll look more into this in between our meetings for sure.

MASON COLE: All right. Thanks, Mark and thank you, Graeme for the answer. I know we're all looking forward to having you as our guest in a couple of weeks and I know you're looking for an in-depth back and forth between yourself and the BC so we look forward to having that. If there's anything that we can do to prepare, to have a more productive discussion before that call, I hope you'll let us know. All right. We're back to item number seven. Other business for the for the BC today? All right. I see no hands. All right. Very well. Ladies and gentlemen, it's now the bottom of the hour and we have the CSG call approaching, I believe in one hour's time so I encourage you to attend that. Our next meeting will be on April 8th, where Graeme will be our guest and we'll cover our usual slate of business as well. So, if there's no other business, then thank you. I wish you a good ICANN70 and the BC is adjourned.

BRENDA BREWER: Thank you all for participating. You may all disconnect. Enjoy the rest of ICANN70. Thank you.

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